

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Mississippi

The Mississippi State Advisory Group (SAG), is Mississippi'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 Mississippi, 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 Mississippi, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2016 alone, the state experienced a 10% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$575,900 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. Mississippi 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, Mississippi received \$360,000 in Title II funding. In FY2016, that figure had increased to \$404,612. Despite this small increase, during the same time period, they lost access to two other critical federal funding streams.

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY10:
\$444,945

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY16:
\$404,612

Decrease of 10% so far this decade.

Mississippi uses these funds to try to prevent delinquency among vulnerable youth. Additionally, Mississippi is trying to strengthen the juvenile justice system in order to protect children and ensure public safety to the community. Federal funding under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act is crucial to making these goals a reality.

This funding plays a critical role in Mississippi'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.

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>.