Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) serves as Massachusetts’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 JJAC 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.

The federal allocation of grant funding to Massachusetts has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDPA went unauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 42%. In Massachusetts, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 99% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $872,800 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. Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts received $1,062,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $20,000.

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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.

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Federal Dollars in Action:

Massachusetts uses Title II funding to ensure compliance with the four core protections of the JJDPA and to fund community programs that are centered around the JJAC’s priority areas. Funding goes to programs that focus on topics such as gender, diversion, services to youth in rural areas, and juvenile justice data improvements.

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