



**JUVENILE JUSTICE**  
**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: Alabama

### Federal Funding Overview

The Alabama State Advisory Group (SAG), is Alabama's federally-mandated state advisory agency. The group administers the state's JJDP 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).<sup>1</sup>

The federal allocation of grant funding to Alabama has dropped significantly in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDP A went unauthorized, **federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 48%**.<sup>2</sup> In Alabama, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY18 alone, the state experienced **a 62% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations**.<sup>3</sup>

**Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY10:  
\$1.66 million**

**Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY18:  
\$628,131**

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

### The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG)

In FY10 the state received \$735,600 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. Since FY14, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget.

### The Title V Local Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program

Alabama also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY10. 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 FY10, Alabama received \$835,000 in Title II funding. In FY18, that figure decreased to \$628,131.

### The Title II Formula Grants Program

<sup>1</sup> The four core requirements of the JJDP A are: 1) deinstitutionalization of status offenders, (2) separation of adults and juveniles in secure institutions, 3) adult jail and lock-up removal; and 4) addressing racial and ethnic disparities. ). For more about the four core requirements, go to: [http://www.act4jj.org/about\\_requirements.html](http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html).

<sup>2</sup> Act4JJ. (2019). Juvenile Justice Federal Funding Chart. Retrieved from, <http://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/Historic%20Funding%20Chart%20-%20FY19.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> 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 June 4., 2019.

Alabama continues to use its dwindling federal funding for programs that are aimed at ensuring the JJDPAs core protections are carried out including recently contracting with a Coordinator to address Disproportionate Minority Contact. In recent years, the state has focused on the following priority areas in expending Title II funds:

- Programs that create **sentencing alternatives**, by avoiding inappropriate incarceration and making interventions available soon after a child is identified as exhibiting high risk behaviors;
- Programs that help to **prevent juvenile justice involvement**;
- Programs that **address causation factors behind both delinquent behaviors and recidivism**. These programs, among other things, examine the availability of mental health services that address the needs of a child upon reentering the community, and identify causation issues related to teen pregnancy and parenting.

Due to the significant decrease in federal funding,, the SAG reevaluated their priority areas for the current 3-Year Plan. Through focus group meetings, the SAG determined the areas of greatest need to be programs which address truancy and aftercare programs for young people re-entering their communities.

Listed below are examples of initiatives which would benefit from increased juvenile justice appropriations:

- In Alabama, JJDPAs funding has been used to support diversion programs for truant youth and to support mentorship between youth and law enforcement. **The Dallas County Truancy Intervention Program** helps get to root causes of truancy and support students to get back on track. For example, Sam Jones, a Truancy Intervention Specialist, recalls one student who had already reached six unexcused absences early in the school year. Jones said he “was able to speak to the County truancy officer and made him aware of the situation and the truancy officer met with the family and discovered that there were health issues. This family was able to excuse some of the absences and avoid being referred to Juvenile Probation for truancy.”
- In Marvel City, Alabama, Officer Lakeisha Atkins said that, with the help of funding through Title II of the JJDPAs, they were able to create the **Marvel City Youth Program**. Officer Atkins says “[t]he goal of the program is to reduce the risks and enhance the protective factors that prevent youth from reentering the juvenile justice system. It strives to facilitate and encourage community-wide efforts in combating the associated factors of at-risk youth by the following measures: improving prosocial behavior, discouraging drug and alcohol use, and improving access to community resources and positive adult mentors. It allows participants to interact with law enforcement community, broadening their perception, appreciation and adherence to the law....

*This fact sheet was prepared by:*

