



General Government Division

B-279840

May 29, 1998

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Youth Violence  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

Subject: Juvenile Justice: Federal Funding of Juvenile-Specific Law  
Enforcement Programs

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to your request that we determine the number of federally funded programs that are designed specifically for juvenile law enforcement activities at the state and local government levels, and the funding levels of these federal programs, if available. You asked that we define "juveniles" as those youths who are under age 18 and "law enforcement activities" as functions of the criminal justice system that occur after an offender has been arrested, such as detention, prosecution, defense, incarceration, and probation (including drug testing).

To compile the requested information, we conducted (1) a computer search of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA); (2) a content analysis of the results of our computer search; and (3) interviews with officials from various components of departments identified through our computer search, including the Departments of Justice, the Interior, the Treasury, Education, and Health and Human Services. Enclosure I contains a list of the departments and components that we contacted.

RESULTS IN BRIEF

According to the Department of Justice officials we interviewed, almost all federal support for juvenile law enforcement activities comes through grants made to states and local agencies. Unlike state and local criminal justice systems, the federal system prosecutes and incarcerates very few juveniles each

year. For example, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics special report,<sup>1</sup> U.S. attorneys filed cases against 240 persons for alleged acts of juvenile delinquency in 1995. Of these, 122 cases were adjudicated in federal court. Further, 45 (37 percent) of the juveniles in these cases were committed to correctional facilities. Of the remaining 77 (63 percent) juvenile cases adjudicated delinquent, 72 were placed on probation, and 5 received sentences that did not include supervision or confinement.

We identified 20 federal programs that provide grants to states and localities for juvenile law enforcement activities. Fifteen of the programs were in Justice, two were in Education, and one each was in the remaining Departments: the Interior, the Treasury, and Health and Human Services. None of the programs we identified was limited exclusively to juvenile law enforcement activities. Seven of the programs provided funds for juvenile, youth, and/or adult law enforcement activities. The remaining 13 programs had multiple purposes, such as adult and juvenile crime prevention and/or law enforcement. Enclosure II contains a brief description of each of these 20 programs, including the total combined funding for all program purposes.

The federal programs provide grants for juvenile law enforcement activities using the definition of juvenile as established by state statute. In the states and the District of Columbia, the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction is 15, 16, or 17.<sup>2</sup> Also, Justice officials told us that some federal programs use terms such as "children" or "youths" to define program eligibility. For example, one program defined youths as those individuals who are 18 to 24 years old.

As discussed in more detail in the Scope and Methodology section, for the most part, information on funding for juvenile law enforcement activities was not available for the 20 programs because states are not required to report the portions of grant funds they spend on law enforcement activities that are targeted directly toward juveniles. Further, within the time frame of our review, we could not design methodologies that would allow us to estimate the portions of these programs' expenditures that serve juvenile law enforcement purposes.

---

<sup>1</sup>Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January 1997.

<sup>2</sup>According to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, as of the beginning of 1997, the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction was 17 in 37 states and the District of Columbia. In 13 states, the maximum age was either 15 or 16. In Connecticut, New York, and North Carolina, the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction was 15. In Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin, the maximum age was 16.

TWENTY FEDERAL PROGRAMS FUND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR JUVENILES

To determine which federal programs support juvenile law enforcement activities at state and local agencies, we conducted a computerized search of the CFDA, which contains a compendium of federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. The CFDA also contains information on financial and nonfinancial assistance programs that are administered by departments and establishments of the federal government. We looked for programs that were described as being related to juveniles and to specific law enforcement activities. We identified 143 programs that fit these criteria.

To narrow the listing to only those programs that involved law enforcement activities and were targeted to juveniles, we performed a content analysis through which we identified 15 programs. Essentially, 2 of our staff members independently reviewed each of the CFDA descriptions of the 143 programs to determine if the programs were designed to provide assistance for juvenile law enforcement activities. We then contacted Interior, Treasury, Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services officials to confirm our results and ensure that we had identified all relevant programs. Justice officials suggested an additional four programs that they thought should be included, and Education officials suggested one additional program. (Because the CFDA descriptions of these four Justice programs did not contain the word "juvenile" and the Education program was a new one, we did not identify them initially.) After looking at the descriptions of these five programs, we agreed that they fit our criteria. Through this process, we identified the 20 programs shown in table I, and we describe the programs in more detail in enclosure II.

