



The **FINANCE PROJECT**

Funding Note

U.S. Department of Justice Funding Opportunities for Afterschool

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Overview

Since 1984, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) within the Department of Justice (DOJ) has provided federal leadership for developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims. In 2004, OJP provided approximately \$2 billion to states and localities to support such efforts.

As stated in DOJ's 2003-2008 Strategic Plan, local communities and law enforcement agencies are critical partners in the effort to provide local solutions to unsafe and drug-ridden neighborhoods. OJP encourages community-based strategies because collaborative partnerships among criminal justice agencies, private and public organizations, and residents are recognized as key in addressing crime prevention and economic revitalization.

There are natural connections between the afterschool community and the law enforcement/crime prevention community. According to a recent report from the organization *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids*, the hours between three and six PM are the "prime time for juvenile crime."¹ Afterschool hours are when teenagers are most likely to commit crimes, be victims of crime, be in or cause a car crash, become pregnant, smoke, drink, or use drugs. This is also the peak time for gang-related activity.² Law enforcement officials and politicians agree that quality afterschool programs targeting at-risk youth can transform this potentially dangerous time into an opportunity for academic pursuits, wholesome fun, and community service.

This *Funding Note* provides an overview of funding opportunities at the Department of Justice that may support afterschool, as well as examples of programs currently accessing these funds and tips for programs interested in doing so. Funding sources and amounts may vary in coming years given changing funding priorities and appropriations.

¹Newman, Sanford et al. *America's Afterschool Learning Choice: Juvenile Crime or Safe Learning Time*. Washington, DC: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2000.

²Ibid



**Resources for
Out-of-School Time
Leaders**

Funding Landscape

Like many federal agencies, most of OJP's funds are major formula grants. While formula grants in OJP are awarded directly to state governments, many of these grants are subgranted to local units of government. Even when funds cannot be accessed directly by afterschool sites, there is tremendous potential for afterschool programs to support violence prevention through strategic partnerships with the law enforcement community.

Within OJP, The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and the Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) distribute funds that can potentially support afterschool efforts.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA): BJA supports innovative local programs that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA accomplishes this mission by providing funding, training, technical assistance, and information to state and community criminal justice programs and by emphasizing the coordination of federal, state, and local efforts. The main formula grants administered by BJA are the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).

- **The Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)** fund state and local efforts to reduce illegal drug activity, crime, and violence and support the work of local police departments. JAG flows to state administering agencies (SAAs) that, in turn, administer subgrants. Sixty percent of grants awarded to states are for use at the state and local levels and 40 percent of the state grant can be used for direct grants to local jurisdictions using a formula based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's average crime statistics for localities in the three most recent calendar years. Until recently, the two main formula grants that originated out of BJA were The Byrne Formula Grant and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. The 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R. 4818), passed on December 6, 2004, consolidated

the two grants to form the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). The intent of the consolidation is to provide states with additional flexibility to use funds and to simplify the application process while maintaining elements of each program. It is important to note that JAG is funded at \$626 million, which represents a 13 percent reduction from the combined programs it replaces. While community-based and statewide prevention and education programs (which may include afterschool efforts) are two of the specific activities that can be supported by the grant, afterschool programs must compete for scarce resources with other priorities, including adjudication programs, corrections and treatment programs, and program and system improvements. For more information on how your state intends to distribute these grant funds, contact your administering state agency at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm>.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP): OJJDP supports states and communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs. In FY 2004, this office maintained a budget of over \$300 million. The OJJDP Formula Grants Program, Title V, and The Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program are three of the larger pots of money administered by OJJDP that are most relevant for afterschool. Each program is described below:

- **The OJJDP Formula Grants Program** supports state efforts to improve juvenile justice systems. Funds are allocated annually among the states and territories on the basis of the relative population of young people under the age of 18. States may use their formula grants to support programs related to delinquency prevention and reduction, including educational programs enabling youth to remain in school or to be employable and afterschool programs for at-risk youth. Each state must prepare and administer a comprehensive three-year JJDP plan and establish a State Advisory Group (SAG) to provide policy direction for the use of state funds. This represents an important opportunity for local programs, as states are

required by statute to pass through at least 66 percent of the funds to units of general local government, local private agencies, and Indian tribes that perform law enforcement functions.

- **The Title V Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Program**, commonly known as the **Community Prevention Grants**, fund collaborative, comprehensive, community-based delinquency prevention efforts. States may use these grants to fund a wide range of prevention programs relevant to afterschool, including mentoring, gang prevention, substance abuse prevention, and youth development. Units of local government (city, county, township, or other political subdivision) can apply to the state agency responsible for administering funds. Similar to the Formula Grants program, the applying local government must receive State Advisory Group certification, convene or designate a local Prevention Policy Board to guide efforts, submit a three-year, comprehensive community delinquency prevention plan, and provide a 50-percent match (cash or in-kind). Title V sub-grantees can, in turn, contract with public or private agencies, like local afterschool programs, to provide program services.
- **The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)** helps states develop programs that promote greater accountability among offenders and in the juvenile justice system. These funds are block granted to states to develop programs promoting greater accountability in the juvenile justice system in 16 program areas (including ensuring school safety and the establishment of accountability based prevention programs). Local and tribal governments can then apply to the states for funds to support local accountability programs. In addition, OJJDP makes grants to federally recognized tribes to strengthen tribal juvenile justice systems and to hold youth accountable. To maximize resources, participants are required to form coalitions that will develop recommendations for expenditure of funds. Local coalitions must

form an Advisory Board that includes representatives from law enforcement, education, business, and social services organizations involved in crime prevention. The Advisory Board must then develop a Coordinated Enforcement Plan (CEP) for reducing juvenile crime.

