Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Maryland

The Maryland Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council (“Juvenile Council”) serves as Maryland’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 Juvenile Council 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 Maryland 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 Maryland, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 62% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $834,000 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. Maryland 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, Maryland received $998,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $725,648.

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.

July 2020
Federal Dollars in Action:

Maryland invests JJDPA funding into programs that help the state save money in the long run, including using them to assist with diverting youth from entering the system and from going deeper into it. JJDPA funding has also helped the state provide necessary trainings to grantees and advisory group members to ensure that providers are providing trauma-informed care and approaching work with an equity lens. Maryland seeks to award funds to support the development and improvement of programs in the following areas: Aftercare/Reentry, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, Delinquency Prevention, and Community-Based Programs and Services.