

# JUVENILE JUSTICE FUNDING



**STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO SECURE THE SAFETY OF AMERICA'S YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES**

The federal government plays an essential role in preventing juvenile delinquency and improving the effectiveness of youth justice systems at the state, local, and tribe levels.

When coupled with state, local, tribal, and private dollars, modest federal investments can and support the development, implementation and sustainability of optimal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention systems and practices in all 50 U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia, as well as in local jurisdictions.

## **Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022:**

For Fiscal Year 2022, we are asking for full funding of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) as authorized by Congress in 2018 by appropriating \$1.36 million dollars for Titles II & V of the JJDP, including:

- \$60 million for Title I to help states comply with the JJDP and promote delinquency prevention
- \$94,053,481 for Title V, with 11% going to support the Tribal Youth Program and the remainder to support PROMIS grants
- \$30 million to fund the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant

In addition, we ask Congress to approve \$75 million in Covid response grants through Title II of the JJDP. These grants will be used to support increased testing in youth facilities and provide supports for youth returning home.

## **Title II State Formula Grants**

Authorized by the JJDP, and renamed the Charles Grassley Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program under the 2020 reauthorization, Title II funding supports innovative state efforts based in scientific knowledge regarding adolescent development and behavior. These efforts adhere to standards that reduce the risk of harm to court-involved youth.

## **Federal Funding**

Three primary funding sources have traditionally existed for juvenile justice at the federal level:

- **Title II** supports innovative state programs.
- **Title V** helps fund programs aimed at preventing delinquency at the local level.
- **The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)** provides funding for alternatives to detention in communities.

Additionally, it ensures fair treatment of minority youth, improves the way systems address delinquent behavior, and ensures citizen involvement and expertise through the State Advisory Groups.

## Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program

Authorized by the UDPA, Title V Youth Promise Grants are the original federal program specifically designed to address the current needs of at-risk (or delinquent) youth at the local level. To ensure a solid return on investment, the Title V program prioritizes the use of data-driven/evidence-based practices, requires coordination with an statewide plan to ensure strategic use of resources and leverages the commitment and resources of state and local jurisdictions by requiring that the state and local applicant provide a 50% match. The reauthorization contains a new provision that dedicates 11% of Title V grants to tribal delinquency prevention and response programs.

## Juvenile Accountability Block Grant

Authorized by the Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG) helped reduce delinquent behavior by providing judges, probation officers, case managers, law enforcement, and other juvenile justice professionals a range of graduated sanctions for adjudicated youth – including cost-efficient confinement alternatives, for youth involved with the courts. Since FY 2014, however, this once stable funding source has been perched on each year by Congress, forcing states to reduce or eliminate programs. A bill to reauthorize and update the program (H.R. 4944 introduced by Rep. Jackson Lee) passed the House in the 115th and 116th Congress. This bill should be taken up and passed by Congress this session.

## What's at Stake?

Since FY 2000, federal investments in programs that prevent and reduce delinquency have decreased by almost 50%. On average, it costs \$400 a day, or around \$148,767<sup>1</sup> a year, to incarcerate a young person. In exchange for this investment, on average of 66% of youth will be incarcerated again within a year.<sup>2</sup> Conversely, evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for court-involved youth cost as little as \$75 a day and reduce recidivism by on average of 22% when compared to incarceration.<sup>3</sup> Ongoing budget cuts will further weaken the federalized state partnership and hobble national, state, and local progress. According to an earlier survey by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 66% of member states reported that due to federal cuts, fewer youth were expected to have access to services designed to keep them from offending and penetrating deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

## Path to Public Safety: Youth, Family and Community Success

To achieve a future where young people lead safe and productive lives, it is critical that we invest in juvenile justice programs – even in times of belt-tightening. The best federal role and wisest use of public resources is to invest in those things that prevent delinquency and effectively deal with youth in safe- and developmentally-appropriate ways. Indeed, Title V and JABG provide Congress with an opportunity to partner with states to chart a course for the safety and success of our nation's youth, families and communities. States are proving it over and over again that these programs work to reduce delinquency, help youth transition safely to adulthood, and save taxpayers' money. Restoring and strengthening our investments in these programs will help secure America's future and create safe communities for all of our children.

### For More Information, Please Contact:

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1) Development Services Group Inc. 2017. "Juvenile Recidivism Literature Review." Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojplibrary/reviewed/Recidivism.pdf>

2) Supra note 1.