

State Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: California

Overview

The State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) serves as California's federally-mandated state advisory group (SAG). The SACJJDP blends state and federal funding streams to provide direct services and improve California's juvenile justice systems. State funds support county efforts to rehabilitate and supervise youthful offenders and to implement continuums of care. In turn, federal funds focus on system improvements geared toward best practices and creative innovations for service delivery. In short, state funds support what California does, while federal funds support how California does it.

This symbiotic relationship involves California's counties as well. Counties have the monumental task of serving hundreds of thousands of youth. California supports counties by providing state funds that support their programs. To secure federal and state funds, counties must often provide a match of local funds. In addition, California must provide a match of state funds before it ever receives federal funds. So, for any federal funds awarded, there will be both a state match and a local match. While leveraging funds this way is always prudent, it can be a double-edged sword – for SACJJDP systems that depend on this funding structure, a diminution of federal funding has a domino effect that results in similar decreases at the state and local levels. In a time of severe fiscal constraints, the state and localities generally lack the resources to compensate for shortfalls in federal funding. As a result, they respond by cutting essential programs and services.

FY2010 Federal Investment: \$11.5 million

FY2015 Federal Investment: \$3.9 million

Funding decrease: 66%

In FY 2010, the federal investment in California's juvenile justice system through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was \$11.5 million. Over the past five years, this figure has dwindled to \$3.9 million, reducing federal funding allocations by nearly two-thirds.

The Title II Formula Grants Program

The FY2015 federal investment in Title II in California was \$3.9 million according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The SACJJDP prioritized the following juvenile justice needs in its FY2015 Three Year Plan: Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.), Evidence-Based Practices (EBP), and Quality Education in accordance with the Federal Guidance on Correctional Education in Juvenile Justice issued in 2014. California continues to advance efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparity via state-wide trainings and infusion of Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.)¹ language in grant funding opportunities. Title II Formula Grant funds also continue to support the use of evidence-based and promising

¹ Previously referred to as Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

practices approaches in an effort to not only reduce the number of children who have repeated contact with the juvenile justice system, but to support efforts that seek to break the school-to-prison pipeline. For youth who are confined in juvenile justice facilities, providing high-quality correctional education that is comparable to offerings in traditional public schools is one of the most powerful – and cost-effective – levers we have to ensure that youth are successful once released and are able to avoid future contact with the justice system.

Title II Local Assistance Grant Projects: In carrying out its responsibilities, the SACJJDP determined the priority program purpose areas for the current local assistance projects, the focus of which is comprehensive, system-reform focused on supporting delinquency prevention and intervention. It directed Title II funds – along with state and local resources – to programs that targeted the following priorities: aftercare and reentry, alternatives to detention, delinquency prevention, diversions and monitoring compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP. Twelve local assistance projects were awarded Title II Formula Grants targeting the aforementioned SACJJDP priorities; agencies receiving funds include seven (7) community-based organizations, four (4) probation departments, and one (1) police department.

Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.): The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) has long recognized the significance of disproportionality and its effect on California’s youth and families. To that end, the goal of the BSCC’s Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) Initiative is to create a fair and equitable justice system.

The BSCC uses a multi-faceted approach, with system-reform as the framework and procedural justice as an ultimate goal. The R.E.D. activities are fluid and consist of a three-track initiative: 1) direct service through grants aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparity; 2) education/awareness through our implementation of educational mandates for grantees and stakeholders; and, 3) support through both resources and advocacy – all of which is framed by data-driven decision making, implicit bias trainings, and technical assistance.

California’s federally-funded efforts to reduce DMC include:

- Training for juvenile justice grants (State and Federal) - \$30,000.
- Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity Agency Inventory - \$25,000.
- Technical Assistance Program – over \$6.4 million in total local assistance grants

Title II grant funds provide support for California’s R.E.D. efforts.

Tribal Youth Grant Program: In an effort to encourage culturally-relevant programs that factor in traditional tribal values, the SACJJDP awarded \$240,000 in grants to two (2) federally recognized tribes to help implement programs and strategies that are transformational and build upon the beliefs and values associated with Native culture, as defined in the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) principles.

JABG Programs

California, like other states, has lost this once-substantial source of funding. In FY2014, FY2015 and FY2016, JABG programs were zeroed out in the federal budget. This is a major hit for states like California, which received \$3.5 million in JABG funding as recently as FY2011. Seventy-five percent of the funding received was directly allocated to local government entities based on local crime statistics and supported up to 42 local level projects. The remaining balance of the federal allocation has been used to support the SACJJDP's priority focus area on the use of evidence-based practices; some of these projects are described below:

- **Anger Management Youth Violence Prevention Project:** This grant provided \$1.1 million in JABG funding to county probation departments. The funding was used to implement and/or expand anger management and violence prevention training programs to probation youth in juvenile halls, camps, ranches, and in communities statewide.
- **Best Practices Approach Initiative (BPAI):** Funded at \$1.7 million, this program provided training and technical assistance to juvenile justice agencies statewide to support implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP), programs and principles over the course of three years.
- **Evidence-based Practices to Improve Public Safety (EBP-TIPS) Project:** This project is provided approximately \$1 million in JABG funding to support five probation departments in a two-year systems change approach in implementing or expanding the use of EBP within their local juvenile justice communities.
- **Evidence-Based Practices Training Project:** Supports 22 county probation departments in receiving training and technical assistance in the use of evidence-based practices. \$250,000 was set aside for this project.

The Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program

Since FY2013, between 90 and 100 percent of Title V funds have been carved out for non-JJDPA programs, thus effectively eliminating this appropriation stream. Prior to having the funding source earmarked for other purposes, California used Title V funds to finance, among other things:

The San Diego County DMC Community Prevention Grant Program. This program involved a collaboration between the San Diego County Probation Department and the San Diego Unified School District. As partners, these agencies assessed, reviewed and changed district or school site policies that affected delinquency rates, rates of disparity among youth of color and disciplinary referrals to the Probation Department. The grant's goal was to implement strategies to reduce the number of youth of color who were leaving or being pushed out of school and entering into the justice system. Through extensive data collection and analysis, the San Diego Association of Governments identified and focused their efforts on four communities, all of which have high rates of juvenile crime and violence, high rates of school truancy, suspensions and expulsions, high percentages of youth of color, and more than 20% of youth currently on probation.

The Santa Cruz County New Direction Project. This project was a collaboration between the Santa Cruz County Probation Department and community based organizations focused on children of incarcerated parents. Its goals were to reduce risk factors associated with delinquency among children of incarcerated parents to prevent them from entering the juvenile justice system, to reduce DMC in Santa Cruz County, and to assess the project as a model for possible delivery to other inmate populations. It provided services to stabilize the family situation (e.g., active linkage with income maintenance, rental assistance and food banks) and to address the specific needs of children (e.g., tutoring, counseling, and pro-social activities).

The City of Hawthorne South Bay Investment Board Gateway Collaboration Project. This project was a collaboration between the City of Hawthorne middle schools, Washington Prep High School, South Bay Investment Board, Los Angeles Probation Department, community based organizations and the University of California, Los Angeles. The goal was to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency by providing a continuum of services designed to address the need for academic enrichment, conflict resolution education, job readiness, character development and mental health programs for at-risk youth and first-time offenders. This project also held a workshop on DMC, which was attended by key project staff, law enforcement agencies, probation, mediators, community activists and youth.