

### Overview

In Maryland, the Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council (the “Juvenile Council”) is the body statutorily authorized to administer federal funding granted under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). In 2011, the state received \$1,343,908 in federal funds under the JJDP Title II and Title V programs, and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. The Juvenile Council’s strategy, rooted in the best evidence on how to produce positive outcomes for youth, is to limit out-of-home placements and to develop and strengthen community-based interventions for at-risk youth and system-involved youth. Although these interventions cost significantly less than secure detention, Maryland will face an uphill battle to take these proven approaches to state scale if the federal investments in state and local juvenile justice programs continue their downward trend.

The following are a few examples of the programs currently funded by federal dollars, and the successes accomplished to date.

### The Title II Formula Grants Program

The current (FY2011) federal investment in Title II programs in Maryland is \$998,000, which the Juvenile Council has directed toward the development of evening reporting centers (ERCs) as an alternative to secure detention for eligible youth. An overwhelming body of research has shown that community-based interventions like ERCs have far more positive results than confinement/secure detention. In fact, detention has negligible and sometimes deleterious effects on youth, including higher rates of recidivism. (Coates, Miller, and Ohlin, 1978; Krisberg, Austin, and Steele, 1989).

- **Baltimore City:** Launched an ERC through the Mayor's Office of Employment Development. The ERC integrates evening reporting and supervision with assessment, service planning and transition to community-based placements as alternatives to secure detention for youth awaiting trial in juvenile court. The ERC serves young males living in the west side of the city. Baltimore City’s Pre-Adjudicated Coordination and Training (PACT) operates the ERC, and plans to expand the program for court-involved girls in the coming months.

### State Summary

**Total FY2011 Federal Investment (JABG, Title II and Title V): \$1,343,908**

**FY2010 Federal Investment: \$1,916,945**

**The current funding levels for juvenile justice in Maryland represent a 30% decrease from the FY2010 funding level.**

- **Prince George's County:** The Department of Juvenile Services' ERC is designed to develop pro-social skills and deter delinquency among at-risk youth. The program provides highly structured, supervised activities in a positive, supportive and safe environment. The ERC operates after school (early evening) and on Saturdays, shown to be high risk time periods for juvenile offenses.

*The ERC programs collectively served 381 youth in 2010. Of those, only 10.4 percent, or 40 youth, recidivated. The programs also generated substantial savings for the state at a cost of \$37 per youth as compared with \$397 per youth for a secure detention placement.*

## Program Highlights

### Community-Based Alternatives to Secure Detention

- **Evening reporting programs** saw a recidivism rate of only **10.4%, considerably lower than the average among detained youth.**
- **Reduced detention of girls** statewide by **35%.**

### Truancy Intervention

- **Funded initiative reduced absences among youth served by 78% in 2009.**

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

The federal investment in Maryland for the JABG program was \$834,000 for FY2011.

- **Baltimore City:** The Baltimore City Health Department's Operation Safe Kids court program targets juvenile justice system youth on probation and at risk of being placed in detention or some other out-of-home placement. The program's intensive, community-based approach provides accountability through an immediate response youth who continue to exhibit delinquent behavior. Among the youth served by this program in 2010, only 14 percent recidivated.

### The Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program

The current federal investment in Title V programs in Maryland is \$84,945.

- **University of Maryland School of Law:** In 2009-2010, the University of Maryland School of Law Truancy Mediation Initiative produced **a 78 percent decrease in absences during the fall of 2009, as compared with spring 2009** for participating elementary and middle school students.

