



An affinity group of the National Human Services Assembly

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant

Background:

The purpose of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program is to provide States and units of local government with funds to develop programs to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. Funds are available for many program purpose areas including building, expanding, or operating temporary or permanent juvenile correction or detention facilities, training of correctional personnel, developing and administering accountability-based sanctions for juvenile offenders, hiring additional juvenile judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and court-appointed defenders, and funding pre-trial services for juveniles. The predominant expenditures have come within programs that encourage development and administration of accountability-based sanctions for juvenile offenders including the development of community-based alternatives to detention, and other effective interventions such as Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST). MST has demonstrated long-term reductions in criminal activity, drug-related arrests, violent offenses, and incarceration for youth aged 12 to 17.

Purposes Significantly Expanded by new JJDPA

The program purpose areas of JABG are expanded significantly under the reauthorized JJDPA, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (P.L. 107-273), signed into law by President Bush on November 2, 2002.

Additional program areas include:

- implementing graduated sanctions programs that could include counseling, restitution, community service, and supervised probation,
- establishing or expanding substance abuse programs,
- promoting mental health screening and treatment, and
- establishing and maintaining restorative justice programs.

Program Up for Reauthorization

The JABG is up for reauthorization in 2005. We urge Congress to reauthorize this vital resource with the following improvements. We recommend the purpose areas be expanded to authorize reentry strategies for juveniles and the criteria used to assess effectiveness be expanded to measure the extent to which evidence-based approaches are utilized.

JABG Funding Eliminated in President's budget

The President's proposed budget for FY2006 eliminates funding for JABG. Elimination of funding for this critical resource will seriously hamper efforts to deal effectively with juvenile delinquency. JABG will no longer be available to communities for the ongoing implementation of important accountability programming and service alternatives to youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system. Appropriations levels for JABG were at or near \$250 million for four years from its creation in 1998 until 2002, making it the largest sources of juvenile justice funding.

Authorization Level: \$350 million

Funding:

For four years prior to FY 2003 funding for the JABG was approximately \$250 million per year.

FY 2004 appropriation	\$59.6 million
FY 2005 appropriation	\$54.5 million
FY 2006 President's budget request	0

National Collaboration for Youth Funding Request: \$350 million

For more information, contact Tim Briceland-Betts, Child Welfare League of America (bricebet@cwla.org) or Dave Doi, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (davedoi@aol.com).