

## **12. Youth Involved with or at Risk of Involvement in Juvenile Justice**

**Juvenile Justice and Delinquency-Prevention State  
Formula Grant**

**Community Prevention Incentive Grants**



## Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency-Prevention State Formula Grants

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Title II, Section 221-223, Public Law 93-415, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974, as amended through 2002, 42 U.S.C. § 5651 et seq.
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
<b>Program Type</b>	Formula grants to states with a formula based on the relative population of those under age 18
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	<p>Grants are awarded to states to support their efforts to improve their juvenile justice systems and meet the goals of the Act. States in turn generally issue RFPs inviting local government, private nonprofits and American Indian tribes to apply for funding of programs that address the needs identified in the state plan.</p> <p>In order to receive their full allocation under the law, states must demonstrate compliance with four core requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ deinstitutionalization of status offenders;</li> <li>◆ separation of adults and juveniles in secure custody;</li> <li>◆ removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups; and</li> <li>◆ an end to the disproportionate confinement of minority juveniles, where such conditions exist.</li> </ul> <p>The state's allocation is reduced by 25 percent for each core requirement that is not met. States must also provide a 50-percent cash or in-kind match for planning and administrative funds.</p> <p>Local communities may apply to their respective state for funding, and states must ensure the neediest local areas receive funding. Two thirds of funds a state receives must be passed through to units of general local government, private nonprofit agencies and Indian tribes performing law enforcement functions unless a waiver is granted.</p>
<b>Eligibility, Age</b>	The funding is targeted to youth generally, but states may award funding for programs that serve subsets of youth.
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	These grants do not specifically target youth in transition, but are designed to improve state juvenile justice systems and can be used for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Youth in transition therefore potentially benefit. A provider in a local community could target delinquency prevention for youth in transition and receive such a grant.
<b>Activities/Services Covered</b>	Funds under this formula grant are to increase the capacity of state and local governments to support the development of more effective education, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment, accountability-based sanctions, and rehabilitation programs in the area of juvenile delinquency, and programs to improve the juvenile justice system. Compliance with the four core components is a major objective of the law.

States must submit a comprehensive three-year plan and establish an advisory group that will participate in the development and review of this plan. States must also ensure (within three years of submission of the initial plan) that the four core requirements are met.

The minimum allocation to each state is \$600,000. Local programs that receive this funding through the state must meet guidelines for Juvenile Justice Programs or Delinquency Prevention programs. State and local funds may be used for:

- ◆ planning, administration, monitoring and evaluation (no more than 10% of base award);
- ◆ family-oriented programs including treatment and community-based alternatives to incarceration for juvenile offenders who have been abused;
- ◆ after-school programs and educational initiatives that enable youth to remain in school, assist with learning disabilities and foster the successful transition from school to work;
- ◆ gang prevention and reduction;
- ◆ alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment;
- ◆ activities to prevent hate crimes; and
- ◆ improving the states' capacity to monitor jails and detention centers to ensure compliance with JJDP core requirements.

The program's goal is to reduce risks and enhance protective factors so as to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. As part of its comprehensive prevention plan, a state must attempt to intervene in delinquency at the earliest point of a child's development. The approach should be multi-disciplinary and should target all at-risk youth in a community.

### **Funding**

FY 2007, \$79.0 million; FY 2008, \$74.3 million

### **Evaluation**

States must demonstrate how the grants fuse with the state's comprehensive prevention plan. OJJDP requires states to submit annual updates to identify trends and needs and strategies to address them, as well as to provide data on delinquency prevention and juvenile justice. The

OJJDP has previously conducted evaluations of local grantees throughout the cycle of the grants.

### **Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions**

States receive significant funds through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention formula grant program, which thereby ensures that the four core requirements for appropriate policies for handling juvenile offenders are in place. The state flexibility and priority-setting (through the state plan process) results in each state's allocating its funding to local programs for diverse purposes. There is strong competition for these funds. As a result, many local agencies serving transition-age youth with serious mental health conditions may find it difficult to secure significant (or even any) resources for their programs. On the other hand, in some communities these funds may be underwriting very significant initiatives for these youth; perhaps through interagency agreements for systems of care to serve youth with serious mental and emotional disorders.

