Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Ohio

The Ohio State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as Ohio’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.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Ohio 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 Ohio, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 62% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received $1,458,900 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. Ohio 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, Ohio received $2,032,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $1,370,166.⁴

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 racial and ethnic disparities. 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:

Despite the 62% decrease in federal funding, Ohio continues to use its Title II funds 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 prioritized funding the following programs:

- United Way of Trumbull County and Save Our Children provide after-school programming and counseling to at-risk minority youth.
- Cuyahoga County funds a trauma-informed program that works with children of incarcerated parents and a Rites of Passage program that helps youth with job-readiness and employment training, peer-to-peer mentoring, and character building.
- Franklin County funds Capital University, which tutors youth in detention; the Family Youth and Law Center, which mentors youth; and the National Youth Advocate Program.
- Fourteen of Ohio’s counties are collaborating with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement the Juvenile Diversion Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) program in Ohio. The JDAI helps jurisdictions promote efficient resource use and support public safety. Collaborating with the JDAI will reduce racial disparities, improve school completion rates, and lower reoffense rates.⁴

This fact sheet was prepared by:

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

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