Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Minnesota

The Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) serves as Minnesota’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.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Minnesota 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 Minnesota, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 61% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $795,300 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. Minnesota 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, Minnesota received $934,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $714,821.

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.
Federal Dollars in Action:

Minnesota has funded the following projects as part of the state’s strategy to meet the four JJDPA core requirements, with specific focus on the elimination of the disparate treatment of minority youth in Minnesota’s juvenile justice system:

- The Listen, Learn, Lead project engages youth across the state in conversations about their experiences and ideas for improvement in the juvenile justice system. The project then incorporates these conversations into policy and reform efforts.\(^4\)

- The JJAC collaborated with the Legal Rights Center to support the Youth Restorative Justice Initiative (YRJI). The YRJI is designed to recognize and develop resources that reduce racial and ethnic disparities, primarily through implementing restorative justice at key contact points within the juvenile justice system.\(^5\)

This fact sheet was prepared by:


\(^5\) Ibid.