

## **The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2008**

This bi-partisan legislation strengthens the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) by increasing federal support to States for juvenile crime reduction and for improvement of State juvenile justice systems and by encouraging important reforms.

### **Increases Federal Funding of Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment Programs Designed to Reduce the Incidence of Juvenile Crime**

- Increases funding for critical Title V prevention programs to discourage juvenile contact with the justice system, such as mentoring and aftercare.
- Increases federal authorizations to assist States in achieving and maintaining compliance with the JJDP A's goals and particularly its core requirements.
- Promotes evidence-based and promising practices to ensure that federal dollars have maximum impact.

### **Encourages States to Make Critical Improvements to Juvenile Justice Systems**

- Places significant new emphasis on the crucial issues of mental health and substance abuse, including expanding the allowable uses of grant funds for mental health and substance abuse training and treatment, encouraging states to focus more on these needs, and providing new incentive grants for these purposes.
- Works toward reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.
- Requires States to devise strategies to eliminate the incidence of dangerous practices, restraints, and isolation of juveniles through the increased use of training and best practices.
- Gives States the authority to retain juveniles in juvenile facilities after the age of majority.

### **Places Common Sense Limits on the Pretrial Detention of Juveniles in Adult Jails and the Detention of Juveniles for Status Offenses**

- Ensures that "status offenders" – juveniles arrested for offenses that would not be criminal if committed by adults (e.g., runaways, truants) – not be placed in secure detention unless absolutely necessary, establishes strict time limitations, and establishes procedural protections to ensure their prompt transfer out of detention.
- Discourages the placement of juveniles in adult jails pretrial, establishes meaningful factors to determine when they may be placed pretrial in adult jails, and bolsters procedural protections for juveniles charged as adults.
- Encourages the use of alternatives to secure detention.

### **Reaffirms and Strengthens the Federal-State Partnership**

- Supports States' efforts to comply with JJDP A core requirements by making funds withheld due to non-compliance available to States as improvement grants meant to enable states to become compliant.
- Strengthens research and technical assistance by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Policy (OJJDP) to encourage States to adopt best practices.

- Increases transparency by making State plans and OJJDP decision-making publicly available.