Table 1: Twenty Federal Programs That Support Juvenile Law Enforcement Activities at State and Local Agencies

| Category                                  | Federal program   |
|---|---|
| <b>Juvenile programs:</b>                 |   |
| Law enforcement only                      | None  |
| Prevention and law enforcement components | None  |
| <b>Juvenile/Youth/Adult programs:</b>     |   |
| Law enforcement only                      | Construction and Repair of Indian Detention Facilities<br>Correctional Grant Program for Indian Tribes<br>Corrections - Technical Assistance/Clearinghouse<br>Corrections - Training and Staff Development<br>Demonstration Cooperative Agreements for the Development and Implementation of Criminal Justice Treatment Networks<br>State Criminal Alien Assistance Program<br>Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grants  |
| Prevention and law enforcement components | Byrne Formula Grant Program<br>Corrections - Research and Evaluation and Policy Formulation<br>Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program<br>Gang-Free Schools and Communities - Community Based Gang Intervention<br>Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Youth Offenders<br>Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants<br>Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Allocation to States<br>Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Special Emphasis Grants<br>Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program<br>Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants<br>State Challenge Activities Grants<br>Title 1 - Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected and Delinquent or at Risk of Dropping Out <sup>a</sup><br>Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative |

<sup>3</sup>Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, Title I, Part D, subpart 1, 20 USC 6431 et seq.

Source: GAO analysis of CFDA information.

### SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

To determine the number of federally funded programs that are designed specifically for juvenile law enforcement activities at the state and local government levels, and that encompass such activities as arrests, detention, prosecution, defense, incarceration, and probation (including drug testing), we conducted a computer search of the CFDA. For the programs we identified, we conducted a content analysis to verify that they specifically targeted juvenile law enforcement activities. Finally, we contacted Interior, Treasury, Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services officials to confirm our list. Agency officials also reviewed our program descriptions for completeness and accuracy.

We were unable to obtain funding information on the programs for two principal reasons. First, states and local agencies receive federal grants that can be used to support prevention as well as law enforcement activities, and that can be targeted for juveniles or other groups. For the most part, federal agencies making these grants do not require state and local agencies to report in a way that would enable the determination of the portion of each grant that was used for juvenile law enforcement activities. For example, according to Justice officials, although data are available on total state expenditures for such things as state courts, it is difficult to determine how much money was used for adult versus juvenile state court activities.<sup>3</sup>

Second, in the time we had to conduct this review, we could not develop a methodology to apply to each grant program in an effort to estimate the portion of each program spent on juvenile law enforcement activities. Since decisions on how to spend grants funds occur at the state or local levels, we would need to contact each state that received federal funds. We asked Justice officials for estimates of the amounts of money spent for juvenile law enforcement activities, and they said that they could not provide such estimates without querying states.

We conducted our review from January 1998 to May 1998 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

---

<sup>3</sup>According to a Justice official, national criminal justice expenditure data did not separate juvenile from adult criminal justice activities for any level of government. This was largely due to an inability to distinguish such resource allocations in state and local governmental budgets. However, the President's fiscal year 1999 budget included a program request that would enable Justice to collect overall expenditure data using a methodology that, with some additional resources, could be modified to differentiate state and local expenditures for adults from those for juveniles.

AGENCY COMMENTS

We requested comments on a draft of this letter from the heads of the Departments of Justice, the Interior, the Treasury, Education, and Health and Human Services or their designees. Between April 30, 1998, and May 8, 1998, we discussed this letter with the various program officials from all of these agencies. They generally agreed with the contents of the letter and suggested various technical changes, which we have incorporated in the letter where appropriate.

- - - - -

As arranged with the Subcommittee, unless you publicly announce this letter's content earlier, we plan no further distribution of it until 15 days after its date. We will then send copies to the Ranking Minority Member of your Subcommittee and the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on the Judiciary. We will also send copies to Interior, Treasury, Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services officials. We will make copies available to others on request.

