

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Rhode Island

The Rhode Island State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as Rhode Island'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 policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The JJAG 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.¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Rhode Island has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, since 2002 when the JJDP was last reauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding has decreased by nearly 50%. In Rhode Island, meanwhile, between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, the state experienced a 63% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.² In FY2010 the state received \$333,900 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. Rhode Island 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 FY2010, Rhode Island received \$600,000 in Title II funding. In FY2014, that figure had decreased to \$381,000.

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$1.02 million**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY14:
\$381,000**

**Decrease of 63% so far
this decade.**

Rhode Island has attempted to leverage these dollars by partnering with private entities such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). This project focuses on reducing the overreliance on incarceration that exists in many communities.

Rhode Island remains committed to using its limited federal allocation to fulfilling the JJDP's core requirements. In recent years, the state has used a portion of its Title II funds to, among other things, finance the Rhode Island Drug Court. This project has been successful in reducing recidivism rates. Offense rates decreased among all race groups, with Asian/Pacific Islanders seeing the largest decrease at 55%. The state's drug courts and Re-Entry Courts were

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 (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>.

previously funded through JABG allocations. With that funding source eliminated in recent years, the state has looked to its dwindling Title II dollars to keep these successful alternative court programs alive.