



OCTOBER 2009



OJJDP IN FOCUS

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What is the Formula Grants program?

OJJDP's Formula Grants program supports efforts related to delinquency prevention and reduction, juvenile justice system improvement, research, evaluation, statistical analysis, and training and technical assistance in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the 5 U.S. territories.

Learn more at
ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/formulagrants.

Formula Grants Program

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Formula Grants program supports State¹ and local efforts in planning, operating, and evaluating projects that seek to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system or intervene with first-time and nonserious offenders to provide services that maximize their chances of leading productive, successful lives. These services include job training, mental health and substance abuse treatment, community service and other forms of restitution, and school programs to prevent truancy. The Formula Grants program also provides funds to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP provides funds directly to States to help them implement comprehensive juvenile justice plans based on detailed studies of the needs in their jurisdictions. Juvenile justice specialists in each State administer

¹The term "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands).

the funding through subgrants to units of local government, local private agencies, and American Indian tribes to support programs in accordance with legislative requirements. OJJDP also provides training and technical assistance to States and communities.

Authorizing Legislation

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-273, 42 U.S.C. § 5601 *et seq.*) reauthorized OJJDP to administer the Formula Grants program to support delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and improvements in the juvenile justice system.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a formula grant, a State must designate one agency to prepare and administer a comprehensive 3-year Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention plan, establish a State Advisory Group



(SAG) appointed by the Governor or other chief executive officer to provide policy direction, participate in preparing and administering the Formula Grants program plan, and commit to achieve and maintain compliance with the following four core requirements of the JJDP Act:

- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO).²
- Separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities (separation).
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups (jail removal).
- Reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system.

²A status offender is a juvenile who has committed an act that would not be a crime if an adult committed it. Common examples are drinking or possessing alcohol, smoking tobacco, running away from home, or being truant from school.

Formula Grants Program Areas

Program Area	Description of Program Area
1. Aftercare/reentry	Programs to prepare targeted juvenile offenders to successfully return to their communities after serving a period of secure confinement in a training school, juvenile correctional facility, or other secure institution. Aftercare programs focus on preparing juvenile offenders for release and providing a continuum of supervision and services after release.
2. Alternatives to detention	Alternative services provided to a juvenile offender in the community as an alternative to confinement.
3. Child abuse and neglect programs	Programs that provide treatment to juvenile offenders who are victims of child abuse or neglect and to their families to reduce the likelihood that such juvenile offenders will commit subsequent violations of law.
4. Children of incarcerated parents	Services to prevent delinquency or treat first-time and nonserious delinquent juveniles who are the children of incarcerated parents.
5. Community Assessment Centers (CACs)	Centers that lead to more integrated and effective cross-system services for juveniles and their families. CACs are designed to positively affect the lives of youth and divert them from a path of serious, violent, and chronic delinquency. Using a collaborative approach, CACs serve the community in a timely, cost-efficient, and comprehensive manner.
6. Compliance monitoring	Programs, research, staff support, or other activities primarily to enhance or maintain a State's ability to adequately monitor jails, detention facilities, and other facilities to ensure compliance with Sections 223(a)(11), (12), (13), and (22) of the JJDP Act.
7. Court services	Programs to encourage courts to develop and implement a continuum of pre- and postadjudication restraints that bridge the gap between traditional probation and confinement in a correctional setting. Services include expanded use of probation, mediation, restitution, community service, treatment, home detention, intensive supervision, electronic monitoring, translation services and similar programs, and secure, community-based treatment facilities linked to other support services.
8. Deinstitutionalization of status offenders	Programs, research, or other initiatives to eliminate or prevent the placement of accused or adjudicated status offenders and nonoffenders in secure facilities, pursuant to Section 223(a)(11) of the JJDP Act.
9. Delinquency prevention	Programs to prevent youth at risk of becoming delinquent from entering the juvenile justice system or to intervene with first-time and nonserious offenders to keep them out of the juvenile justice system. This program area excludes programs targeted at youth already adjudicated delinquent, on probation, or in corrections, and those programs designed specifically to prevent gang-related or substance abuse activities undertaken as part of program areas 12 and 32.
10. Disproportionate minority contact	Programs, research, or other initiatives primarily to address the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, pursuant to Section 223(a)(22) of the JJDP Act.
11. Diversion	Programs to divert juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system.
12. Gangs	Programs, research, or other initiatives primarily to address issues related to preventing juvenile gang activity.
13. Gender-specific services	Services to address the needs of male and female offenders in the juvenile justice system.
14. Graduated sanctions	A system of sanctions that escalate in intensity with each subsequent, more serious delinquent offense.
15. Gun programs	Programs to reduce the unlawful acquisition and illegal use of guns by juveniles (excluding programs to purchase guns from juveniles).
16. Hate crimes	Programs to prevent and reduce hate crimes committed by juveniles.
17. Jail removal	Programs, research, or other initiatives to eliminate or prevent the placement of juveniles in adult jails and lockups, as defined in Section 223(a)(13) of the JJDP Act.
18. Job training	Projects to enhance the employability of at-risk juveniles and/or first-time and nonserious juvenile offenders or to prepare them for future employment (e.g., job readiness training, apprenticeships, and job referrals).

