

## **PREVENTION** **FACT SHEET**

The Title V Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs, commonly known as the Community Prevention Grants program, is the only federal funding source dedicated solely to the prevention of youth crime and violence. Created in 1992 and reauthorized in 2002 as part of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, Title V is a grant program to fund collaborative, comprehensive, community-based delinquency prevention efforts to reach young people before they make a choice that puts them on the wrong path in life. The grants can be used to fund a wide range of programs, including after-school activities, mentoring, and tutoring, as well as drop-out, gang, and substance abuse prevention.

Programs that connect children to caring adults and provide constructive activities, especially during the after-school hours of 3:00pm to 6:00pm—the “prime time for juvenile crime” on school days—are among our most powerful tools for preventing crime. For example, a study compared five housing projects without Boys & Girls Clubs to five receiving new clubs. At the beginning, drug activity and vandalism were the same. But by the time the study ended, the projects without the programs had 50 percent more vandalism and scored 37 percent worse on drug activity. Similarly, a study of another quality youth development program, Big Brothers Big Sisters, found that young people who were randomly assigned to a Big Brother or Big Sister mentor were about half as likely to begin illegal drug use and nearly one third less likely to hit someone compared to those who were assigned to a waiting list.

Prevention activities, such as those supported by Title V, remain so woefully under-funded that they can reach only a fraction of the kids who would benefit from them. For example, because of lack of funding for after-school programs, more than 14 million children and teens go home from school to an empty house each week. Research shows that these children are much more likely to drink, smoke, use drugs, commit a crime, and become a victim of a crime.

In Fiscal Year 2002 and prior years, Title V received \$95 million. In FY07, Title V received \$64 million. For FY08, the Administration’s budget proposes to eliminate Title V funding and create a new “Child Safety and Juvenile Justice Block Grant”, with 25% less funding than the set of programs it replaces.