

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding | Illinois

Overview

Unfortunately, significant cuts in the federal investment in juvenile justice nationwide have put the important work of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC) in jeopardy. Between FY2009 and FY2011 alone, Illinois experienced 21 percent in cuts to its Title II and Title V funding. **With further cuts in the Title II allocation, and the elimination of Title V for FY2012, funding has diminished by 65.5 percent since 2009.** Because the IJJC also leverages those resources to obtain support from private funders, and to enter into partnerships that maximize the reach of the federal juvenile justice investment in Illinois, cuts to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) funding have a deeper impact than the amount of funds lost might imply.

The IJJC serves as Illinois' federally-mandated state advisory group (SAG) that administers the state's JJDP funds and provides the governor, General Assembly and other policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The IJJC reports annually to the governor and state legislature on its work, including the expenditure of funds granted by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and on the status of the state's compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP. ¹ Illinois is currently in compliance with the core requirements but relies heavily on the federal juvenile justice investment to maintain compliance by, among other measures, ensuring

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP are: 1) deinstitutionalization of status offenders, 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 (DMC). For more about the four core requirements, go to: http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html

Summary

Title II FY2012 Allocation: \$865,894

Title V FY2012: eliminated.

Total FY2011 Federal Investment (Title II and Title V): \$1,993,212

Total FY2010 Federal Investment (Title II and Title V): \$2,450,945

FY2009 Federal Investment: \$2,512,486

Title II and Title V funding for Illinois

↓ 66% since 2009.

that status offenders² are not held in secure confinement, and ensuring that youth are not held in adult facilities, nor come in contact with adult offenders. Most recently, the IJJC has funded innovative local programs to support families with youth charged with domestic battery, and is also revitalizing the state's focus on alternatives to detention and secure confinement. The IJJC has also invested heavily in other state priorities including the adoption of strategies to transition the juvenile justice system from an adult model to one that utilizes best practices and evidence-based approaches to protect public safety and accommodate the developmental stages and needs of youth. In all its efforts, the IJJC seeks to not just provide programmatic funding, but to pilot and demonstrate approaches that can have long-term positive impact on the state's juvenile justice policy and practice.

The following are some of the activities and outcomes that the IJJC funded with Title II and Title V funds, as well as by leveraging that federal investment to secure private partnerships and support.

Strengthening Behavioral Health Care Processes for System-Involved Youth

One notable collaborative initiative is Illinois [Models for Change](#), a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation-funded effort that emphasizes replicable, evidence-based models for reforming juvenile justice systems. Responding to an increase in suicides among incarcerated youth in Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) facilities, IDJJ sought and received support from state and national Models for Change partners to assess the way youth in state juvenile prisons are provided behavioral health care. Among other findings, the resulting report emphasized the importance of individualized screening and assessment of youth and individualized programs of treatment.

Other Notable Impacts of Title II Federal Investment

- Public Welfare Foundation supplements Title II funds, supporting public education efforts that promote aftercare reform.
- Comprehensive legislative overhaul of state juvenile aftercare system proposed (HB 5492).
- Illinois awarded \$750,000 Second Chance grant by OJJDP.
- Closure of two IDJJ secure facilities under consideration by General Assembly.

² A status offender is a juvenile charged with or adjudicated for conduct that would not, under the law of the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed, be a crime if committed by an adult. 28 C.F.R. § 31.304(h) (West 2006).

In response to the report’s recommendations, the Commission worked closely with the IDJJ to develop and support an ambitious plan to implement evidence-based mental health screening and assessment as well as trauma-sensitive, family-focused assessments of youth in state facilities. Moving forward, IDJJ will implement evidence-based “criminogenic” risk, needs and strengths assessments, and holistic, individualized case-planning with youth. Without continued robust federal support, it is unlikely that the state could sustain its commitment to maintaining these initiatives, which are essential to improving the outcomes of youth in secure care and preserving the safety of communities to which they return.

Planning for Reentry and Building Community-Based Networks for Incarcerated Youth

The IJJC is committed to partnering to develop and implement proven approaches to addressing the needs of system-involved youth and increasing public safety. Through its participation in the Collaborative on Reentry, a public-private stakeholder-convening process, the IJJC re-affirmed its commitment to the evidence-based approach of providing system-involved youth with a “mix of services and supervision that is based on risk and need.” To that end, the IDJC ***created a new state job classification – the Youth and Family Specialist – charged with developing community-based networks of support for incarcerated youth, well in advance of their release from confinement.*** There are currently 16 youth and family specialists working in Cook County, Illinois, but ***to bring this effort to the scale necessary to have a discernible impact statewide, additional funding will be necessary to hire more specialists.*** To complement the state’s investment in aftercare specialists, the IJJC has committed \$1.5 million over three years for a grant program to support evidence-based reentry, planning and service delivery around the state.

Supporting Evidence-Based Practices to Reduce Reliance on Incarceration

Through its partnership with the [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative](#) (JDAI), a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and [Redeploy Illinois](#), the IJJC also renewed its commitment to the evidence-based practice of reducing front-end demand for detention and incarceration by increasing the availability of more effective, less intrusive and more cost-effective community-based services for youth. With Annie E. Casey’s support, ***IJJC funded a program liaison position to identify intensive interventions for youth in counties that lack the infrastructure, and keep youth close to home and out of the state’s detention facilities and youth centers.***

Developing Models to Address Youth Charged with Domestic Battery

Responding to data indicating an increase in domestic violence incidents with youth as the aggressor between 2002 and 2009; patterns of “over-riding” standardized scoring tools to admit youth charged with domestic battery into secure detention; and a tendency for youth charged with domestic battery to appear

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multiple times before the court, the IJJC dedicated \$300,000 of its Title II and Title V allocations to developing a model to address adolescent domestic battery.

This partnership with the state and local partners of the Models for Change Initiative, including the National Center for Juvenile Justice, and three communities across the state, has yielded a new understanding of families in crisis and the underlying factors that result in youth domestic battery charges. The IJJC funding has enabled these three sites to develop a matrix to classify youth behaviors, identify a model continuum of services for families in crisis, and conduct safety planning with youth and families to better respond to their specific needs.

Like many of the other initiatives funded by the IJJC, the adolescent domestic battery project seeks to support community-based services that prevent youth and families from entering the justice system unnecessarily, improve outcomes of youth involved in the justice system, and enhance public safety.

For more information about the programs and outcomes funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, contact Marie Williams, Director of State Strategies at the Coalition for Juvenile Justice at williams@juvjustice.org, or 202-467-0864, ext. 113.