If a State, despite its good faith efforts, fails to demonstrate compliance with any of the core requirements in any year, OJJDP will reduce its formula grant for the subsequent fiscal year by 20 percent for each requirement for which the State is noncompliant. Without a waiver from the OJJDP Administrator, States must agree to use 50 percent of their allocations for that fiscal year to achieve compliance. If a State is ineligible to receive a formula grant or chooses not to participate in the program, OJJDP will make its allotment, excluding the SAG allocation, available to a local public or private nonprofit agency with statewide capacity to carry out activities designed to bring the State into compliance with the core requirements.

Award Process

OJJDP awards formula grant funds to States on the basis of their proportionate population younger than age 18. Each State must use at least two-thirds of its award funds for programs that local public and private agencies operate and for eligible American

Indian tribal programs. Eligible tribes must agree to attempt to comply with the JJDP Act core requirements. Funds that the States pass through to the tribes are proportionate to the tribal population younger than age 18.

States generally issue requests for proposals that invite local governments, private nonprofit agencies, and tribes to compete for funds to support programs that address the priority needs identified in State plans. States give funding priority to evidence-based programs and activities that are likely to produce a positive impact. Local recipients' ability to demonstrate success in achieving the goals specified in their applications to the State agency will determine their eligibility for continued funding.

Program Areas

States may use their formula grants in 35 program areas that Congress has defined (see sidebar "Formula Grants Program Areas" below).



Program Area	Description of Program Area
19. Juvenile justice system improvement	Programs, research, and other initiatives to examine issues or improve practices, policies, or procedures on a systemwide basis (e.g., examining problems affecting decisions from arrest to disposition and detention to corrections).
20. Mental health services	Psychological and psychiatric evaluations and treatment, counseling services, and/or family support services for at-risk juveniles and/or first-time and nonserious juvenile offenders.
21. Mentoring	Programs to develop and sustain a one-to-one supportive relationship between a responsible adult age 18 or older (mentor) and an at-risk juvenile and/or first-time and nonserious juvenile offender (mentee).
22. American Indian programs	Programs to address juvenile justice and delinquency prevention issues for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
23. Planning and administration	Activities related to State plan development, other preawarded activities, and administration of the Formula Grants program, including evaluation, monitoring, and one full-time staff position pursuant to Section 222(c) of the JJDP Act and the OJJDP Formula Grant Regulation.
24. Probation	Programs to permit juvenile offenders to remain in their communities under conditions that the juvenile court prescribes.
25. Restitution/community service	Programs to hold first-time and nonserious juvenile offenders accountable for their offenses by requiring community service or repayment to the victim.
26. Rural area juvenile programs	Prevention, intervention, and treatment services in an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau.
27. School programs	Education programs and/or related services to prevent truancy, suspension, and expulsion. School safety programs may include support for school resource officers and law-related education.
28. Separation of juveniles from adult inmates	Programs that ensure that juveniles will not be detained or confined in any institutions where they may come into contact with adult inmates, pursuant to Section 223(a)(12) of the JJDP Act.
29. Serious crime	Programs, research, or other initiatives to address serious and violent criminal-type behavior by youth. This program area includes intervention, treatment, and reintegration of serious and violent juvenile offenders.
30. Sex offender programs	Programs to support the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, supervision, and accountability of juvenile sex offenders.
31. State Advisory Group allocation	Activities related to carrying out the State Advisory Group's responsibilities under Section 223(a)(3) of the JJDP Act.
32. Substance abuse	Programs, research, or other initiatives to address the use and abuse of illegal and other prescription and nonprescription drugs and the use and abuse of alcohol among at-risk juveniles and/or nonserious juvenile offenders.
33. Youth advocacy	Projects to develop and implement advocacy activities focused on improving services for and protecting the rights of youth affected by the juvenile justice system.
34. Youth (or teen) courts	Juvenile justice programs in which peers play an active role in the disposition of the juvenile offender. Most communities use youth courts as a sentencing option for first-time offenders charged with misdemeanor or nonviolent offenses who acknowledge their guilt. The youth court serves as an alternative to the traditional juvenile court.
35. Strategic community action planning	Programs and activities that bring together committed community leaders and residents to identify and access existing local resources for the development of a multifaceted response to juvenile justice issues.

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

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Performance Measures

OJJDP requires all recipients of its funding to collect and report data that measure the results of funded activities. OJJDP expects grantees to use these data to inform their administration of grant funds and to improve program performance. Performance data also highlight programs that have been particularly effective.

Formula Grants at Work

Formula grant funds are preventing delinquency, reducing recidivism, and supporting evidence-based practices that help ensure the effectiveness of future programs. In 2008, States and territories reported data for a total of 1,775 subgrants across more than 900 separate organizations. This represents more than \$98 million in funded activities. Formula grant programs served more than 518,000 youth during the reporting period. Of these youth:

- Seventy-seven percent completed program requirements.
- Seventy-five percent exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior (e.g., reduced antisocial behavior, improved school attendance, increased social competence).
- Nine percent offended or reoffended during the program period.

Of the formula grant-funded programs, about 40 percent reported implementing at least one evidence-based program.



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Community Capacity Development Office; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART).

For More Information on the Formula Grants Program

To learn more about the Formula Grants program, visit ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/formulagrants. For information about how to access the formula grant funds awarded to your State, or to request OJJDP-sponsored training and technical assistance, contact your State's Juvenile Justice Specialist. Contact information is available on the OJJDP Web site.

- Visit ojjdp.ncjrs.gov.
- Click on "State Contacts" in the left navigation panel.
- Select the checkbox next to "Juvenile Justice Specialist."
- Click on your State in the map provided.

For information about other
OJJDP programs, go to
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp.