## Title V Community Prevention Incentive Grants

<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Title V, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, P.L. 93-415, as amended, 42 U.S.C § 5601
<b>Federal Agency</b>	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Department of Justice
<b>Program Type</b>	Formula grant program to states. Formula is based on youth population. Funds are then distributed to local governments through state advisory groups.
<b>Eligibility, General</b>	<p>States are required to form State Advisory Groups (SAG) on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency in order to qualify for these grants and must contribute a 50-percent cash or in-kind match. SAGs must develop a comprehensive delinquency-prevention plans.</p> <p>Units of local government must apply to their respective state SAGs for funding, and states are to ensure that the neediest local areas receive funding.</p>
<b>Eligibility, Age</b>	The programs are targeted to at-risk youth and their families.
<b>Youth in Transition</b>	The grants do not specifically target youth in transition but are aimed at developing more effective prevention programs and serving at-risk youth and their families. Localities may choose to target delinquency prevention for youth in transition and receive funding for this effort.
<b>Services Covered</b>	<p>Federal grants fund collaborative, community-based delinquency-prevention efforts. The approach should be multidisciplinary and should target all at-risk youth in a community. The program integrates six fundamental principles to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches;</li> <li>◆ research foundation for planning;</li> <li>◆ community control and decisionmaking;</li> <li>◆ leveraging of resources and systems;</li> <li>◆ evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness; and</li> <li>◆ a long-term perspective.</li> </ul> <p>Communities form multidisciplinary Prevention Policy Boards. Community leaders are encouraged to initiate multidisciplinary assessments of risks and resources in their communities and to develop comprehensive, collaborative plans to prevent delinquency. OJJDP sponsors training for community leaders, helps communities choose promising strategies and provides other technical assistance.</p> <p>The law specifically mentions that funded projects may include comprehensive juvenile justice and delinquency-prevention projects that meet the needs of juveniles through collaboration among local systems, including mental health agencies.</p> <p>The mandated SAGs work with local communities and the state juvenile justice agencies to determine how the grants funds should be spent. States must demonstrate how the grants fuse with the state's comprehensive prevention plan.</p> <p>Grants are to be used to reduce risks and enhance protective factors to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. They may focus on one or more life domains —i.e., family, community, school and peer. As part of the comprehensive prevention plan, programs must attempt to intervene at the earliest point of child development.</p>

Communities have used funding under this program for a broad range of prevention activities, from early childhood programs (nurse home visitation, parent training) to youth-development initiatives (mentoring, after-school programs, tutoring, truancy and drop-out reduction, substance abuse prevention and gang outreach/intervention).

Specifically authorized are projects that provide treatment, including treatment for mental health problems, to juvenile offenders and youth at risk of becoming juvenile offenders, and to youth who are victims of child abuse or neglect or who have experienced violence in their homes, at school or in the community.

Grants are awarded for a 36-month project period.

### **Funding**

FY 2007, \$64.2 million; FY 2008, \$61.1 million

### **Evaluation**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to Congress (FY 2001) found that over the eight years of the program's operation:

- ◆ 16 states had integrated risk-focused prevention planning into their state-level strategies;
- ◆ 13 states had changed juvenile justice policies to increase the emphasis on prevention;
- ◆ 16 states supplemented their federal grant funds.

Other positive outcomes were community-level systems changes that reduced gaps and duplication of services, enhanced communication between key agencies and increased sharing of resources. Comprehensive data-based planning has enabled many communities to secure other funding for prevention initiatives.

The report also indicated promising results, such as strengthening families and improving school performance and youth behavior. While some communities were just beginning their grant process, others had completed their three-year plan and reported being able to sustain projects through a variety of local and state funding.

### **Relevance for Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions**

Local juvenile justice agencies have received a significant level of funds through the Community Prevention Grants program, and the emphasis on collaboration has led to the engagement of mental health agencies in these initiatives in many communities. These grants are particularly relevant for children and youth with serious mental health conditions as they can fund a range of programs, including early childhood prevention programs, mentoring, after-school programs, tutoring, truancy and drop-out reduction, substance abuse prevention, and gang outreach/intervention, in addition to mental health treatment. Services may also target victims of child abuse or neglect or youth who have experienced violence at home, in school or in the community.

However, the broad range of projects that can be funded and the long list of allowable purposes results in serious competition among many worthy local projects. As a result, many local agencies serving transition-age youth may find it difficult to secure significant (or any) resources through the program. On the other hand, in some communities these funds may underwrite significant initiatives for these youth through the mandated collaborations that have allowed mental health agencies to engage with juvenile justice entities to support systems of care for youth with serious mental health conditions.

# Other Publications on Federal Programs for Children and Youth

## Teaming Up—Using the IDEA and Medicaid to Secure Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Youth

A review of litigation demonstrating the benefits and limitations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and federal Medicaid law in obtaining services needed by children and youth with serious mental health conditions. 29 pp. July 2003 CM-7 \$5

## Mix and Match: Using Federal Programs to Support Interagency Systems of Care for Children with Mental Health Care Needs

Issue brief explains how states and communities can use federal dollars most effectively to create collaborative systems, with action steps and matrix of federal entitlements and block grants. 30 pp. June 2003 IB-4 \$5

## Covering Intensive Community-Based Child Mental Health Services

Pocket folder with overviews and six 4-page issue briefs summarizing Medicaid service descriptions, research findings and states' coverage of behavioral aides, intensive in-home services, child respite care, after-school programs, therapeutic summer camps and therapeutic nurseries and preschools. April 2001 CM-4 \$6

## Suspending Disbelief: Moving Beyond Punishment to Promote Effective Interventions for Children with Mental Disorders

Reviews requirements in the IDEA for behavioral assessment and positive interventions and examines administrative and judicial decisions supporting implementation of the mandate. 28 pp. May 2003 ED-2 \$5

## Avoiding Cruel Choices

A guide for policymakers and family organizations on Medicaid's role in preventing custody relinquishment. Describes state policy options for increasing families' access to services for their children. 28 pp. November 2002 CM-6 \$10

## The Federal Government and Interagency Systems of Care for Children with Serious Mental Disorders: Help or Hindrance

Issue brief on how federal program rules often impede states' development of effective systems of care and what changes should be made. 16 pp. February 2002 IB-2 \$5

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