Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: New Mexico

The New Mexico Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) serves as New Mexico’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 New Mexico 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 New Mexico, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 68% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $457,100 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. New Mexico 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, New Mexico received $600,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $393,667.

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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Federal Dollars in Action:

Even with the decrease in federal funding, New Mexico continues to use its federal dollars for programs aimed at ensuring that the JJDPA’s core protections are carried out. This has become increasingly difficult as funding has diminished. Most recently, the state has used its funding the prioritize programs and initiatives such as:

- Supporting intervention and diversion efforts to ensure that Native youth are offered the same quality of service as the rest of New Mexico’s juvenile population.

- Development of Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs), between local pueblos, cities, and tribes.

- Participation in the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). JDAI is intended to:
  - Eliminate unnecessary secure detention.
  - Reduce delinquent behavior.
  - Improve conditions in secure detention facilities.
  - Reduce racial and ethnic disparities.