Major contributors to this letter were Brenda Bridges, Assistant Director; Anthony L. Hill, Evaluator-in-Charge; Nancy A. Briggs, Social Science Analyst; and Arthur J. Kendall, Senior Mathematical Statistician. Please contact me at (202) 512-8777, if you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Norman J. Rabkin  
Director, Administration  
of Justice Issues

Enclosures - 2

DEPARTMENTS AND COMPONENTS WE CONTACTED

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of the Attorney General  
Office of the Comptroller  
Bureau of Justice Statistics  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
State Relations and Assistance Division  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Corrections Program Office  
National Institute of Corrections  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services  
Drug Courts Program Office

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Department of Grants and Contract Management

DESCRIPTION OF JUVENILE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS<sup>4</sup>

**Program:** Construction and Repair of Indian Detention Facilities

**Federal agency:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

**Program objectives:** To provide safe, functional, code and standards compliant, economical, and energy-efficient adult and/or juvenile detention facilities.

**Funding:** Law Enforcement Projects

**FY 1996:** \$1.7 million

**FY 1997:** \$0.4 million

**FY 1998:** \$10.5 million

**Program accomplishments:** In the last 3 fiscal years, 1 new detention facility was built. Several more facilities are at various stages of planning and design.

**Comments:** One new detention facility that was funded in fiscal year 1998 consists of a 12-bed juvenile detention facility and a 38-bed adult detention facility. Examples of law enforcement facilities funded and constructed before 1996 include a 56-bed adult/10-bed juvenile detention center in Montana, a 60-bed juvenile detention center in Oklahoma, a 36-bed juvenile detention center and a 50-bed juvenile detention center in Arizona, and a 34-bed juvenile detention center in South Dakota. Other projects have accomplished a variety of improvements.

---

<sup>4</sup>We originally extracted the descriptions of the juvenile law enforcement program from the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Cognizant agency officials reviewed these descriptions and provided updated information where appropriate.



**Program:** Correctional Grant Program for Indian Tribes

**Federal agency:** Corrections Program Office, Office of Justice Programs,  
Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To assist Indian tribes with the construction of jails on tribal lands for the incarceration of offenders subject to tribal jurisdiction. This program can be used to assist Indian tribes in developing or expanding jail facilities for both adult and juvenile offenders.

**Funding:** Project Grants

**FY 1996:** \$1.2 million

**FY 1997:** \$1.5 million

**FY 1998:** \$5.0 million

**Program accomplishments:** Two projects to build or expand juvenile correctional facilities on tribal lands were funded in fiscal year 1996.

**Program:** Corrections - Technical Assistance/Clearinghouse

**Federal agency:** National Institute of Corrections, Federal Prisons System, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To assist and serve in a consulting capacity to federal, state, and local courts; departments; and agencies in the development, maintenance, and coordination of programs, facilities, services, training, treatment, and rehabilitation with respect to criminal and juvenile offenders.

**Funding:** Cooperative Agreements and Contracts<sup>5</sup>

**FY 1996:** \$3.1 million

**FY 1997:** \$4.8 million

**FY 1998:** \$4.9 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** During fiscal year 1996, technical assistance was provided in response to 740 requests for state and local correctional agencies in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Selected examples of funded projects include grants to jails to improve operations, programs, and services; grants to probation and parole agencies to improve decisionmaking and revocation processes; and grants to local jurisdictions to develop a range of community sanctions.

**Comments:** Services are available to the entire range of correctional agencies, including probation, parole, institutions, jails, and community programs.

---

<sup>5</sup>Program officials provided funding information on the portion of the program that focused on juveniles: \$97,004 in fiscal year 1996; \$32,487 in 1997; and \$77,148 in 1998. These amounts were included in the totals shown above.

**Program:** Corrections - Training and Staff Development

**Federal agency:** National Institute of Corrections (NIC), Federal Prisons System, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To devise and conduct in various geographical locations, seminars, workshops, and training programs for law enforcement officers, judges, and judicial personnel; probation and parole personnel; correctional personnel; and welfare workers and other personnel, including lay ex-offenders and paraprofessionals, connected with the treatment and rehabilitation of criminal and juvenile offenders. To develop technical training teams, which aid in the development of seminars, workshops, and training programs, and to work with the prisoners, parolees, probationers, and other offenders.

