Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Delaware

The Delaware Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) serves as Delaware's federally-mandated state advisory group (SAG). The group administers the state's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) 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 (JJDPA).1

The federal allocation of grant funding to Delaware has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJDPA was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In Delaware, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, the state experienced a 56% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$323,900 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. Delaware also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been

Title II and JABG Funding FY10: \$888,845

Title II and JABG Funding FY14: \$393,667

Decrease of 56% since FY2010.

earmarked for non-JJDPA purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, Delaware received \$480,000 in Title II funding. In FY2014, that figure had decreased to \$393,667.

Even so, Delaware continues to use its federal funding for programs throughout the state that are aimed at ensuring the JJDPA's core protections are carried out. The state has undertaken a series of programs in recent years that focus on disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in particular. These programs have included the following:

Alternative to Incarceration Programs have been created in Wilmington and Newcastle. These programs use electronic monitoring to decrease the number of youth who are placed in confinement.

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDPA 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.

DMC Assessments were conducted in 2010. The results of these assessments were used to develop alternative to arrest programs for curfew violations in Wilmington.

Establishment of programs such as **Youth Moving Forward**, which provides after school services for at-risk youth in Wilmington.