

# Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Connecticut

The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) serves as Connecticut's federally-mandated state advisory group. The JJAC administers the state's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) funds and provides the governor, state legislature and other policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The JJAC 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 A.<sup>1</sup>

The federal allocation of grant funding to Connecticut has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJDP A was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In Connecticut, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, the state experienced a 68% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.<sup>2</sup> In FY2010 the state received \$596,400 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.

Connecticut also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDP A purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, Connecticut received \$606,462 in Title II funding. In FY2014, that figure had decreased to \$414,903.

Even so, Connecticut remains committed to using its increasingly limited federal funding for programs that are aimed at ensuring the JJDP A's core protections are carried out. In recent years, the state reports that it has engaged in a number of initiatives to ensure that youth are removed from adult jails and lockups, and that young people are not incarcerated for status offense behaviors. They have also leveraged a combination of state and federal dollars to undertake extensive work to help address disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within their juvenile justice system, including:

**Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY10:  
\$1.29 million**

**Formula & Block Grant  
Funding FY14:  
\$414,903**

**Decrease of 68% so far  
this decade.**

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<sup>1</sup> The four core requirements of the JJDP A 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](http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html).

<sup>2</sup> All numbers are based upon figures reported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Data is available at: <http://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

- trainings for police officers and school personnel that focus on ways to effectively interact with youth, and highlight the role law enforcement plays in schools. In 2013 and 2014, 16 of these trainings were provided to 425 participants;

- programs that enable teens and police to form relationships and learn to see one another for who they truly are. The Police and Youth Program had projects in 13 communities in 2013 and 2014, and the JJAC had plans to provide services in 10 additional communities in 2014 and 2015; and

- a program known as Right Response that is helping 16 communities improve school discipline policies and responses. To participate in the program the community must be able to show that their local law enforcement agency, school, and a community agency are all willing to work together.