

### Overview

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC) is the Pennsylvania entity authorized to administer federal funds under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA), and the Commonwealth's official planning, coordinating and policy-setting body for juvenile justice. Over the past several years, the JJJPC has prioritized performance- and outcome-based programming focused on diversion, system enhancement and the reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC). Their work is managed by subcommittees that engage in an ongoing process of assessing, monitoring and addressing these focus areas in the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system.

Unfortunately, significant cuts in the federal investment in juvenile justice nationwide have put this important work in serious jeopardy. Since 2002, federal investments in juvenile justice reform have decreased by 54%, hampering Pennsylvania's efforts to improve the lives and address the needs of youth who come into contact with law enforcement and the courts, and youth at risk for that contact. Pennsylvania's JJJPA-funded programs alone have faced cuts between 41% and 100%, and in FY2012, funding for the Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program has been eliminated entirely.

The following are some of the positive outcomes the Commonwealth achieved in Philadelphia with the federal investments in FY2010 and FY2011. Many of these programs – and the outcomes they produce – will be curtailed or discontinued as a result of recent cuts to federal juvenile justice programs, and it is likely that these effects will be felt disproportionately in the city of Philadelphia.

### The Title II Formula Grants Program

In the last two years, Pennsylvania has experienced drastic cuts in federal Title II funding. In 2010, Pennsylvania received \$2,056,000 in Title II funding; in 2011, those funds were cut by 16% (down to \$1,728,290). In FY 2012, Title II funding has been drastically reduced even further; the Office of

### Summary

**Total FY2012 Federal Investment (JABG and Title II) in Pennsylvania: \$1,491,073**

**FY 2011 Federal Investment: \$2,931,063**

**FY2010 Federal Investment: \$3,614,045**

**JABG, Title II and Title V funding for the Commonwealth has been cut**

**76%** since 2002.

**In FY 2010 and 2011 combined, Philadelphia received approximately 34% of JABG and 10% Title II funds respectively.**

**Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recently announced that Pennsylvania's Title II allocation will only be \$790,949 – down 54%.** With this significant cut, Pennsylvania will not be able to fund additional diversionary and other delinquency prevention programs. **In addition, funding at this level will challenge Pennsylvania's efforts to maintain compliance with the federal JJDPA to ensure protections for youth in our systems:** typically, Pennsylvania commits approximately 30% of Title II funds to maintaining compliance with the core protections of the JJDPA.

The remaining funds are used to support an effective combination of diversionary programs across the state, including the following:

- The Philadelphia City Treasurer, in collaboration with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, is utilizing Title II funds to enhance their existing Youth Aid Panel (YAP) Diversion Program by adding a dedicated victim services representative. The Juvenile Division of the District Attorney's Office has been operating the Youth Aid Panel Diversion Program since 1987 and there are currently 32 community-based YAPs operating throughout the county. Approximately 800 first-time, low level misdemeanor cases are reviewed by YAPs every year. Funding used to hire a victim services representative has expanded services to encourage and enable victims to more fully participate in the panels related to their cases.

Since the start of the grant period on July 1, 2011, the YAP Program Enhancement has achieved the following outcomes:

- 318 youth served.
  - 16 youth successfully completed the program.
  - 40 victims have been contacted with Victim Rights Information.
  - 15 victims have attended YAP.
  - 17 victims have been notified of YAP outcomes.
- The Philadelphia City Treasurer, in conjunction with the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health, is utilizing Title II funds to expand the scope of their existing diversion programs in Philadelphia by including High Fidelity Wraparound Services. High Fidelity Wraparound is a well-researched, team-based, collaborative process for developing and implementing individualized care plans for children with mental health challenges and their families, across child-serving systems. The program serves youth, ages 13 to 15, diverted by Juvenile Probation at the Youth Study Center and provides an intensive, long-term collaborative planning process that offers levels of support that are not currently available for diverted juveniles. Funds support a full-time Wraparound Facilitator to work with youths and families from the outset of referral by Juvenile Probation to ensure needs are identified, appropriate services located, and care and

service delivery are coordinated. The project will serve 25 youth and families during the first 18 months of the grant period, which is the typical length of the High Fidelity Wraparound process.

Since 2010, Pennsylvania has served a total of 2,044 youth with these funds. The loss of additional funding will greatly impact many projects.

