



JUVENILE JUSTICE

**CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION**

www.act4jj.org

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Montana

The Montana Youth Justice Advisory Council (YJC) serves as Montana's federally-mandated state advisory body. The group administers the state's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) funds and provides the Governor, state legislature, and other policymakers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The YJC helps determine how funds granted by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) should be expended, and reports regularly to the Governor and state legislature on the status of the state's compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP.

The federal allocation of grant funding to Montana has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDP went unauthorized, **federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 42%**.² In Montana, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY19 alone, the state experienced a 61% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received \$330,200 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past five fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Montana also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY10, Montana received \$600,000 in Title II funding. In FY19, that figure had decreased to \$400,352.

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$1,015,145**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY19*:
\$400,352**

**Decrease of 61% so far
this decade.**

*This number only includes Title II funds; JABG has been zeroed out & Title V funds have been earmarked

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDP are: 1) deinstitutionalization of status offenders, (2) 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 (disproportionate minority contact, or DMC). Retrieved from http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html.

² Act4JJ. (2020). Juvenile Justice Federal Funding Chart. Retrieved from <https://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/Historic%20Funding%20Chart%20-%20FY20.pdf>.

³ All numbers are based upon figures reported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Grant Awards and Past Solicitations. Retrieved from <https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/funding.html#2>.

Federal Dollars in Action:

Even with the decrease in federal funding, Montana continues to use its federal dollars for programs aimed at ensuring that the JJDPA's core protections are carried out. Montana prioritizes increased availability and variety of prevention and intervention programs, improvement of the tribal justice system's ability to implement evidence-based practices for Native youth and families, increased availability of alternatives to juvenile detention, and increased availability of diversion programs. Addressing these priorities has become increasingly difficult as funding has diminished, with limited funding going to programs such as:

- The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), which has six pilot sites in Montana, works to develop evidence-based, culturally-sensitive alternatives to detention and to decrease DMC.
- The Center for Restorative Youth Justice provides diversion programs in Kalispell. The Center has begun working with the school district and the juvenile probation office at the Kalispell Middle School to provide diversion programs for youth who get in trouble at school. The Center's goal is to reduce juvenile delinquency and increase graduation rates.

This fact sheet was prepared by:



July 2020