

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Arizona

The Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) serves as Arizona's federally-mandated state advisory group. The AJJC administers the state's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) funds and provides the governor, state legislature and other policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The SAG 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 JJJPA.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Arizona has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJJPA was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In Arizona, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, the state experienced a 67% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$998,800 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past two fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Arizona also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJJPA purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, Arizona received \$1.27 million in Title II funding. In FY2014, that figure had decreased to \$769,188.

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$2.35 million**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY14:
\$769,188**

**Decrease of 67% so far
this decade.**

Even so, Arizona remains committed to using its increasingly limited federal funding for programs throughout the state that are aimed at ensuring the JJJPA's core protections are carried out. In recent years, the state reports that it has been able to use Title II funds to:

- provide mental health and delinquency prevention services for more than 3,000 young people across the state;
- establish an alternative court in Maricopa County for youth who have engaged in status offense behaviors;

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

² All numbers are based upon data provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This information is available at: <http://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

- expand the Pima County Juvenile Court Domestic Violence Alternative Center and provide a Family-Focused Liaison at the center who helps young people access mental health services and educational assistance;

- implement a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Intervention Project in Pima County that included 89 recommendations for system improvements.