**Funding:** Cooperative Agreements and Contracts<sup>6</sup>

**FY 1996:** \$1.7 million

**FY 1997:** \$2.2 million

**FY 1998:** \$2.3 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** Training was provided for over 36,500 practitioners in adult corrections through NIC activities during fiscal year 1996.

---

<sup>6</sup>Program officials provided funding information on the portion of the program that focused on juveniles: \$258,996 in fiscal year 1996; \$203,601 in 1997; and \$148,550 in 1998. These amounts were included in the totals shown above.

**Program:** Demonstration Cooperative Agreements for the Development and Implementation of Criminal Justice Treatment Networks

**Federal agency:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services

**Program objectives:** To fund integrated criminal justice treatment networks made up of a consortium of criminal justice, substance abuse treatment, primary health and mental health care, and allied social services and job placement agencies in the following three offender populations: Adult Female Offenders, Juvenile Justice Populations, and Adult Male Offenders.

**Funding:** Grants

**FY 1996:** \$6.1 million

**FY 1997:** \$8.0 million

**FY 1998:** \$8.0 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** Seven awards were issued in fiscal year 1996. It is anticipated that seven awards will be issued in both fiscal years 1997 and 1998.

**Comments:** Applicant eligibility for this program is limited to the state alcohol and drug abuse agency.

**Program:** State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

**Federal agency:** Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To provide federal assistance to states and localities for costs incurred for the imprisonment of undocumented criminal aliens who are convicted of felony offenses or two or more misdemeanors. To better identify undocumented criminal aliens and to expedite the process of transferring illegal aliens from state and local correctional institutions to federal custody in preparation for deportation. State prison facilities, including those housing juveniles if they are convicted of felony offenses or two or more misdemeanors, are eligible.

**Funding:** Grants

**FY 1996:** \$494.4 million

**FY 1997:** \$492.0 million

**FY 1998:** \$574.9 million

**Program accomplishments:** This program has assisted states and localities in defraying the costs incurred for the imprisonment of undocumented criminal aliens. In fiscal year 1996, the program was expanded to include local jurisdictions.

**Comments:** Awards are to be made on a pro rata share of the average costs of the incarceration of a prisoner in the relevant state or locality and are to be based on the number of qualifying aliens, the average length of incarceration, and the applicant's daily average cost per inmate.

**Program:** Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grants

**Federal agency:** Corrections Program Office, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To provide funds to individual states to build or expand (1) correctional facilities to increase the bed capacity for the confinement of Part I violent offenders, (2) temporary or permanent correctional facilities for the confinement of nonviolent offenders for the purpose of freeing prison space for violent offenders, and (3) jails.<sup>7</sup>

**Funding:** Grants

**FY 1996:** \$391.7 million

**FY 1997:** \$471.5 million

**FY 1998:** \$509.0 million

**Program accomplishments:** To date, about \$944 million in formula grant funds have been awarded to the states and territories. In addition, over 90 technical assistance requests from the states and territories have been responded to, and several national workshops and conferences related to this program have been held.

---

<sup>7</sup>In this context, the term "Part I" refers to murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for purposes of the Uniform Crime Reports.

**Program:** Byrne Formula Grant Program<sup>8</sup>

**Federal agency:** Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance,  
Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To reduce and prevent illegal drug activity, crime, and  
violence and to improve the functioning of the criminal  
justice system.

**Funding:** Formula Grants

**FY 1996:** \$473.5 million

**FY 1997:** \$496.8 million

**FY 1998:** \$504.3 million

**Program accomplishments:** Accomplishments are reported after evaluations in the  
annual report from each state.

---

<sup>8</sup>Although this program did not specifically target juveniles or youths either in the prevention or law enforcement areas, some juvenile law enforcement programs received funds from these grants. Program funds can be used by participant states (1) to provide additional personnel, equipment, facilities, personnel training, and equipment for more widespread apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons who violate state and local laws relating to the production, possession, and transfer of controlled substances and (2) to improve the criminal justice system.

