

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Alabama

The Alabama State Advisory Group (SAG), is Alabama's federally-mandated state advisory agency. The group administers the state's JJDP A funds and provides the governor, state legislature and other policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The SAG helps determine how funds granted by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) should be expended, and reports regularly to the Governor and state legislature on the status of the state's compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Alabama has dropped significantly in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJDP A was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In Alabama, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, the state experienced a 67% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$735,600 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past two fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Alabama also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP A purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, Alabama received \$835,000 in Title II funding. In FY2014, that figure had decreased to \$542,483.

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$1.66 million**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY14:
\$542,483**

**Decrease of 67% so far
this decade.**

Alabama continues to use its dwindling federal funding for programs that are aimed at ensuring the JJDP A's core protections are carried out. In recent years, the state has focused on the following priority areas in expending Title II funds:

- Programs that create sentencing alternatives, by avoiding inappropriate incarceration and making interventions available soon after a child is identified as exhibiting high risk behaviors;
- Programs that help to prevent juvenile justice involvement;

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP A are: 1) deinstitutionalization of status offenders, (2) separation of adults and juveniles in secure institutions, 3) jail removal; and 4) reduction of the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system (DMC). For more about the four core requirements, go to: http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html.

² All numbers are based upon data provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This information is available at: <http://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

- Programs that address causation factors behind both delinquent behaviors and recidivism. These programs, among other things, examine the availability of mental health services that address the needs of a child upon reentering the community, and identify causation issues related to teen pregnancy and parenting.