

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT (JJDP)

INVESTING IN WHAT WORKS

WHAT IS THE JJDP?

Passed in 1974, the JJDP created a federal-state partnership for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, ensuring that youth involved in the system receive federal standards of care. To be eligible for the funds provided under the JJDP, states must uphold the four core protections for justice-involved youth.

The Four Core Protections of the JJDP

1. Youth cannot be incarcerated for status offenses (non-delinquent behaviors);
2. Youth must be removed from adult jails and lockups;
3. Youth must be separated from adults by sight and sound barriers; and
4. States must address racial and ethnic disparities within their youth justice system.

The JJDP also established the **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)**, the only federal agency that supports states' juvenile justice work. OJJDP is critical to ensuring youth are treated differently than adults.

The JJDP, reauthorized in 2018 with unanimous bipartisan support after 16 years, requires adequate funding and oversight to ensure its full implementation. **The Act is due for reauthorization**, and continued federal commitment is more critical now than ever.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE JJDP?

Reduces delinquency by incentivizing states' investment in evidence-based programs that promote accountability

Sets federal standards to protect youth from victimization in the justice system

Keeps communities safe by investing in delinquency prevention

Focuses on rehabilitating youth and reintegrating them into society

Provides federal funding to support state / local youth justice improvements with input from State Advisory Groups

Ensures fair treatment by guiding states to implement data-driven, just approaches

Requires accountability and oversight in resource use and grant program compliance



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