Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Missouri

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) serves as Missouri’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 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 JJDPA.1

The federal allocation of grant funding to Missouri 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 Missouri, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 63% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $870,300 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. Missouri 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, Missouri received $1,058,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $757,037.

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.

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Missouri allocates its Title II funding to three main areas: (1) statewide expansion of juvenile detention alternatives, (2) gender-specific activities, and (3) addressing DMC. The state has reduced its use of detention and developed detention alternatives, making decisions based on a standardized assessment. The funds have also been used to develop programs to meet the needs of girls and gender-nonconforming youth. Title II funds have also allowed the state to create community teams to develop local plans to reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth at various points of contact in targeted communities.

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