Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Governor’s Juvenile justice Commission (GJJC) serves as Wisconsin’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 GJJC 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 Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 78% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received $822,200 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. Wisconsin 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, Wisconsin received $978,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to $416,312.

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.


Federal Dollars in Action:

The GJJC funds and awards grants to counties and local service providers to improve the lives of Wisconsin’s children and families. The Commission has awarded federal funds to develop and sustain local delinquency prevention efforts, specifically aimed at:

- Ensuring a fair and impartial juvenile justice system;
- Advancing juvenile justice improvement; and
- Maintaining compliance with the JJDPA.

In particular, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the GJJC have used funding to support alternatives to detention, address racial and ethnic disparities, and advance juvenile justice system improvement. Increased funding would allow more statewide support for all of these efforts. Increased funding would also increase the opportunities of local governments. For example, funds could provide training on evidence-based practices and expand alternatives to detention.