

State Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: California

Overview

The State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) serves as California’s federally-mandated state advisory group (SAG). The SACJJDP blends state and federal funding streams to provide direct services and improve California’s juvenile justice systems. State funds support county efforts to rehabilitate and supervise youthful offenders and to implement continuums of care. In turn, federal funds focus on system improvements geared toward best practices and creative innovations for service delivery. In short, state funds support what California does, while federal funds support how California does it.

This symbiotic relationship involves California’s counties as well. Counties have the monumental task of serving hundreds of thousands of youth. California supports counties by providing state funds that support their programs. To secure federal and state funds, counties must often provide a match of local funds. In addition, California must provide a match of state funds before it ever receives federal funds. So, for any federal funds awarded, there will be both a state match and a local match. While leveraging funds this way is always prudent, it can be a double-edged sword – for State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention systems that depend on this funding structure, a diminution of federal funding has a domino effect that results in similar decreases at the state and local levels. In a time of severe fiscal constraints, state and localities generally lack the resources to compensate for shortfalls in federal funding. As a result, they respond by cutting essential programs and services.

FY2010 Federal Investment: \$11.5 million

FY2014 Federal Investment: \$4.1 million

Funding decrease: 64%

In FY 2010, the federal investment in California’s juvenile justice system through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was \$11.5 million. Over the past four years, this figure has dwindled to \$4.1 million, reducing federal funding allocations by nearly two-thirds since the start of the decade.

The Title II Formula Grants Program

The FY2014 federal investment in Title II in California was \$4.1 million according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The SACJJDP directed those funds – along with state and local resources – to programs that targeted the following priorities: alternatives to detention, holistic approaches to offender counseling, restorative justice and monitoring compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act, including the requirement to reduce disproportionate minority contact. The state also used funds to help increase the use of evidence-based and promising practices approaches in an effort to reduce the number of

children who have repeated contact with the juvenile justice system, and help improve efficiency.

Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction: Using a multi-faceted approach of direct service, education, and support, California strives to reduce the overrepresentation of youth of color coming into contact with the juvenile justice system - with the ultimate goal being a fair and equitable justice system. Toward that end, the DMC statewide initiative follows two tracks: direct service education/awareness; and support through both resources and advocacy.

California's federally-funded efforts to reduce DMC have included:

- Training for School Attendance Review Board Partnerships - \$139,000.
- Multi-Discipline Curriculum Development - \$140,000.
- Technical Assistance Program - \$1.1 million.

The state has also put \$4.6 million in Title II funds towards Delinquency Prevention and Intervention Programs.

Tribal Youth Grant Program: In an effort to encourage culturally-relevant programs that factor in traditional tribal values, the SACJJD awarded approximately \$240,000 in grants to tribes to help implement programs and strategies that are transformational and build upon the beliefs and values associated with Native culture, as defined in the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) principles.

JABG Programs

California, like other states, has lost this once-substantial source of funding. In FY2014 and FY2015, JABG programs were zeroed out in the federal budget. This is a major hit for states like California, which received \$3.5 million in JABG funding as recently as FY2011.

In previous years the JABG program has funded accountability-based projects, some of which are described below:

Anger Management Youth Violence Prevention Project: This grant provided \$1.1 million in JABG funding to county probation departments. The funding was used to implement and/or expand anger management and violence prevention training programs to probation youth in juvenile halls, camps, ranches, and in communities statewide.

Best Practices Approach Initiative (BPAI): Funded at \$1.7 million, this program provided training and technical assistance to juvenile justice agencies statewide to support implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP), programs and principles over the course of three years.

The Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program

Since FY2013, between 90 and 100 percent of Title V funds have been carved out for non-JJDPA programs, thus effectively eliminating this appropriation stream. Prior to having the funding source earmarked for other purposes, California used Title V funds to finance, among other things:

The San Diego County DMC Community Prevention Grant Program. This program involved a collaboration between the San Diego County Probation Department and the San Diego Unified School District. As partners, these agencies assessed, reviewed and changed district or school site policies that affected delinquency rates, rates of disparity among youth of color and disciplinary referrals to the Probation Department. The grant's goal was to implement strategies to reduce the number of youth of color who were leaving or being pushed out of school and entering into the justice system. Through extensive data collection and analysis, the San Diego Association of Governments identified and focused their efforts on four communities, all of which have high rates of juvenile crime and violence, high rates of school truancy, suspensions and expulsions, high percentages of youth of color, and more than 20% of youth currently on probation.