

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Kentucky

The Kentucky State Advisory Group (SAG), is Kentucky's federally-mandated state advisory agency. The group administers the state's JJDP A funds and provides the governor, state legislature and other policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The SAG 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 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Kentucky has dropped significantly in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJDP A was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In Kentucky, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2016 alone, the state experienced a 35% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$684,400 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past four fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Kentucky also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP A purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, Kentucky received \$750,000 in Title II funding. In FY2016, that figure had decreased to \$543,490

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY10:
\$834,945

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY14:
\$543,490

Decrease of 35% so far this decade.

Kentucky continues to use its dwindling federal funding for programs that are aimed at ensuring the JJDP A's core protections are carried out along with maintaining compliance with DMC. In recent years, the state has focused on the following priority areas to create a more comprehensive and effective Juvenile Justice System:

- Collaboration with Federal, state and local agencies and stakeholders
- Develop education and training programs on effective juvenile justice practices
- Advise Legislators and State Agencies on the development of a system of information data sharing to implement services and treatment for youth

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP A 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 (DMC). For more about the four core requirements, go to: http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html.

² All numbers are based upon data provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This information is available at: <http://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

This funding plays a critical role in Kentucky's ability to implement policy and practices to improve the juvenile justice system. Federal funding must be preserved and maintained to ensure that these goals are met and executed.