



# Strengthen Juvenile Justice Funding

## Preserve and Restore Strategic Investments to Secure the Safety of America's Youth, Families and Communities

### Federal Funding in Juvenile Justice

The federal government plays an essential role in preventing juvenile delinquency and improving the effectiveness of juvenile justice systems at the state, local and tribal levels nationwide. When coupled with state, local and private dollars, modest federal investments seed and support the development, implementation and sustainability of optimal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention systems and practices in all 56 U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia, as well as in local jurisdictions.

#### Title II State Formula Grants

Authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJCPA), Title II supports innovative state efforts to adhere to standards that reduce the risk of harm to court-involved youth, ensure fair treatment of minority youth, improve the way systems address delinquent behavior and ensure citizen involvement and expertise through the State Advisory Groups.

#### Juvenile Accountability Block Grant

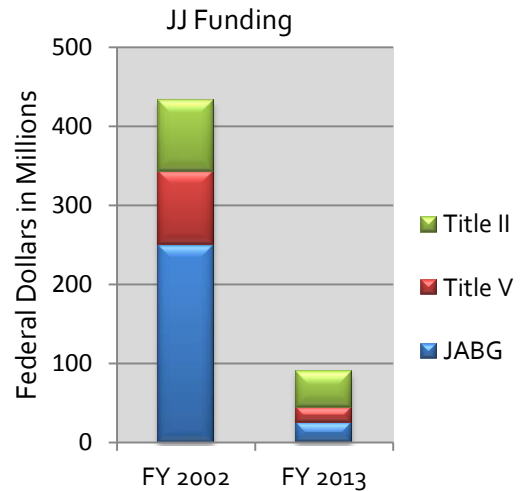
Authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG) reduces juvenile offending by providing judges, probation officers, case managers, law enforcement and other juvenile justice professionals a range of graduated sanctions for adjudicated youth – including cost-efficient confinement alternatives, for youth involved with the courts.

#### Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program

Authorized by the JJCPA, Title V is the original, and still one of the only, federal programs specifically designed to prevent delinquency at the local level. To ensure a solid return on investment, the Title V program prioritizes the use of evidence-informed approaches, requires coordination with a statewide plan to ensure strategic use of resources and leverages the commitment and

### The Path to Public Safety: Youth, Family and Community Success

To achieve a future where young people lead safe and productive lives, it is critical that we invest in it – even in times of belt-tightening. The best federal role and wisest use of public resources is to invest in those things that prevent delinquency and effectively deal with youth in age- and developmentally appropriate ways.



resources of state and local jurisdictions by requiring that the state and local applicant provide a 50% match.

### What's at Stake?

Since FY 2002, federal investments in programs that prevent and reduce delinquency have decreased by almost 50%. At the same time, federal spending on policing, prosecution and incarceration has increased by more than 60%.

On average, it costs \$241 a day – around \$88,000 a year – to incarcerate a youth.<sup>i</sup> The return on this investment is an average recidivism rate of 55%.<sup>ii</sup> Conversely, evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for court-involved youth cost as little as \$11 a day and reduce recidivism by an average of 22% when compared to incarceration.<sup>iii</sup>

Cuts mandated by sequestration, will further weaken the federal state partnership and hobble national, state and local progress. When surveyed by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 89% of member states reported that due to federal cuts, fewer youth will have access to services designed to keep them from offending and penetrating deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice system.

Title II, Title V and JABG provide Congress with an opportunity to partner with states to chart a course for the safety and success of our nation's youth, families and communities. States are proving in small and big ways that these programs work to reduce delinquency, help youth transition safely to adulthood, and save taxpayers' money. Restoring and strengthening our investments in these programs will help secure America's future.

For more information contact:

Alexandra Staropoli  
Associate Director, Government and Field Relations  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)  
202-467-0864 ext. 109  
Staropoli@juvjustice.org

---

<sup>i</sup> Justice Policy Institute. (May 2009). *The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policies Make Good Fiscal Sense*.

<sup>ii</sup> Snyder, Howard N. and Melissa Sickmund. 2006. *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

<sup>iii</sup> Supra note 1.