Profile of Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding: Arkansas

Federal Funding Overview:
The State Advisory Group (SAG) serves as Arkansas’ federally-mandated state advisory body. The group administers the state’s Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) funds and provides the governor, state legislature and other policy makers with recommendations for improving and supporting the state’s juvenile justice system. The JJAG helps determine how funds granted by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) should be expended, and reports regularly to the Governor and state legislature on the status of the state’s compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDPA.¹

Funding Decreasing:
The federal allocation of grant funding to Arkansas has decreased dramatically in recent years. Nationwide, during the 16 years that the JJDPA went unauthorized, federal juvenile justice funding decreased by nearly 48%.² In Arkansas, meanwhile, between FY10 and FY18 alone, the state experienced a 58% reduction in its formula and block grant allocations.³ In FY10 the state received $547,000 through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. For the past five fiscal years, however, that sum has been zeroed out in the federal budget. Arkansas also received $84,945 in Title V funding in FY2010. That funding source, however, has been earmarked for non-JJDPA purposes in recent years. The lone remaining source of formula and block grant funding, Title II, has also diminished. In FY10, Arkansas received $991,945 in Title II funding. In FY18, that figure had decreased to $418,813.

¹ The four core requirements of the JJDPA are: 1) deinstitutionalization of status offenders, (2) separation of adults and juveniles in secure institutions, 3) jail removal; and 4) reduction of the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system (DMC). Retrieved from, http://www.act4jj.org/about_requirements.html.

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Federal Dollars in Action:
Arkansas provides Title II Formula grant funds directly to local agencies/organizations to help them implement comprehensive prevention and intervention programs. The state has used funding to implement Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) programs in three counties. One of the county’s where JDAI is in place is Pulaski County, which houses the state capital of Little Rock.

This fact sheet was prepared by:

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