

# Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

The **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act** of 1974 is a federal law providing funds to states that follow a series of federal protections, known as the "core protections," on the care and treatment of youth in the justice system. The four "core protections" of the act are:

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) -- requires that youth who are status offenders and non-offenders (abused or neglected youth, runaways, truants, curfew violators, etc.) cannot be detained in juvenile detention facilities or adult jails;
- "Sight and Sound" -- The "Sight and Sound" separation protection disallows contact between juvenile and adult offenders (i.e. if juveniles are put in an adult jail or lock up under the limited circumstances the law allows for, they must be separated from adult inmates);
- "Jail Removal" -- The "Jail Removal" disallows the placement of youth in adult jails and lock ups except under very limited circumstances;
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) -- The DMC provision requires states to address the issue of over-representation of youth of color in the justice system.

The "DSO" and "Sight and Sound" protections were part of the original law in 1974. The "Jail Removal" provision was added in 1980 in response to finding youth incarcerated in adult facilities resulted in "a high suicide rate, physical, mental, and sexual assault, inadequate care and programming, negative labeling, and exposure to serious offenders and mental patients." The "DMC" requirement was added in the JJDP Act in 1992.

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/about/jjdpact002titlev.pdf> = link to the entire JJDP Act.

## Compliance Monitoring

The compliance of states towards the requirements of the JJDP Act is monitored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Department of Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Unit monitors compliance in Missouri.

**The Missouri Department of Public Safety** - The Juvenile Justice Unit is responsible for administering federal grants that assist in providing support for local juvenile justice and delinquency prevention initiatives, training in the area of juvenile justice, juvenile justice systems improvements, and juvenile justice intervention programs. The federal grants funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

### ***Federal Funding Areas Summary***

**TITLE II** – Title II funding must be utilized for projects that fall within the 31 program areas defined by Congress and further identified by the JJAG and included in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 3-Year Plan. For 2009-2012, these purpose areas include: 1) Gender Specific Services, 2) Disproportionate Minority Contact, 3) Alternatives to Detention (JDAI), and 4) Delinquency Prevention. Applicants must choose one of these purpose areas. Applicants may only choose one purpose area per application; however, more than one application may be submitted. Please note that priority is given to applicants implementing best or promising practices and model programs.

**JABG** - The **Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Act** was first funded by Congress in 1998. In 2002, the name was changed to the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG), and the number and scope of purpose areas were expanded. JABG currently provides funding to states and communities to develop and implement programs that: hold youth accountable for delinquent behavior through the imposition of graduated sanctions consistent with the severity of the offense; and strengthen the juvenile justice system's capacity to work with community partners to keep youth from reoffending and also to increase its capacity to process cases quickly and efficiently, always keeping the best interest of the child in the forefront. JABG funds can only be used for programs that address juvenile offenders who are in the juvenile system. JABG are pass-through funds to local units of government.

**EUDL** - The EUDL program supports and enhances efforts by states and local jurisdictions to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. The program encourages close partnerships between law enforcement agencies and community groups involved in preventing and intervening in underage drinking. The EUDL initiative is the **only federal program devoted exclusively to preventing alcohol consumption by minors.**