For each of these programs, the state appoints a lead agency and contact person responsible for administering the funds. These agencies will have information concerning state or community plans for the program. The lead agency and contact person for every state are listed at: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/statecontacts/ResourceListDetails.asp>.

Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO): The CCDO helps communities prevent crime, increase community safety, and revitalize neighborhoods. Its main function is coordination of the Weed and Seed initiative, a community-driven collaboration between law enforcement and social service agencies.

- **The Weed and Seed Initiative** promotes community collaborations to “weed out” crime and “seed” communities with services linked to prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization. Communities must apply for official recognition as a Weed and Seed sites to compete for funds associated with this initiative. Recognized sites are eligible for funding through the Weed and Seed initiative and receive preference when applying for discretionary resources from participating agencies. Sites can range from a few city blocks to many square miles. For more information on the elements of the Weed and Seed initiative and steps to official recognition, see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/nutshell.htm#Strategy>. The Weed and Seed initiative has been highlighted by the administration as a model collaborative, community-driven approach, sparking plans to expand the model to new communities and to reach other criminal justice, public safety, and victim-related activities. Afterschool programs can explore opportunities to become engaged in a Weed and Seed planning initiative or existing collaboration in

order to strengthen partnerships with law enforcement and to be positioned for these potential opportunities. Current sites can be located with this map: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx>.

Discretionary Grant Programs: In addition to major formula grants, The Department of Justice administers a few discretionary (or competitive) grant programs that are available to community collaborations. Below is a list of selected key grant opportunities that have the potential to support afterschool programming. Funding cycles vary and it may not be possible to apply for these grants during every fiscal year. Afterschool programs may consider partnering with existing grantees or with community leaders who are applying for new funds.

- **Safe-Start** offers four-year demonstration grants to local communities to help them implement collaborative cross-agency strategies for effectively reducing the impact of children's exposure to violence.
- **Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants (COPS grants)** provide funding to communities to increase police presence and improve cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies and members of the community; to expand community policing efforts; to increase security and reduce violence in schools; to address crime and disorder problems; and to otherwise enhance public safety.
- **Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS)** is a comprehensive violence prevention initiative administered collaboratively by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Justice. The program provides students, schools, and communities with federal funding to implement an enhanced, coordinated, comprehensive plan of activities, programs, and services that focus on promoting healthy childhood development and preventing violence and substance abuse. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are the eligible applicants for SS/HS. LEAs apply for SS/HS funds in partnership with their local public mental

health authorities, local law enforcement, and local juvenile justice entities.

- **The Tribal Youth Program (TYP)** supports and enhances tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth. Only federally recognized tribes are eligible applicants. Tribes may use grants to support prevention-focused programs including afterschool programming.
- **The Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program** is a law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. Many G.R.E.A.T. programs are established in afterschool settings. In order for a G.R.E.A.T. program to be implemented, there has to be a formal commitment between local school districts or afterschool programs and the local law enforcement agency. While not a funding stream that can directly support afterschool programming, the G.R.E.A.T. program provides an opportunity to forge a partnership with local law enforcement. An established relationship with local police departments can lead to future opportunities for law enforcement related funds. In October 2004, overall program administration and funding of the G.R.E.A.T. Program was transferred from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Congressional Earmarks: Finally, Juvenile Justice funds may also support prevention programs through congressional earmarks. Through the use of earmarks, Congress directs

federal agencies to provide funds to specific programs it has identified. Over the years, the national office of Big Brothers, Big Sisters and local Boys and Girls Club programs have been recipients of Juvenile Justice earmarks and may be key partners for school-based afterschool programs in their prevention efforts.

Tips for Programs

Outlined below are tips to help afterschool leaders forge the necessary relationships with decision-makers and lay the groundwork for strategies to access these funds:

- **Promote role of afterschool in local violence prevention collaborations:** “Local solutions for local problems” is a major theme for the Department of Justice programs. In addition, many funding programs require collaborative efforts. Afterschool programs can use both these points to make the case for inclusion of local afterschool programs in locally driven collaborative juvenile justice prevention efforts.
- **Document the Effect of Afterschool Programs on Reducing Crime:** Documenting both the prevalence of juvenile crime and how your programming activities contribute to public safety is an important strategy for accessing support from law enforcement agencies, particularly when funding sources are limited. Many afterschool programs have been working with law enforcement officials who see the importance of afterschool as a crime prevention strategy. Working with local law enforcement partners and encouraging them to look at local data with an eye to changes as a result of the work done by local afterschool programs can help build a persuasive case for allocating dollars to sustain your efforts.
- **Get Involved in your State Juvenile Justice Advisory Board:** Every block grant identified in this *Funding Note* requires an advisory board and/or a state or local written plan. Afterschool programs can look at their community’s stated priorities to see if they can make the case for how they align with the community’s goals. Armed with this information, site leaders can begin attending advisory board meetings and inform board members about how afterschool programming can be an important strategy for delinquency prevention.
- **Stay Informed about Federal Budget Changes:** While the FY05 federal budget includes funding cuts for juvenile justice programs, changes and discretionary opportunities within existing funding streams (Weed and Seed expansion, demonstration grants for hot button issues like gang

