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

The South Dakota State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as South 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 South 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 South Dakota, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 59% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations. In FY10 the state received $320,300 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. South 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, South Dakota received $600,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $406,747.

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:

Despite the decrease in its federal funding, South 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 chosen to fund:

- A Reimbursement Program that establishes alternatives to confinement to meet the standards set by the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders requirement and the Council of Juvenile Services.
- DMC intervention plans in two localities.
- Collaboration with Native American Tribes to develop culturally-appropriate juvenile-justice programs aimed at identifying the needs of Native youth and their potential barriers to services.