



CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY  
PREVENTION COALITION

[www.act4jj.org](http://www.act4jj.org)

## Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Vermont

### Federal Funding Overview:

The Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs (CFCPP) facilitates Vermont's participation in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). The 21-member Council has three primary functions: 1) advise the governor, legislature, and juvenile justice system actors on implementation of the JJDP, and advise on child and youth impact regarding practice, policy, and legislative proposals; 2) monitor the state's compliance with the JJDP; and 3) make grants to develop and implement juvenile justice and primary prevention programs in partnership with the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

### Diminishing Funds:

The current funding levels for juvenile justice in Vermont show a **59% decrease between FY10 and FY18**. This is due in part to the elimination of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funding and a series of earmarks that were placed on Title V funding. Although Vermont has a generally low (and steadily decreasing) crime rate, and consistently ranks among the safest states in the nation, juveniles age 16 – 17 years old are routinely prosecuted directly ("direct filed") in adult criminal court, even for misdemeanor offenses. In 2013, the State of Vermont instituted a Family (juvenile) Court Rule mandating the submission of race data to the court with all delinquency filings. Though this rule has not yet provided anticipated results, it was a positive step and is expected to provide improvement to juvenile court race data availability. Because state law enforcement still relies on visual identification of suspects, following the national law enforcement standard, there are few captures of Hispanic ethnicity. These issues – the over-reliance on the adult criminal justice system, and a dearth of information on minority contact – have become focus points for the CFCPP. With the federal investment in juvenile justice, the Council has begun to take action to address these problems.

Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY10:  
\$974,045

Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY18:  
\$401,961

Decrease of 59% so far this  
decade.

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

### **Federal Dollars in Action:**

Since FY18, Vermont received a Title II allocation of \$401,961. These funds have initiated systemic improvements to youth justice that have been sustained. For example, funds are used to provide effective restorative justice interventions for youth on probation, youth at risk and truant youth, and 'pre-charge' restorative interventions that divert youth cases from court. The funding has also allowed the state to implement statewide quality improvement, training, and best practice implementation for the Court Diversion system. Funding is also used to conduct studies and analysis for legislation regarding raising the age of jurisdiction, eventually leading to legislative change. While the funding has allowed the state to ensure their juvenile justice system is in compliance with the JJJPA, the current allocations leave very little funding to make further improvements after requirements are funded. Funds are allocated to a statewide legal services program that will advocate for youth and families and help to establish improved practice to reduce the number of youth who are suspended and expelled from school, especially youth of color and those with disabilities.

*This fact sheet was prepared by:*



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