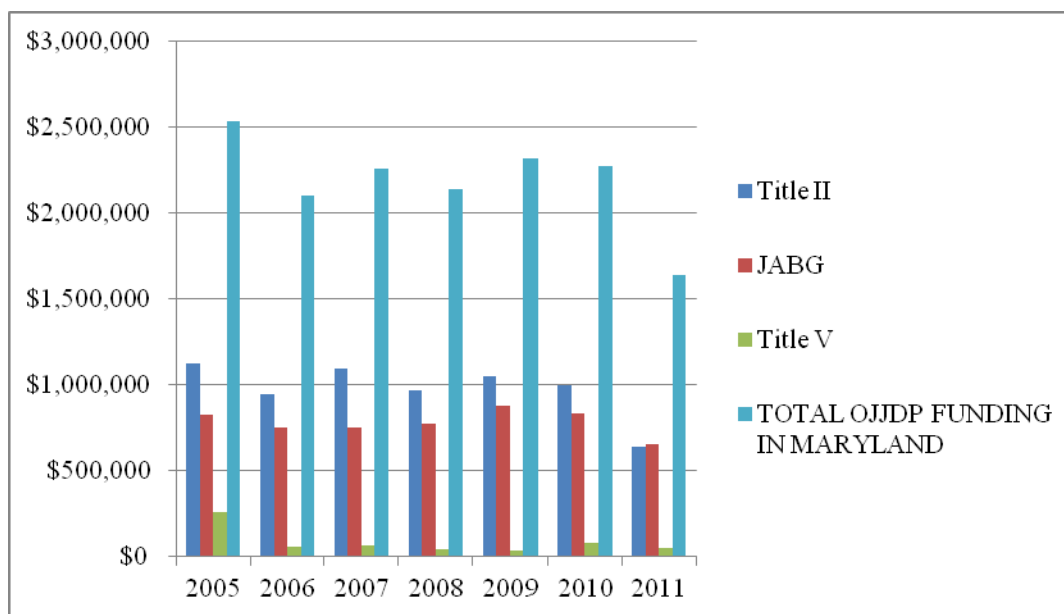
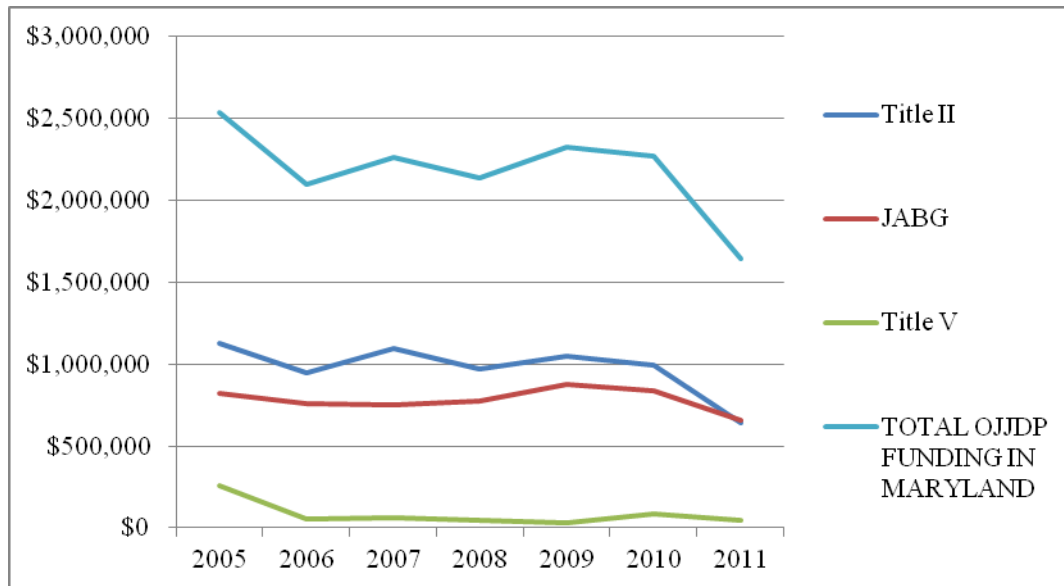
Using longitudinal data, the initiative was able to show that the same students maintained their improved attendance records in spring 2010, with *a 65 percent decrease in unexcused absences, as compared with spring 2009 attendance*. Similarly, *tardiness among youth in the same population decreased by 77 percent for the duration of the program*.

- **Baltimore City: PACT Gender Specific Evening Reporting Center Program.** To date the PACT program has served 12 Baltimore City girls, successfully diverting them from secure detention. (The total number of girls in detention statewide is 33.) *Baltimore City's ability to divert girls into PACT has had the impact of reducing the number of girls in detention in the state by 35 percent*. The PACT Center has adopted best practices in gender-responsive training for staff, and utilizes an individualized case planning approach to their programming. *The PACT program ensured that 95 percent (in FY2010) and 92 percent (in FY2011) of youth returned to court on their scheduled dates*.

In addition to specific program funding, the Juvenile Council is committed to reducing and ultimately eliminating disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the Maryland juvenile justice system, one of four core requirements of the JJDP. To that end, it partnered with the Institute for Governmental Service and Research at the University of Maryland to identify and address racial and ethnic disparities. The Council is leveraging federal dollars along with private foundation funding to ameliorate system contact rates for African American and Latino youth in Maryland. Current incarceration rates for African American and Latino youth are two and half times that of White youth.

*For a complete listing of juvenile justice programs and outcomes funded by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, 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.*

### State Funding Trends



*\*Note: Total OJJDP funding figure includes EUDL, whose trends are not depicted here.*

### Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Established in 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) provides for:

- a nationwide juvenile justice planning and advisory system spanning all states, territories and the District of Columbia;
- federal funding for delinquency prevention and improvements in state and local juvenile justice programs and practices; and
- operation of a federal agency ([the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)) dedicated to training, technical assistance, model programs, and research and evaluation, to support state and local efforts.

### Funding for Juvenile Justice Improvements and Reforms

Under the JJDPA, there are currently\* three main streams of funding support federal partnership with the states, territories and D.C. regarding juvenile justice.

**Title II of the JJDPA: Formula Grants Program.** Through this program, OJJDP provides funds directly to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to help them implement comprehensive state juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of needs in their jurisdictions, as well as to achieve compliance with the core requirements of the JJDPA. The goal of this program is to improve juvenile justice systems by increasing the availability and types of prevention and intervention programs, and implementing juvenile justice system improvements.

**Title V of the JJPDA: Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs.** Commonly known as the Community Prevention Grants Program, Title V creates a federal grant program to fund collaborative, community-based delinquency prevention efforts to reach youth in high-risk situations to increase protective factors and positive choices, and provides local jurisdictions with the resources needed to implement a comprehensive delinquency prevention strategy in concert with community partners.

**Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG).** The original purpose of the JABG was to provide states and units of local government with funds to develop programs to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system, including building, expanding, and operating juvenile facilities, training correctional personnel, hiring additional judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and court-appointed defenders, and funding pre-trial services for juveniles. The purpose areas of JABG were expanded under the 2002 and 2005 reauthorizations to provide for graduated sanctions programs that include counseling, restitution, community service, and supervised probation; more substance abuse programs; mental health screening and treatment; restorative justice programs; gang prevention; anti-bullying initiatives; and re-entry.

\*A fourth funding stream, the Delinquency Prevention Block Grant Program has not received appropriations since 2003.