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

In 2011, Pennsylvania received \$1,152,773 in Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funding, down 22% from 2010 (\$1,473,100). **Recently released JABG funding for 2012 has been drastically reduced even further, down 40% to only \$700,124. Each of the projects highlighted below are in danger of being terminated due to this recent cut:**

- **District Attorney's Office:**

The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office funds a Juvenile Pretrial Prosecutor who reviews cases thoroughly, makes informed plea offers and disposes of more cases before trial. Funding also supports a JABG grant administrator, who communicates with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, oversees the project, ensures that reports are submitted as required and performs other general administration functions related to the JABG grant.

- **Defender's Association of Philadelphia:**

The Defender's Association utilizes funds to support Pretrial and Detention Court attorneys and the assignment of a paralegal to check for conflicts of interest at the pretrial stage. The Defender Association keeps statistics and works with the District Attorney's Office in trying to dispose of as many pretrial cases as possible.

Funding is also used to partially fund a senior attorney and a policy analyst attorney who is specially assigned to assist in the representation of clients who require complex disposition planning. When possible, the Complex Disposition Attorney is specifically assigned cases with mental health issues at the initiation of proceedings against the client. The Juvenile Policy Analyst Attorney deals with policy matters as well as complex dispositions involving mental health issues, especially in cases involving sexual crimes.

JABG funds are also used to fund the Law Enforcement Initiative, the Law Enforcement Curriculum and Law Enforcement Forums implemented by the Philadelphia Work Group (PWG) of the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Sub-Committee. Funds are used to support travel to other sites within Pennsylvania who have expressed interest in implementing the DMC Law Enforcement Curriculum.

- **Department of Human Services/Philadelphia School District:**

JABG funds are used to fund one full-time clerk dedicated to the Re-Entry Transition Initiative-Welcome Return Assessment Process (RETI-WRAP) Program and one full-time RETI-WRAP Program Specialist. The goal of the RETI-WRAP Program is to assist students in making informed decisions regarding educational options, and help them develop stronger problem-solving skills.

- **Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department:**

JABG funds are used to maintain the four original “Teen Centers” located within the boundaries of the 12th and 25th Police Districts, and the five additional Teen Centers located in other high-crime areas (the 14th, 19th and 23rd Police Districts). Teen Centers provide enhanced recreational and social programming for community youth as well as outreach services that actively recruit and engage youth between the ages of 14 and 24.

Altogether, Philadelphia has achieved the following outcomes with JABG funds:

- 210 youth admitted to a graduated sanctions program.
- 257 youth completing the program requirements.
- 625 youth entering into a JABG funded program.
- 1,898 youth served over all JABG funded programs/persons.
- 10 youth reoffended.
- DMC related information: Four DMC law enforcement/youth forums were held:
  - One forum at the Youth Study Center with 90 youth and 15 law enforcement representatives.
  - One forum at the Haitian Community Forum at Ebenezer Haitian Baptist Church with 30 youth, 13 law enforcement representatives and 50 adult community members.
  - One forum at the Liberian Community Center with 15 youth, 13 law enforcement representatives, and 30 adult community members.
  - One forum at Congreso de Latinos Unidos with 51 youth and 17 law enforcement representatives.

### **The Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program**

In 2010, Pennsylvania received \$84,945 in Title V funding. In 2011, Pennsylvania received only 50,000, a 41% decrease. **For FY 2012, Title V funds have been completely eliminated.**

In 2010, York County Human Services partnered with other community entities to form York County Communities That Care (YCCTC). YCCTC developed processes to support prevention services in York County, serving 16 county school districts, public and private agencies and businesses.

In addition, Title V funds were used to support the expansion of York County's Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. The BBBS Program has been present in York County for many years and has 40 active matches with local youth. With current staffing levels, the program is at its maximum number of matches. Past expansions of this project increased the number of total matches by at least 20, and had the potential to serve up to 40 youth over the next two years. Mentors were and would be recruited from many of the entities that participate in the YCCTC, as well as the many churches throughout York County.

*For more information about the programs and outcomes funded by Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, contact Marie Williams, Director of State Strategies at the Coalition for Juvenile Justice at [williams@juvjustice.org](mailto:williams@juvjustice.org), or 202-467-0864, ext. 113.*