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Contract Supports Youth Development Initiative

The Ella J. Baker House is a nationally recognized faith-based youth services agency in the Four Corners neighborhood of Dorchester, a predominately low-income part of Boston. The Baker House operates several summer and afterschool programs as part of its larger mission to reduce youth violence and help at-risk youth to achieve literacy and access jobs. The Examined Life Project is a program for court-involved juvenile males referred (“assigned”) by juvenile courts and probation. Participants in the program work on changing the behaviors that led them to difficulty through discussion of literature, films, community service, and cultural literacy activities. Mentoring is provided to help the youth get back in school, find jobs, and avoid substance abuse. Several funding streams, including the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) support the Examined Life afterschool program. In addition, through the Baker House’s relationship with Senator Kennedy, they received federal funds through direct earmarks in federal appropriations bills. The program accessed funds from the JABG through a contract with the Boston Police Department. This is the initiative’s fifth year of funding and over the years the JABG contract has ranged from \$20-36,000 a year. The initiative leaders feel their close collaboration with the police department helped them receive initial funding and continue with sustained funding over time. The Baker House’s proven results have helped them develop a strong base of community support and cultivate media attention and key champions to support their programs. For more information, see: <http://www.thebakerhouse.org/>.

Blended Funds Create New Afterschool Grant

Mayor’s Time, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation working to address the health and safety issues facing youth in Metropolitan Detroit. As part of its larger mission, Mayor’s Time aims to inform and educate the community about the importance of after-school programs; build and maintain partnerships with after-school program providers and organizations; help expand existing after-school programs; and create new opportunities for programming where needed. Recently, Mayor’s Time helped to develop a statewide RFP for Before- or Afterschool Programs totaling \$5.5 million that will braid funding from the state’s share of the federal TANF, JJDP Formula Grant, and Title V grants. Because a 25 percent local match requirement is specified in the RFP, the JJDP formula grants will serve as a source of matching funds for those applicants that would otherwise not be able to secure these funds from other public/private sources. This strategy is intended to support the competitiveness of financially distressed communities in the proposal evaluation process. By braiding these funds together, the State Social Services Agency hopes to streamline administrative requirements and maximize the number of low income, at-risk youth in kindergarten through ninth grade who will have access to positive academic, enrichment, and recreation activities outside of the traditional classroom setting. Agencies that apply for this funding must demonstrate that their program model will include a parental involvement component, as well as at least three of the following elements: pregnancy prevention, preparation toward future self-sufficiency development, case management or mentoring, non-medical services to address chemical abuse and dependency, gang violence prevention, leadership, anger management, or academic assistance. Currently, the grants are for one year, but they may be renewed if the legislature continues to appropriate funds to the after-school program in future years. For more information, see: <http://www.mayorstime.com/>.

prevention and truancy) could emerge at any time. Keep abreast of major changes by visiting the DOJ website, signing up for funding announcements from the federal and state government, and keeping in touch with state agency officials in charge of administering block grant dollars.

Helpful Resources

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a bipartisan, nonprofit anti-crime organization led by more than 2,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, victims of violence, and leaders of police officer associations. This organization engages law enforcement representatives in advocating for preventive investments in children and communities. Monitor this site for updates on juvenile justice funding opportunities and to keep track of the federal funding trends: www.fightcrime.org

The National Youth Gang Center assists policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in the development and implementation of effective, community-based gang prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies: <http://www.iir.com/nygc/>

The Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC) project funded jointly by OJJDP, the National Crime Prevention Council, and Street Law, Inc. TCC community service projects, which take

place in schools, juvenile justice facilities, and youth membership organizations, educate youth on issues that affect them (e.g., drugs, bullying, conflicts, property crime) and highlight action projects that youth can participate in to address such issues (e.g., graffiti removal). <http://www.nationaltcc.org/tcc/>

National Crime Prevention Council, the group that brought us McGruff the Crime Dog, is a national nonprofit educational organization that provides crime prevention information to children, schools, and families. <http://www.ncpc.org/>

Street Law Inc. is an organization that has developed more than a dozen textbooks and programs on practical law, crime prevention, conflict resolution, and youth advocacy for use in school systems, juvenile justice facilities, teen parent programs, and after-school settings. http://www.streetlaw.org/default_new.asp

National Association of Police Athletic Leagues is an organization that seeks to prevent juvenile crime and violence by offering a recreation-oriented juvenile crime prevention program that relies heavily on athletics, recreational activities, and education. <http://www.nationalpal.org/>

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