

# Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: South Carolina

## Overview

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (GJJAC) serves as South Carolina's federally-mandated state advisory group (SAG). The group makes recommendations for how the state's JJDPA funds should be administered, and provides the governor, General Assembly and other policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state's juvenile justice system. The GJJAC reports annually to the governor and state legislature on its work, including the expenditure of funds granted by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and on the status of the state's compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, significant cuts in the federal investment in juvenile justice nationwide have limited the work that the GJJAC is able to perform. Between FY2010 and FY2014 alone, South Carolina experienced a decline in allocations of nearly 80%.<sup>2</sup> A large part of this reduction was due to the elimination of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. This funding source provided \$710,600 to South Carolina in FY10, but has been zeroed out in the past two federal budgets. Similarly, earmarks and restrictions have been placed on Title V funding, which provided \$84,945 to South Carolina in FY2010.

**Title II, Title IV and JABG Funding FY10: \$1.43 million**

**Title II Funding FY14: \$312,434**

**Decrease of nearly 80% so far this decade.**

Despite the shrinking pool of funding, South Carolina remains committed to using its federal juvenile justice allocation to address the core intent of the JJDP A. In FY2014, the state was able to use Title II funds to help finance four programs to help address the JJDP A's Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders requirement. This requirement, which is part of the original JJDP A, prohibits the incarceration of youth for status offense behaviors. An exception is granted which permits courts to incarcerate a youth who has engaged in a status offense behavior that violates a previous order from the court. This exception is known as the Valid Court Order exception, and was used 234 times in South Carolina during the most recent reporting period.

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

Title II funds helped finance programs in the City of Spartanburg, and others run by Carolina Family Services, Inc., Boys and Girls Clubs of Midlands, and the Columbia Urban League, all of which aim to reduce the state's use of incarceration as a response to status offense behaviors. When available, the state also used its JABG funds to address the DSO requirement. Its most recent allocation of JABG funding went, in part, to the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center. The Law Center undertook a statewide initiative to help assess South Carolina's incarceration of youth who have engaged in status offense behaviors. The Law Center recently developed a series of proposals based upon their findings that aims to help the state address deinstitutionalization of status offenders.