Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: North Dakota

The North Dakota State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as North Dakota’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 SAG 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 North Dakota 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 North Dakota, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 68% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $295,500 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. North Dakota 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, North Dakota received $600,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $400,271.

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, North Dakota 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:

- The Attendant Care Program, which helps local governments operate non-secure “holdover” sites for delinquent youth who need short-term supervision on a pre-adjudicatory basis. The program provides short-term supervision (48 hours or fewer) and is designed for youth who are awaiting a court hearing or release to a guardian.

- Supporting the implementation of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support framework and/or Restorative Justice practices in schools. The SAG collaborates with Rural Education Cooperatives to educate school faculty and staff on evidence-based practices that keep youth engaged in school. It also reaches out to schools that are in need of positive behavioral interventions programming.

- Gender-based programming, such as a Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS) program for girls. The program addresses the needs of traumatized adolescents dealing with ongoing stress and/or experiencing behavioral or mental health problems.

This fact sheet was prepared by:

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

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