**Program:** Corrections - Research and Evaluation and Policy Formulation

**Federal agency:** National Institute of Corrections, Federal Prisons System, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To conduct, encourage, and coordinate research relating to corrections, including the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of criminal offenders. To conduct evaluation programs that study the effectiveness of new approaches, techniques, systems, programs, and devices employed to improve the corrections system.

**Funding:** Cooperative Agreements and Contracts

**FY 1996:** \$1.2 million

**FY 1997:** \$0

**FY 1998:** \$1.3 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** The funds for fiscal year 1996 were largely directed to the design and implementation of classification systems at the state and local levels; projects in probation, parole, and intermediate sanctions; mental health care, training, and staff recruitment/retention in prisons; and jail services and programs.

**Comments:** Funds have also been used to design and implement community corrections options.



**Program:** Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program

**Federal agency:** Drug Courts Program Office, Office of Justice Programs,  
Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To support the establishment and development of drug courts. Under this program, there are three types of grants to be awarded: planning grants, implementation grants, and improvement and enhancement grants. The implementation grants are to support those jurisdictions that already have begun to develop a plan or have completed the planning process for establishing effective drug court and diversion to treatment programs.

**Funding:** Project Grants<sup>9</sup>

**FY 1996:** \$15.0 million

**FY 1997:** \$30.0 million

**FY 1998:** \$30.0 million

**Program accomplishments:** The purpose of this program is to assist jurisdictions in the development and implementation of new and existing drug courts.

---

<sup>9</sup>Program officials provided funding information on juvenile drug courts: \$897,930 in fiscal year 1996 and \$5,583,000 in 1997. These amounts were included in the totals shown above.

**Program:** Gang-Free Schools and Communities - Community Based Gang Intervention

**Federal agency:** Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** Selected objectives include: (1) to prevent and reduce the participation of juveniles in the activities of gangs that commit crimes, (2) to develop within the juvenile adjudicatory and correctional systems new and innovative means to address the problems of juveniles convicted of serious drug-related and gang-related offenses, and (3) to provide treatment to juveniles who are members of such gangs, including members who are accused of committing a serious crime and members who have been adjudicated as being delinquent.

**Funding:** Grants

**FY 1996:** \$8.9 million

**FY 1997:** \$14.9 million

**FY 1998:** \$12.0 million

**Program accomplishments:** Several demonstration sites were funded to implement a Comprehensive Community-Wide Approach to Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression Program. Through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the program is expected to continue and expand its efforts in the area of intervening with youths who are already involved in gangs.

**Comments:** Each of the Club Action Plans are to ultimately result in the recruitment and integration into the Clubs' core programs of youths between the ages of 6 and 18 who are either at-risk of gang involvement or fringe members of a gang.

**Program:** Grants to States for Workplace and Community  
Transition Training for Incarcerated Youth Offenders

**Federal agency:** Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Department of  
Education

**Program objectives:** To assist incarcerated youth offenders in obtaining  
postsecondary education and postsecondary vocational  
training.

**Funding:** Formula Grants

**FY 1998:** \$12.0 million

**Program accomplishments:** New program.

**Comments:** Funds can be used to provide grants to designated state  
correctional education agencies to assist and encourage  
incarcerated youths to acquire functional literacy, life  
and job skills, and provide employment counseling and  
other related services that start during the period of  
incarceration and continue through prerelease and while  
on parole or during release. For this program, youth  
offender means a male or female offender under age 25,  
who is incarcerated in a state prison, including a  
prerelease facility, and is eligible to be paroled or  
released within 5 years.

**Program:** Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants

**Federal agency:** Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention,  
Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To provide states and units of local governments with funds, training, and technical assistance to develop programs promoting greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. To survey the field and identify projects that would benefit from research, demonstration, and evaluation.

