



JUVENILE JUSTICE

CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION

www.act4jj.org

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Alabama

The Alabama State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as Alabama's federally-mandated state advisory body. The group administers the state's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) funds and provides the Governor, state legislature, and other policymakers 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 JJDP.¹

Federal allocation of grant funding to Alabama has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDP went unauthorized, **federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 42%**.² In Alabama, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 65% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received \$735,600 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past six fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Alabama also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP 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 FY19, that figure had decreased to \$581,589.

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

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY19*:
\$581,589**

**Decrease of 65% so far
this decade.**

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

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP 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.

² Act4JJ. (2020). Juvenile Justice Federal Funding Chart. Retrieved from <https://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/Historic%20Funding%20Chart%20-%20FY20.pdf>.

³ 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>.

Federal Dollars in Action:

Alabama uses its diminishing funding for programs that aim to meet and exceed the JJDPA's core requirements. Recent data in Alabama shows a need for collaborative, evidence-based approaches in programs. Collaborative programs, such as Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and an initiative undertaken by the Dallas County Children's Policy Council, have shown reduced rates of youth crime and increased youth diversion.

Alabama has also prioritized programs that address racial and ethnic disparities (R/ED) and discrepancies between urban and rural youth. Example programs include:

- JDAI programs in the counties of Jefferson, Montgomery, and Mobile that are working to update detention reforms to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.
- A diversion grant program developed in collaboration with Annie E. Casey Foundation's Strategic Consulting Group to address growing numbers of rural youth committed to the Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS) despite declines in violent offenses. DYS is funding 45 diversion grant projects that cover 77% of counties in Alabama, including many gender-specific programs.

This fact sheet was prepared by:



July 2020