



JUVENILE JUSTICE

CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION

www.act4jj.org

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Maine

The Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) serves as Maine's federally-mandated state advisory body. The group administers the state's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) funds and provides the Governor, state legislature, and other policymakers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The JJAG 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 JJDP.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Maine has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDP went unauthorized, **federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 42%**.² In Maine, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 61% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received \$345,800 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. Maine also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY10, Maine received \$600,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to \$406,831.

Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$1,030,745

Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY19*:
\$406,831

**Decrease of 61% so far
this decade.**

*This number only includes Title II funds; JABG has been zeroed out & Title V funds have been earmarked

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP 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.

² Act4JJ. (2020). Juvenile Justice Federal Funding Chart. Retrieved from

<https://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/Historic%20Funding%20Chart%20-%20FY20.pdf>.

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>. Accessed May 29, 2019.

Federal Dollars in Action:

Maine has scored some notable successes, such as producing a 45% decrease in the percentage of total youth arrests from 2008 to 2017. However, as federal investments in juvenile justice have declined, Maine's JJAG has faced serious setbacks in attaining its juvenile justice goals. Some programs Maine has been able to continue to fund are:

- Policing the Teen Brain is a program that provides law enforcement with training that promotes understanding of youth development, mental health, and racial and ethnic disparities. This program is offered in Aroostook County, one of Maine's most rural areas. The program has proven successful in reducing delinquent behavior and referrals to the juvenile court.
- The JJAG works to expand prevention and intervention programs such as My Life-My Choice, a program dedicated to mentoring and supporting girls who have been sexually exploited.
- Restorative justice initiatives are emphasized, especially in rural areas of Maine. Over the next three years, funds will be allocated to the development of a state-wide restorative practice network of services to help rural youth access the same types of restorative approaches to delinquency that exist in Maine's larger towns and cities. Such initiatives include the Juvenile Review Board in the Town of Old Orchard Beach and the Restorative Justice Council.

This fact sheet was prepared by:



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