Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Kansas

The Kansas Advisory Group (KAG) serves as Kansas’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 KAG 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 JJDPA.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Kansas has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDPA went unauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 42%.² In Kansas, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 57% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $546,100 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. Kansas 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, Kansas received $378,283 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $412,221.

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDPA 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.
³ All numbers are based upon figures reported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Grant Awards and Past Solicitations. Retrieved from https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/funding.html#2.

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Federal Dollars in Action:

Even with the decrease in federal funding, Kansas continues to use its federal dollars for programs aimed at ensuring that it carries out the JJDPA’s core protections. This has become increasingly difficult as funding has diminished. Most recently, the state has prioritized the following programs:

- Kansas offers Functional Family Therapy (FFT) as a way to divert youth from system involvement. FFT is a statewide, intensive, short-term therapy program that is delivered in the home or in a similarly-convenient location for the family.

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART) teaches youth how to deal with aggression through coping skills and strategies.

- Thinking for a Change is a program that seeks to understand negative thinking patterns and replace them with ones that encourage positive behaviors.

- Girl’s Circle is a girls-only program that promotes self-awareness as well as strong interpersonal and communication skills.

- Mentoring4Success is a program that pairs incarcerated youth with positive adult role models. Youth who are within six to twelve months of release can enroll in this program.