



Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Maine

Federal Funding Overview

In Maine, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) provides oversight of the federally mandated requirements that accompany participation in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). Among its other responsibilities, JJAG allocates funds appropriated to Maine under the JJDPA and monitors grantees' compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDPA.¹ Members of JJAG, appointed by the governor, serve a four-year term during which they advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. The JJAG is also responsible for monitoring the development of Maine's Comprehensive Three-Year Plan for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.²

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$1.3 million**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY18:
\$397,763**

**Decrease of 62% so far this
decade.**

Maine has scored some notable successes, such as producing a 45% decrease in the percentage of total youth arrests from 2008 to 2017.³ However, as federal investment in juvenile justice has declined, Maine's JJAG has faced serious setbacks in attaining its goals regarding the juvenile justice system.

Since FY10 Maine has seen a 33% decrease in Title II funding in addition to the elimination of Title V and JABG funding. Due to this funding cut Maine has had to make strategic shifts in its expenditure of federal funds.

The Title II Formula Grants Program

The FY18 federal JJDPA Title II investment in Maine is \$397,763, a one-third drop from \$600,000 for FY10.⁴

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 the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system (DMC). Retrieved from, http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html.

² Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. About the JJAG. Retrieved from, <http://www.state.me.us/corrections/jjag/about.htm>

³ OJJDP. Juvenile Arrest Rates by State. (2014). Retrieved from, <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05103.asp?qaDate=2014&text=yes>

⁴ 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>. Accessed May 29, 2019.

Title II funds have allowed **Maine** to begin expanding restorative practices throughout the state and complete a careful examination of their juvenile correctional facility. Title II funding has allowed the state to support many smaller efforts to improve direct services to youth and families. For example, the State Advisory Group has provided training to several probation officers regarding responding effectively to youth who are victims of sex trafficking. With Title II funding, Maine has also been able to execute both large systems improvements and improve direct service to youth.

In addition to maintaining compliance with the core principles of the JJDP, Maine sets forth specific priorities for the future. Their three year plan prioritizes the development gender specific services, ensuring that youth are not detained for lack of appropriate alternatives, providing education to the community, and providing education and training to legislators and juvenile justice specialists.⁵

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG)

In FY10, the federal JABG investment in Maine was \$345,800. This pot of money was zeroed out in FY14 and FY2015.

When JABG funding was available, it was used to support *Diversions to Assets (D2A)*, a community-based diversion program serving several Maine locations, including Augusta, Waterville, Bucksport, Biddeford, and Lewiston. D2A was targeted to youth ages 9-17 who became involved with the juvenile justice system for the first time. Its aim was to protect youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system by providing them with a wide range of local services: substance abuse education, counseling, mentoring, community service opportunities, youth engagement, leadership development, and restorative justice. These services helped young people develop positive relationships in their communities and internal and external assets for healthy development.

D2A was the result of collaboration among the Maine Department of Corrections, the Maine Office of Substance Abuse, and the Communities for Children and Youth Network, housed at Spurwink Services. District attorneys, police, and juvenile community corrections officers were all able to refer youth to D2A whom they felt could be availed of its services.

The Title V Local Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program

The Title V source of federal funding has been earmarked for non-JJDP related purposes and has thus essentially been eliminated. In FY2010, Maine received \$84,945 in Title V funds as opposed to \$0 in FY2014 and FY2015.

When Title V funding was available, it was used to support community prevention efforts, including the *Collaborative & Proactive Solutions*® (CPS) model, proposed by Dr. Ross Greene (first in his book *The Explosive Child* and later in *Lost at School*). The model maintains that children's social, behavioral and emotional challenges can be best understood as the product of lagging skills as opposed to manipulation, attention-seeking, lack of motivation, or coercion. Accordingly, children should not be punished through suspension, expulsion or detention, but taught skills, through collaborative efforts, to solve their problems.

CPS was first modeled in South Portland and Charleston, Maine, with a dramatic, positive impact on the rate of recidivism. It was later expanded to Bar Harbor, Durham Community School, Georgetown Central School, Limestone Community School, Morse Street School in Freeport, Rangeley Lakes Regional

⁵ Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. About the JJAG. Retrieved from, <http://www.state.me.us/corrections/jjag/about.htm>

School, Lisbon Community School, James H. Bean School in Sidney, Kennebunk Elementary, W.G. Mallett School in Farmington and Seabasticook Valley Middle School in Newport.

This fact sheet was prepared by:



June 2019