

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 juvenile justice systems at the state, local and tribal 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.

Title II State Formula Grants

Authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), Title II supports innovative state efforts to adhere to standards that reduce the risk of harm to court-involved youth, ensure fair treatment of minority youth, improve the way systems address delinquent behavior and ensure citizen involvement and expertise through the State Advisory Groups.

Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program

Authorized by the JJDP, Title V is the original federal program specifically designed to prevent delinquency at the local level. To ensure a solid return on investment, the Title V program prioritizes the use of

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.
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	Provides funding for programs that enable communities to use graduated sanctions to reduce court involvement and incarceration.

To learn more about the juvenile justice funding visit:
www.juvjustice.org

evidence-informed approaches, 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.

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.

What's at Stake?

Since FY 2002, when the JJDPA was last reauthorized, 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.¹ In exchange for this investment, an average of 55% of youth will be incarcerated again within a year.² 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.³

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.

¹ Justice Policy Institute. (December 2014). *Sticker Shock: Calculating the Full Price for Youth Incarceration*.

² Snyder, Howard N. and Melissa Sickmund. 2006. *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

³ Supra note 1.



For more information contact:

Naomi Smoot
Executive Director
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
1319 F Street NW Suite 402
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 467-0864 ext. 113
Email: smoot@juvjustice.org