

Overview

The Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (ACJJ) is statutorily authorized to set priorities for juvenile justice funding and make recommendations on how to allocate the state's awards under Title II and Title V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program. In 2010, the ACJJ awarded more than \$2 million in federal funds to various state agencies and local units of government to further the following priorities:

- reducing racial/ethnic disproportionality in the juvenile justice system;
- diverting juveniles from detention and providing alternatives to detention;
- increasing family and community involvement;
- ensuring youth are afforded due process of law;
- reducing juvenile justice involvement of chronically absent youth with other negative school-related behaviors; and
- addressing at-risk children and young offenders aged 13 and under.

County Summary

**FY 2011 Federal Investment
(JABG and Title II):
\$180,800**

**FY 2010 Federal Investment:
(JABG and Title II): \$213,050**

The ACJJ's strategy for distribution of JJDP allocations is to provide localities seed funding to get programs in place that might then be supported over the long term through other sources. This funding model has been used to positive effect in Fairfax County as follows:

The Title II Formula Grants Program

The FY 2011 federal investment for Title II programs in Fairfax County was \$130,000. Fairfax County has used Title II funds to launch programs proven effective at reducing detention and recidivism, including Evening Reporting Centers for youth who might otherwise be detained pending court action for violations or offenses committed while on probation. The program, operated by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, provides highly structured and well-supervised group and community service activities designed to help youth develop skills supporting prosocial behaviors. Title II funding also allowed the County to identify gaps in their continuum of services, implement innovative, research-based programs and evaluate the impact. Unfortunately, the current economic climate has made needed expansion to other parts of the County unlikely. Innovation and testing of new models are opportunities

that county budgets often do not support, and the current federal investment is insufficient to support expansion.

- **Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC):** Fairfax County was the first jurisdiction in Virginia to commission a study on disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system 20 years ago. Building on that foundation, the County furthered its research on DMC and commissioned an Institutional Analysis to analyze “feeder systems” that may refer high numbers of minority children to the juvenile justice system. To translate research into practice, the county invested Title II funds into a pilot Promise Neighborhood Initiative called “Opportunity Neighborhood” in the southern part of the County that is led by the Fairfax County Public Schools, with supplemental funding from Capitol One Bank.

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program

The current federal investment in JABG programming in Fairfax County is \$70,700. ***JABG funding for the county has decreased since 2002, from \$140,000 annually to \$70,700 in 2011.*** During the launch of JABG, Fairfax County established an intensive supervision program for high-risk youth, including evening supervision in the community. Although the program was highly effective, the sharp decline in the JABG award and cuts in the County budget resulted in its closure. Since the current award level cannot support programming and staff, the County shifted these resources to training for probation staff.

- **Training on Evidence-Based Strategies and Systems Reform:** For the past five years, Fairfax County has used JABG funding to help implement system reforms using research on evidence-based practices and strategies. More than 230 juvenile probation and residential staff have been trained on Motivational Interviewing (MI), an evidence-based practice, and the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), a validated risk assessment instrument. Currently, the model developers of the YASI and an experienced MI trainer work with Fairfax County to establish quality control systems for continuous systems improvement.
- **Training on Programming for Court Involved Girls:** With JABG funds, Fairfax County established court-wide training on girls and trauma, and implemented Girls Circle, a gender-responsive program currently under evaluation by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) at the U.S. Department of Justice. Probation staff have been trained to facilitate Girls Circle in juvenile justice settings. Funds have also been used for a national expert to conduct a systems-wide assessment of gender-responsive programming.

- **Treatment and Trauma Training:** Fairfax County has used JABG funding to expand the availability of contract treatment services for court-involved youth in high-risk situations and to train staff on the impact of trauma on adolescent development.

The Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program

Virginia's FY 2011 Title V allocation was \$50,000. Fairfax County does not participate in the Title V program.

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