



**CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY  
PREVENTION COALITION**

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## Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Minnesota

### Federal Funding Overview

In Minnesota, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) provides oversight of the federally mandated requirements that accompany participation in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). Among other responsibilities, the JJAC allocates funds appropriated to Minnesota under the JJDP and reports on the state's compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP. Members of JJAC, who are appointed by the governor, represent all eight congressional districts, all major cultural and national groups in the state, and a mix of urban, suburban and rural communities.

It has been a perennial struggle for Minnesota to allocate juvenile justice funds in the same equitable manner reflected in the JJAC's membership. This challenge has become even more acute as federal investment in juvenile justice has declined. Nationally, since 2002, **federal investments in the prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency have decreased by 48%**.<sup>1</sup> The decrease in juvenile justice spending has been felt even more severely in Minnesota, with federal spending **dropping off by 60% in the state over the past decade**.<sup>2</sup>

**Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY10:  
\$1.8 million**

**Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY18:  
\$718,569**

**Decrease of 60% so far  
this decade.**

Minnesota has scored some notable successes in spite of the difficult financial times. They have experienced a gradual decrease in the percentage of total youth arrests from 21 percent in 2010 to 15 percent in 2015, yet significant issues remain, including racial and ethnic disparities.<sup>3</sup> States are required under the JJDP to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, however data continues to show significant disparities in system outcomes for white children and children of color. Further decreases in federal support pose a clear threat to the state's ability to retool their juvenile justice system to address racial and ethnic disparities, and to equitably and adequately serve all families who come into contact with the system.

<sup>1</sup> Act4JJ. (2019). Juvenile Justice Federal Funding Chart. Retrieved from, <http://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/Historic%20Funding%20Chart%20-%20FY19.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> 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 June 4, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (2016). *Annual Report and Recommendations to Governor Mark Dayton and the Minnesota State Legislature* <https://dps.mn.gov/entity/jjac/Documents/JJAC%20Annual%20Report%202016.pdf>

### **The Title II Formula Grants Program and the Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program**

The federal investment in Title II in Minnesota in FY18 was \$718,569, down from \$1.18 million in 2002. Title V funds, meanwhile, were last allocated to Minnesota in 2011. In 2002, Title V funds provided \$679,000 to Minnesota's juvenile justice programs.

In Minnesota, Title II funds have helped young people by rehabilitating young offenders, diverting first-time offenders and status offenders from the delinquency system, providing safe havens for young victims, providing culturally specific programming for young people, and embedding evidence-based practices in youth serving organizations. The funds help ensure strong and safe communities.<sup>4</sup>

Minnesota previously used Title V funds to increase community resources that provide alternatives to youth system involvement. Nonetheless, with a combination of Title II and Title V dollars, JJAC has facilitated many positive outcomes, including those achieved by the following programs:

**The Children's Health Care project** in Minneapolis provides Advanced Practice Nurses at the Runaway Intervention Program (RIP). These nurses work with sexually exploited runaway youth to help them get back on track developmentally. This grant program originally focused on runaway girls, however the most recent version of this grant program also includes sexually-exploited boys and older girls. This project has received national recognition from a variety of agencies.

In Mankota, meanwhile, Title II funds are used to finance **Project Succeed**, an effort to help empower Latina women and encourage them to remain in school. The grant project targets children at the middle school level and helps teach participants how to avoid high-risk social behaviors.

In St. Cloud, Title II helps finance **efforts to identify crossover youth** (young people who were previously part of the foster care system) and **divert** them from the juvenile justice system when possible.

### **The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG)**

In Minnesota, JJAC also serves as the JABG State Advisory Board and allocates the state's JABG discretionary funds. In FY2014 and the following fiscal years, this funding source was zeroed out. In 2002, this funding source provided \$4.14 million to the state. The elimination of these funds creates potential financial hardship to the numerous state programs that previously received JABG awards.

Notable examples of prior programs include the **Leech Lake Tribal Court** which received funding to formalize and expand already established judicial collaborations between the Leech Lake Tribal Court and surrounding district courts in the state's Ninth Judicial District. In 2007 and 2008, the tribal court and judicial district entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to address the drug and alcohol epidemic on the Leech Lake Reservation. That agreement -- the first of its kind in the nation -- provided a foundation for the tribal court and judicial district to pilot a bold new approach to addressing the disproportionate contact of Native-American youth in their region with the juvenile justice system. Among the goals of the new program are to provide alternatives to adjudication for Native-American youth that emphasize culturally appropriate restorative justice approaches, and to reduce the number of Native-American youth in secure detention facilities by at least 30 percent.

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<sup>4</sup> Act4JJ. *JJDA Title II Appropriations*. <http://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/JJDA%20Appropriations%20UPDATED.pdf>

*This fact sheet was prepared by:*



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