

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: West Virginia

The West Virginia State Advisory Group (SAG), is West Virginia's federally-mandated state advisory agency. The group administers the state's JJDP A funds and provides the governor, state legislature and other policy makers 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 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to West Virginia, has dropped significantly in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJDP A was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In West Virginia, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2016 alone, the state experienced a 42% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$404,800 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past four fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. West Virginia also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP A purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, West Virginia received \$600,000 in Title II funding. In FY2016, that figure had decreased to \$394,051.

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$684,945**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY16:
\$394,051**

**Decrease of 42% so far
this decade.**

West Virginia looks to concentrate funding to ten grant programs that will ensure that youth that come into contact with the Juvenile Justice system have the means to be represented equally, have lower rates of reentry, and have access to community programs that are better equipped to rehabilitate youth. The grant programs are as follows:

1. Delinquency Prevention: Focusing on youth who are exposed to violence, sexual abuse and likelihood to drop out of school

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP A 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 (DMC). For more about the four core requirements, go to: http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html.

² All numbers are based upon data provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This information is available at: <http://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

2. School Programs: The PRO program (Prevention Resource Officer program) to prevent school violence
3. Equality Among African Americans: Making sure that races are not discriminated against in our justice system
4. Gender Specific Services: Ensuring genders are not discriminated against
5. Protecting Juvenile Rights: Working to reduce youth incarceration, and making sure they are given the proper legal rights
6. Mentoring, Counseling and Training: Starting and maintaining programs for youth who are at risk
7. Mental Health: Access to treatment plans and diagnosis
8. Substance and Alcohol Abuse: Focusing on education, prevention and treatment
9. Diversion: Sentencing alternatives and programs that will reduce incarceration
10. Juvenile Justice System Improvement: To promote better outcomes for youth, families and the community

This funding plays a critical role in West Virginia's ability to implement policy and practices to improve the juvenile justice system. Federal funding must be preserved and maintained to ensure that these goals are met and executed.