

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 seed and support the development, implementation and sustainability of optimal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention systems and practices in all 56 U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia, as well as in local jurisdictions.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021

For Fiscal Year 2021, we are asking for full funding of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) as authorized by Congress in 2018 by appropriating \$176 million dollars for Titles II & V of the JJDP A , including:

- \$80 million for Title II to help states comply with the JJDP A and promote delinquency prevention.
- \$96,053,401 for Title V, with 11% going to support the Tribal Youth Program and the remainder to support PROMISE grants.
- \$30 million to fund the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2019 (H.R. 494).

In addition, we ask Congress to approve the HEROES Act (H. 6800), which provides \$75 million in rapid response grants through Title II of the JJDP A. 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 A, and renamed the Charles Grassley Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program under the 2018 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 JJDP Act, Title V Youth Promise Grants are the original federal program specifically designed to address the unmet 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 a 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 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG) helped reduce delinquent behaviors 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 sizable funding source has been zeroed out each year by Congress, forcing states to reduce or eliminate programs. A bill to reauthorize and update this program (H.R. 494 introduced by Rep. Jackson Lee) passed the House on February 7th, 2019. This bill should be taken up and passed in the Senate.

What's at Stake?

Since FY 2002, 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 a year, to incarcerate a young person. In exchange for this investment, an average of 55% of youth will be incarcerated again within a year.¹ Conversely, evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for court-involved youth cost as little as \$75 a day and reduce recidivism by an average of 22% when compared to incarceration.²

Ongoing budget cuts will further weaken the federal and state partnership and hobble national, state, and local progress. According to an earlier survey by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 89% 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 age- and developmentally-appropriate ways. Title II, 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 in small and big ways 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:

Naomi Smoot Evans

Executive Director
1629 K St NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC
20006-1631

(202) 827-9751
Email: evans@juvjustice.org

1) Development Services Group, Inc. 2017. "Juvenile Reentry." Literature review. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Aftercare.pdf>

2) Supra note 1.