**Funding:** Formula Grants/Project Grants

**FY 1998:** \$250.0 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** New program.

**Comments:** Selected areas for the use of formula grant funds include: building, expanding, renovating, or operating temporary or permanent juvenile correction or detention facilities, including training for correctional personnel; protecting students and school personnel from drug, gang, and youth violence; developing and administering accountability-based sanctions for juvenile offenders; hiring additional juvenile judges, probation officers, and court-appointed defenders and funding pretrial services for juveniles to ensure the smooth and expeditious administration of the juvenile justice system; and hiring additional prosecutors so that more cases involving violent juvenile offenders can be prosecuted and backlogs can be reduced.

**Program:** Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Allocation to States

**Federal agency:** Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To increase the capacity of state and local governments to support the development of more effective education, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment, accountability-based sanctions, and rehabilitation programs in the area of juvenile delinquency and programs to improve the juvenile justice system.

**Funding:** Formula Grants; Project Grants

**FY 1996:** \$68.8 million

**FY 1997:** \$77.8 million

**FY 1998:** \$96.5 million

**Program accomplishments:** In fiscal year 1996, at least 75 percent of the funds available to each state were earmarked for "advanced techniques" in preventing and controlling delinquency, diverting juveniles from criminal justice systems, and providing community-based alternatives to traditional corrections methods.

**Comments:** This program, established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, P.L. 93-415, allocates formula grant funds to states and territories on the basis of their relative population under age 18.

**Program:** Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Special Emphasis Grants

**Federal agency:** Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** Selected objectives include: to develop and implement (1) programs that design, test, and demonstrate effective approaches, techniques, and methods for preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency, such as community-based alternatives to institutional confinement; (2) an effective means of diverting juveniles from the traditional juvenile justice and correctional system; (3) programs stressing advocacy activities aimed at improving services to youths who are affected by the juvenile justice system; and (4) prevention and treatment programs relating to juveniles who commit serious crimes.

**Funding:** Project Grants

**FY 1996:** \$6.0 million

**FY 1997:** \$8.6 million

**FY 1998:** \$13.0 million

**Program accomplishments:** This program places emphasis on the following areas: Safe Kids/Safe Streets - community approaches to reducing abuse and neglect and preventing delinquency, establishing and strengthening Assessment Centers where delinquent youth or youth at-risk of becoming delinquent are assessed and referred to appropriate services, and establishing partnerships to reduce gun violence.

**Comments:** Examples of funded projects include special emphasis grants awarded for drug prevention, due process advocacy, programs for serious and violent juvenile offenders, after-school programs, law-related education, juvenile hate crimes, and youth-centered conflict resolution.

**Program:** Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program

**Federal agency:** Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs,  
Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** To provide funds to units of local governments for the  
purposes of reducing crime and improving public safety.

**Funding:** Grants

**FY 1996:** \$439.4 million

**FY 1997:** \$453.1 million

**FY 1998:** \$485.0 million

**Program accomplishments:** Approximately 2,800 awards were made for fiscal year  
1996.

**Comments:** Selected areas for which funds may be used include  
enhancing the adjudication of cases involving violent  
offenders, including cases involving violent juvenile  
offenders, and establishing crime prevention programs  
involving cooperation between the community and law  
enforcement personnel.

**Program:** Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants<sup>10</sup>

**Federal agency:** Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** Grants are made to increase police presence, to expand and improve cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies and members of the community, to address crime and disorder problems, and to otherwise enhance public safety.

**Funding:** Grants

**FY 1996:** \$1,260.3 million

**FY 1997:** \$1,220.0 million

**FY 1998:** \$1,646.3 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** As of February 1997, 13,500 grant awards had been made. These awards funded the hiring, rehiring, or redeployment of over 55,000 additional law enforcement officers to emphasize community policing throughout the nation. Initiatives of this program include community policing to combat domestic violence, youth firearms initiatives, anti-gang initiatives, problem-solving partnerships, and other comprehensive community programs.

---

<sup>10</sup>Although the program did not specifically target juveniles, COPS grants have been made to agencies serving over 87 percent of the American public, including juvenile law enforcement programs.



**Program:** State Challenge Activities Grants

**Federal agency:** Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention,  
Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

**Program objectives:** The purpose of the Challenge Grant Program is to provide incentives for states participating in the Formula Grants Program to develop, adopt, and approve policies and programs in one or more specified challenge activities to improve the states' juvenile justice systems.

