Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Louisiana

The Louisiana State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as Louisiana's federally-mandated state advisory council. The SAG 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 JJDPA.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Louisiana 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 Louisiana, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, the state experienced a 66% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$729,400 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. Louisiana also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source,

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY10: \$1.64 million

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY14: \$553,752

Decrease of 66% so far this decade.

however, has been 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, Louisiana received \$825,000 in Title II funding. In FY2014, that figure had decreased to \$553,752.

Even so, Louisiana remains committed to using its increasingly limited federal funding for programs throughout the state that are aimed at ensuring the JJDPA's core protections are carried out. In recent years, the state reports that its priorities for Title II funds have included delinquency prevention and diversion programs.

The state also recognizes the importance of reducing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within its systems and has been committed to using Title II funds to help address this issue. Title II funds have helped provide, among other things, training for judges, law enforcement,

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 figures reported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Data is available at: http://grants.oip.usdoi.gov.

and juvenile justice personnel. It also helped finance programs that deter at-risk youth away from the judicial system, and has supported local probation programs as well.