

Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Texas

The Texas State Advisory Group serves as Texas' 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 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 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).¹ Funds that are allocated by OJJDP currently account for 28% of the state's total juvenile justice budget, while state funding covers 59% of the costs associated with juvenile justice.

The federal allocation of grant funding to Texas 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 Texas, 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 \$3.25 million 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. Texas also received \$84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked and restricted in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY2010, Texas received \$5 million in Title II funding. In FY2014, that figure had decreased to \$3.06 million.

Even so, Texas continues to use funding for roughly 30 separate programs throughout the state that are aimed at ensuring the JJDP A's core protections are carried out. Some of these programs include:

* Projects in Waco and Bryan that provide school based diversion in lieu of citations, expulsions, or suspensions. The Waco program offers alternatives to formal adjudication. The model has worked well in other states and has had positive outcomes for youth in

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY10:
\$8.35 million**

**Formula & Block Grant
Funding FY14:
\$3.07 million**

**Decrease of 63% 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>.

Waco. Bryan's program is new and data has not yet been collected there regarding outcomes.

* Gender specific programs: Girls are a rapidly growing population in the juvenile justice system. Texas uses federal dollars to fund three gender-specific programs that help address girls' unique needs. Two of these programs are in the school systems and are working with girls who have had issues with attendance, delinquency, fighting, and substance abuse. The third program works with daughters of inmates to provide counseling for the youth and their parent.