

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Utah

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) serves as Utah's federally-mandated state advisory group (SAG). The group administers the state's 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 UBJJ 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 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).¹

The federal allocation of grant funding to Utah 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 Utah, 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 \$613,200 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. Utah 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, Utah received \$632,000 in Title II funding. In FY2014 that figure had decreased to \$440,575.

This has limited the work that Utah is able to do to improve its juvenile justice system. Since FY2012, the state has not been able to fund any new programs and has had to discontinue funding for some initiatives for which it previously provided financial assistance. Despite this, however, Utah continues to use its federal funding for two innovative programs that aim to ensure that the JJDP A's core protections are carried out:

- Utah uses a portion of its Title II dollars to help fund after school programs in Salt Lake County. These programs help youth learn about the dangers of substance abuse, as well as vital life skills.

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY10:
\$1.33 million

Formula & Block Grant Funding FY14:
\$440,575

Decrease of 67% so far this decade.

¹ 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.

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>.

- The state also funds programming that is focused on reducing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within its juvenile justice system. This program, which is based at Salt Lake City's Refugee and Immigrant Center focuses on increasing school success and strengthening familial relationships. The program provides academic supports and social skills building, as well as family crisis intervention for young people in grades seven through high school.

Utah also reserves a portion of its funds to ensure that young people are not placed in adult facilities. The state has set aside \$26,000 so that young people from rural portions of the state can be transported to juvenile facilities, thus ensuring compliance with the JJDP's jail removal core requirement.