**Funding:** Formula Grants

**FY 1996:** \$9.3 million

**FY 1997:** \$10.4 million

**FY 1998:** \$10.0 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** Examples of funded projects include developing and adopting policies and programs to ensure that juveniles consult with counsel before waiving their rights to counsel; developing and adopting policies and programs for the placement of violent juvenile offenders in secure settings with no more than 50 violent juvenile offenders; and establishing and operating a state ombudsman office to investigate and resolve complaints relating to action, inaction, or decisions of providers of out-of-home care to children and youths.

**Program:** Title I - Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected and Delinquent or at Risk of Dropping Out<sup>11</sup>

**Federal agency:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education

**Program objectives:** To help provide education continuity for children and youths in state-run institutions for juveniles and in adult correctional institutions, so that these youths can make successful transitions to school or employment once they are released from state institutions.

**Funding:** Grants

**FY 1996:** \$39.3 million

**FY 1997:** \$39.3 million

**FY 1998:** \$39.3 million

**Program accomplishments:** In fiscal year 1996, grants were issued to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, serving an estimated 180,500 children in 400 state institutions.

**Comments:** Funds generally provide instruction in core academic subjects, like reading and mathematics. In addition, funds support counseling, tutoring, and projects to help children make the transition from state institutions to locally operated schools.

---

<sup>11</sup>Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, Title I, Part D, Subpart 1, 20 USC 6431 *et seq.*

**Program:** Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative<sup>12</sup>

**Federal agency:** Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury

**Program objectives:** To disrupt the illegal firearms market that supplies guns to juveniles, violent gangs, and criminals. Selected objectives include (1) the priority establishment of comprehensive crime gun tracing in jurisdictions with high firearms crime rates and (2) the publication of an annual report with consistent documentation on how juveniles and youths obtain crime guns. To enable law enforcement to assess the illegal firearms problem in their communities and develop strategies to combat it and the use of crime gun trace and other information to increase enforcement activity targeted at illegal gun traffickers.

**Funding:**

**FY 1996:** \$0.3 million

**FY 1997:** \$2.5 million

**FY 1998:** \$10.8 million (estimate)

**Program accomplishments:** The program publishes standardized crime gun trace reports for 17 communities. These reports provide a basis for more targeted enforcement activity, supplying such information as whether crime guns originate in or out-of-state and age group distribution of crime guns. Ten new jurisdictions were added, and participants from all 27 sites received training.

**Comments:** These communities, although geographically dispersed, may not comprise a valid sample of illegal firearms markets for purposes of national analysis.

(182055)

---

<sup>12</sup>This program was not contained in the CFDA. This information was provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.



---

  

---

### Ordering Information

The first copy of each GAO report and testimony is free. Additional copies are \$2 each. Orders should be sent to the following address, accompanied by a check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents, when necessary. VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted, also. Orders for 100 or more copies to be mailed to a single address are discounted 25 percent.

**Orders by mail:**

**U.S. General Accounting Office  
P.O. Box 37050  
Washington, DC 20013**

**or visit:**

**Room 1100  
700 4th St. NW (corner of 4th and G Sts. NW)  
U.S. General Accounting Office  
Washington, DC**

**Orders may also be placed by calling (202) 512-6000  
or by using fax number (202) 512-6061, or TDD (202) 512-2537.**

**Each day, GAO issues a list of newly available reports and testimony. To receive facsimile copies of the daily list or any list from the past 30 days, please call (202) 512-6000 using a touchtone phone. A recorded menu will provide information on how to obtain these lists.**

**For information on how to access GAO reports on the INTERNET, send an e-mail message with "info" in the body to:**

**[info@www.gao.gov](mailto:info@www.gao.gov)**

**or visit GAO's World Wide Web Home Page at:**

**<http://www.gao.gov>**

---

**United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548-0001**

**Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Bulk Rate<br/>Postage &amp; Fees Paid<br/>GAO<br/>Permit No. G100</b></p> |
|---|

**Address Correction Requested**

---