



JUVENILE JUSTICE

**CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION**

www.act4jj.org

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAC) serves as Rhode Island's federally-mandated state advisory body. The group administers the state's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) 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 JJDP.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Rhode Island has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDP went unauthorized, **federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 42%**.² In Rhode Island, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 63% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received \$333,900 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. Rhode Island also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY10, Rhode Island received \$600,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to \$381,000.

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$1,028,845**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY19*:
\$381,000**

**Decrease of 63% so far
this decade.**

*This number only includes Title II funds; JABG has been zeroed out & Title V funds have been earmarked

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP 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.

² Act4JJ. (2020). Juvenile Justice Federal Funding Chart. Retrieved from <https://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/Historic%20Funding%20Chart%20-%20FY20.pdf>

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:

Despite its decreased funding, the State of Rhode Island continues to work toward the JJDPA's core requirements and otherwise improve its juvenile justice system. Rhode Island's primary goal for its use of Title II funds is to enable its system to "quickly and effectively" respond to juvenile offending behaviors.⁴ Rhode Island also seeks to improve its juvenile justice system by:

- Limiting entry to the juvenile justice system and developing alternatives to justice system involvement and incarceration of youth through specialty court programs and juvenile hearing boards.⁵
- Partnering with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) to reduce DMC and racial and ethnic disparities as well as create a culturally-competent juvenile justice system.⁶

This fact sheet was prepared by:



⁴ "Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act." *State of Rhode Island Department of Public Safety, Public Safety Grant Administration Office*. Retrieved from <https://psga.ri.gov/grants/juvenile.php>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*