Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Indiana

The Indiana Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (JJSAG) serves as Indiana’s federally-mandated state advisory body. The group administers the state’s Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) funds and provides the Governor, state legislature, and other policymakers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state’s juvenile justice system. The JJSAG 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 JJDPAs.

The federal allocation of grant funding to Indiana has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDPAs went unauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 42%. In Indiana, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 62% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $943,700 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past five fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Indiana also received $84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, 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 FY10, Indiana received $1,179,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $837,156.

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1 The four core requirements of the JJDPAs 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 (disproportionate minority contact, or DMC). Retrieved from http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html.


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Federal Dollars in Action:

Indiana continues to use its dwindling federal funding for programs aimed at ensuring that the JJDPA’s core protections are carried out. In recent years, the state has focused its Title II funds on the following priority areas:

- **Programs that create sentencing alternatives** by avoiding inappropriate incarceration and making interventions available soon after a child is identified as exhibiting high-risk behaviors.
- **Programs that address racial and ethnic disparities** within the juvenile justice system.
- **Programs that address causation factors** behind delinquent behaviors, such as substance abuse and lack of mental health support services.
- **Expansion of evidenced-based programs**, in which Indiana has invested heavily over the past five years.

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