



JUVENILE JUSTICE

CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION

www.act4jj.org

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Delaware

The Delaware Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) serves as Delaware'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 JJAG 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

The federal allocation of grant funding to Delaware 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 Delaware, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 55% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received \$323,900 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. Delaware 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, Delaware received \$480,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to \$400,318.

Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$888,845

Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY19*:
\$400,318

**Decrease of 55% 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:

Despite the decrease in funding, Delaware continues to use its federal funding for programs throughout the state aimed at ensuring that the JJDPAs' core protections are carried out. The state has undertaken a series of programs in recent years that focus on racial and ethnic disparities in particular. The most recent of these programs includes a statewide Juvenile Civil Citation program. The program permits all police officers statewide to refer youth who commit a first-time misdemeanor offense to a 90-day program in which they will receive an assessment and must participate in a variety of community service activities. The young person does not go through the traditional criminal justice system, nor does the young person accrue a criminal record. The program is currently implemented statewide and has an 86% program completion rate.

This fact sheet was prepared by:



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