



OJJDP FACT SHEET

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Title V: Community Prevention Grants Program

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In 1992, a new Title V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 5601 *et seq.*), established the Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs, more commonly known as the Community Prevention Grants program. This Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) program is the only Federal funding source solely dedicated to delinquency prevention. It is based on a community-initiated planning process that results in implementation funding that is having an impact in communities across America.

The Community Prevention Grants program is founded on a research-based framework that focuses on reducing risks and enhancing protective factors to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. It offers a funding incentive to encourage community leaders to engage in multidisciplinary assessments of risks and resources specific to their communities and to develop comprehensive, collaborative plans to prevent delinquency. To enhance the capacity of communities to formulate, implement, and evaluate comprehensive delinquency prevention plans, OJJDP sponsors orientation training for community leaders and training on developing risk and resource assessments while providing other technical assistance free of charge.

Since a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach increases the efficacy of prevention efforts while reducing duplication of services, the Community Prevention Grants program requires the formation of a Prevention Policy Board—a multidisciplinary community planning board. The program's 50-percent matching funds requirement is designed to encourage communities to collaborate through resource development and sharing and to secure additional resources to sustain the long-term efforts needed for effective delinquency prevention.

Award Process

Congress appropriated \$13 million to fund Community Prevention Grants in fiscal year (FY) 1994, \$20 million each in FY's 1995 through 1998, and \$45 million in FY 1999. OJJDP allocates the majority of these funds to qualifying States based on

their relative number of juveniles below the age of criminal responsibility. Current awards range from a minimum allocation of \$100,000 to a maximum of \$2,354,000 for States (\$33,000 each for the Territories except Puerto Rico, which receives an amount based on juvenile population). States, in turn, award Community Prevention Grant funds to qualified units of general local government through a competitive process. Each program may be funded in 12-month increments for up to 3 years. To be eligible to apply for a subgrant from the State, a unit of general local government must receive State Advisory Group certification of compliance with the JJDP Act core requirements; convene or designate a local Prevention Policy Board; submit a 3-year, comprehensive community delinquency prevention plan; and provide a 50-percent match (cash or in-kind) for the award.

Accomplishments

Approaching Nationwide Participation

By the end of 1997, 477 communities in 49 States, 5 Territories, and the District of Columbia had received Community Prevention Grants program subgrants and had served more than 100,000 youth. The average 3-year award was \$150,000. In addition, 2,280 individuals from 511 communities had received key leader orientation training and 2,480 individuals from 483 communities had completed risk and resource assessment training. Programs implemented by participating communities included a broad range of prevention activities, from early child development strategies such as nurse home visitation and preschool/parent training programs to youth development initiatives involving the use of mentoring, afterschool activities, tutoring, truancy and dropout reduction, substance abuse prevention, gang prevention outreach, and police/probation teams. Through these types of programs, communities are creating environments that strengthen families and help children develop into law-abiding and productive members of society.

Leveraging Sustained Resources

Although the Community Prevention Grants program requires a 50-percent local match, many communities have matched Federal

support dollar for dollar. By the end of 1996, at least 60 communities had already received additional non-Federal funds to support their community-based, risk-focused efforts. Most of the additional funds were provided from State revenues.

Informing State Prevention Efforts

The Community Prevention Grants program has become an integral part of State programming to prevent delinquency. By the end of 1996:

- ◆ Eight States reported that they had integrated risk-focused prevention planning into their State-level prevention strategies.
- ◆ Thirteen States reported that they had increased the emphasis on prevention relative to intervention and control of delinquent youth in their juvenile justice policies.
- ◆ Sixteen States had chosen to supplement Community Prevention Grant funds with other funds in order to expand the impact of risk-focused prevention.

Facilitating Self-Evaluation

OJJDP has widely disseminated its *Community Self-Evaluation Workbook* since its publication in 1996. The *Workbook* contains step-by-step instructions to guide communities in documenting their community mobilization, decisionmaking, plan development, and resource allocation process; monitoring new programs and community-change projects; and collecting community statistics regarding risk factors and adolescent problem behaviors. In addition:

- ◆ More than 170 communities are using the data collection forms provided by the *Workbook* to track their delinquency prevention efforts.
- ◆ Nine States have required their subgrantees to use the *Workbook*, and three more States are planning to do so.
- ◆ Fourteen States have hired State-level evaluators to track local progress in implementing the program model and achieving their delinquency prevention goals, and another 10 States are planning to do so.

Current Directions

OJJDP is moving toward a long-term, nationwide evaluation of the effectiveness of the Community Prevention Grants program. This evaluation will move from broad descriptions of the program in participating communities to detailed investigations of program implementation and outcomes. It will also enhance the capacity of subgrantees to conduct their own evaluations, thereby ensuring active participation in the long-term monitoring and assessment of their delinquency prevention efforts.

Community mobilization takes time. Achieving a long-term community commitment to a risk and protective factor focused delinquency prevention model, measurable increases in protective factors, and corresponding reductions in risk factors and delinquency rates takes even longer. By facilitating the formation of a strong Federal-State-local partnership in the Nation's effort to prevent delinquency, the Community Prevention Grants program advances these worthy ends.

For Further Information

For further information about the Community Prevention Grants program and for a list of State contacts, call OJJDP's State Relations and Assistance Division, 202-307-5924.

References

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Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. 1998. *1997 Report to Congress: Title V Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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