

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Florida

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as Florida's federally-mandated state advisory group. This group administers the state's JJDP 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 Florida has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJDP A was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In Florida, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, the state experienced a 65% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY2010 the state received \$2.03 million through the Juvenile Accountability and Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past two fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Florida also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked and restricted in recent years. The loan remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, Florida received \$2.98 million in Title II funding. In FY14, that figure had decreased to \$1.81 million.

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY10:
\$5.1 million

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY14:
\$1.81 million

Decrease of 65% so far this decade.

Even so, Florida continues to use its federal funding for programs throughout the state that are aimed at ensuring the JJDP A's core protections are carried out. This has become increasingly more difficult as funding has diminished though. Florida previously developed a civil citation program that is often held out as a national model. The coordinator for this program is paid through federal funds, however the state is unsure how long they will be able to maintain this position.

Additional programs that are currently funded through federal allocations in Florida include:

- * A series of afterschool and summer programs that are aimed at keeping youth engaged and preventing youth from engaging in delinquent and status offense behaviors.

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.

* Three gender specific programs that are based in the community. One program focuses on boys, while the other two are focused on girls. These programs are community-based and focus on prevention.

* Programs that focus on addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system. In addition to funding DMC compliance monitoring with its federal funds, Florida also recently developed a DMC curriculum that is intended to be used for law enforcement.