

MAKING THE BEST IMPRESSION: How to Talk to Your Representatives About the Good Things You're Doing

Your Senator or Congresswoman/man wants and needs to hear about the good things your State Advisory Group (SAG) and its allies are accomplishing back home with the help and support of the Federal-State Partnership inherent in the federal JJDPA and associated federal resource streams.

By providing your Representative with written documentation of these good things, you arm him or her with what s/he needs to advocate for you during one-on-one meetings, Committee hearings and floor debates before a final vote.

Below are some suggestions of materials you may wish to prepare to make your Hill visit as informative and impactful as possible. Samples of suggested documents are included in your Hill Packet, courtesy of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TN SAG) and the CJJ Government Relations Committee.

1. Prepare a One-Pager on your SAG that explains who you are and what you do. Highlight key areas where tangible improvements have been made for kids and communities **with the support of federal resources**, in areas such as:
 - a. Programs developed and implemented as part of the State 3-Year Plan;
 - b. Activities to support and maintain compliance with the JJDPA core requirements/protections;
 - c. Strategies to work support local delinquency prevention efforts.
2. Prepare one or more documents that detail how much federal JJ funding your SAG receives and how that money is spent.
 - a. For your Senator, prepare one or more documents that show fund allocation and impact statewide. **(Samples A, C and D)**
 - b. For your Congresswoman/man, prepare one or more documents that show fund allocation and impact in his or her particular District. **(Samples B and E)**
3. Draft and be ready to distribute written testimonials about the impact your SAG and federal JJ funding has had on certain programs, localities, populations or in improving system policies and practices. If time allows, gather letters of support from programs that have received funding through your SAG or from your Governor or other prominent public stakeholders.

Sample A



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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**Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
Fund Allocation in Tennessee
2004-2005**

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) or its predecessor agencies have been responsible for the administration of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act since it was first passed in 1974. Annually TCCY is responsible for over \$1.5 million through the Act. In FY 2005, TCCY was allocated approximately \$1.2 million for Federal Formula Grant programs and \$268,000 for Title V Delinquency Prevention programs.

Formula grant projects are funded on a year-to-year basis, generally for a maximum of three years. Projects are usually funded on a declining share system, with 100% of an approved budget funded in the first year, 75% of the first year's budget funded in the second year, and 50% of the first year's budget funded in the third year. Funds are currently allocated to 11 of the 16 program categories established by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Five of those categories are open for competitive grant application. The 11 program categories to which TCCY commits funds are:

Non-Competitive	Competitive
Planning and Administration	Delinquency Prevention
State Advisory Group	Youth Advocacy
Compliance Monitoring (TCCY)	Disproportionate Minority Contact
Jail Removal Reimbursement Account	Gender Specific Services
Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force	Alternative to Detention

By statute each state that participates in the JJDP Act must set aside funds for **planning and administration** and the **state advisory group**. Those funds are not available to any other organization or entity.

Each state must also develop an acceptable procedure for **monitoring compliance** with the Act. In Tennessee, monitoring is accomplished solely by TCCY staff. The Commission has one regional coordinator in each of the nine development districts in the state. Coordinators are responsible for monitoring facilities in their areas of the state. There are also four Juvenile Justice Specialists with extensive monitoring responsibilities. All of the Juvenile Justice Specialists work in the central office in Nashville. JJDP Act funds placed in the Compliance Monitoring Program category are used to pay for the percentage of the field staff's time spent on monitoring activities.

The fourth non-competitive program category is **Jail Removal**. In order to ensure continued compliance with the jail removal mandate of the JJDP Act, Tennessee has established a reimbursement account to provide alternatives to adult jails for the detention of pre-adjudicated youth. Currently 36 of the state's 95 counties participate in the reimbursement program. Reimbursable costs include:

1. Attendant Care;
2. Foster/Shelter Care;
3. Emergency Transportation;

4. Temporary Holding Resources; and
5. Secure Detention Centers.

The fifth non-competitive category is the **Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force**. In order to meet the JJDP Act requirement of addressing DMC, Tennessee has organized a statewide DMC Task Force. The task force and TCCY contribute to conferences that focus on DMC and juvenile justice issues. TCCY and the DMC task force are responsible for DMC research assessments, development of local task forces and DMC intensive trainings.

The **Compilation of Laws** is an annual publication provided to juvenile courts, defense attorneys, district attorneys, and many other professionals who have contact with juveniles and their families. The publication is a compilation of Tennessee laws that affect children and families.

Tennessee chose five program areas for competitive federal formula grant application. The five program areas are Delinquency Prevention, Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Minority Overrepresentation, Systems Improvements, and Other (Juvenile Court Services). Sixty-five applicants applied for federal formula monies and 34 applicants were awarded funds. The programs that are currently being funded are listed below.

Delinquency Prevention

More than half of all juvenile court referrals in Tennessee are for delinquent offenses. For that reason, and because community-based delinquency prevention programs are relatively scarce in the state, TCCY has allocated a larger portion of funds to the Delinquency Prevention category than any other. Currently, 12 projects are funded in this category:

Family Guidance Training Institute. 800 tiny Town Road Clarksville, TN 37042 (931) 431-7580	Funding Period Projected: Oct. 1, 2005-Sep. 30, 2006 Current Year: First Current Funding: \$50,000 Contact: Julee Poole
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This program is reducing juvenile delinquency and offending behaviors by using the Positive Adolescent Choices Training model program in three Stewart County Schools

Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth has a commitment to reducing disproportionate minority confinement in the juvenile justice system. One way the Commission has shown that commitment is by a large allocation to the DMC category. TCCY currently funds four programs in this category.

Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc. 10 South 6th Street Nashville, Tennessee 37206 (615) 760-2777	Funding Period Projected: Oct. 1, 2005-Sep. 30, 2006 Current Year: Second Current Funding: \$45,000 Contact: Holly Johnson
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The program is designed to provide after-school activities for middle and high school aged refugee youth that will increase their self-esteem, communication skills and ability to resist peer pressure.

Gender Specific Programs

These programs are designed to address the needs of female offenders in the juvenile justice system. Currently four gender specific program are being funded.

Webb Alumni Association 938 Walnut Ave. West McKenzie, TN 38201 (731)352-2810	Funding Period Projected: Oct.1, 2005-Sep.30, 2006 Current Year: First Current Funding: \$80,000 Contact: Sheila Williams
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Webb Alumni Assoc. hosts the gender-specific program "In the Company of My Sisters: Project Free". The program will provide after school and summer programming for girls and their families. The program will cover

areas of recreation, education, and small business development. The focus of the program is to give girls another choice besides running the streets.

Alternatives to Detention

This category includes programs that provide communities alternative to secure detention. The Commission currently funds two projects in this category.

Youth Emergency Shelter
320 West Third North Street
Morristown, TN 37814
(423) 586-7740

Funding Period Projected: Oct. 1, 2005-Sep. 30, 2006
Current Year: First
Current Funding: \$60,000
Contact: Eddie Davis

The program is a collaborative effort to remove runaways from the street, identify other status offenders and provide a holistic array of child and family centered therapeutic services.

Youth Advocacy

These projects are designed to develop and implement advocacy activities focused on improving services for and protecting the rights of youth affected by the juvenile justice system. There are currently 3 projects funded in this category.

Oasis Center
1221 16th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 327-4455

Funding Period Projected: Oct. 1, 2005-Sep. 30, 2006
Current Year: Second
Current Funding: \$58,000
Contact: Susan Orr

This program offers mediation services to juvenile court referred youth and their families, providing additional resources for assessment and intervention prior to state custody.

Title V – Delinquency Prevention Grant

When the JJDP Act was reauthorized in 1992, a new Title V Category was added to provide funds for community-wide delinquency prevention programs. In FY 1994, Title V was funded for the first time. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth is currently funding three Title V projects.

Hancock County
P. O. Box 279
Tazewell, TN 37879
(423) 626-4677

Funding Period Projected : Oct.1, 2005 –Sep. 30, 2006
Current Year: Third
Current Funding: \$80,170
Contact: Dwight Snodgrass

The Hancock Education and Recreation Program (H.E.A.R.) provides after school services for all sixth, seventh, and eight grade students at Hancock County Middle School. The middle school students (150) are targeted because of lack of activities and supervision after regular school hours.

Sample B



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JJDP Act Funds Awarded By TCCY

FY 2003- FY 2006

First Congressional District

Counties: Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson (partial), Johnson, Sevier (partial), Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

Grantee	Location	Funded	Category
2002-03			
Frontier Health, Inc	Johnson City	60,000	Delinquency Prevention
Hancock County Board of Education	Sneedville	35,309	Delinquency Prevention
Hancock County Government	Tazewell	94,813	Title V
Unicoi County Government	Erwin	95,715	Title V
2003-04			
City of Bristol	Bristol	89,236	Title V
Frontier Health Inc.	Johnson City	22,500	Delinquency Prevention
Hancock County Board of Education	Sneedville	23,539	Delinquency Prevention
Hancock County Government	Sneedville	103,407	Title V
Jefferson County Juvenile Court	Dandridge	14,875	Juvenile Court Services
Knox County Government Offenders	Knoxville	76,575	Deinstitutionalization of Status
Legal Aid of East Tennessee Confinement	Knoxville	58,700	Disproportionate Minority
Legal Aid of East Tennessee	Knoxville	50,000	Delinquency Prevention
2004-05			
City of Bristol	Bristol	56,256	Title V
Hancock County Government	Sneedville	65,184	Title V
Frontier Health	Johnson City	15,000	Delinquency Prevention
2005-06			
City of Bristol	Bristol	110,000	Title V
Coalition for Kids, Inc.	Johnson City	50,000	Delinquency Prevention
Hancock County Government	Sneedville	80,170	Title V
Legal Aid of East Tennessee	Johnson City	25,000	Delinquency Prevention
Youth Emergency Shelter	Morristown	60,000	Alternatives to Detention
Federal Formula Grant		\$491,498	
Title V		\$694,781	
Total JJDP Funds obligated to the 1st District		\$1,186,279	

Sample C



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Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant Program

Fund Allocation for Tennessee

July 2005 - June 2006

In fiscal year (FY) 1998, Congress called on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to address the growing problem of underage drinking. Through the Appropriations Act, block grants of \$350,000 were made available to states and the District of Columbia through the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Program. Grants were to be used to combine efforts with local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to and/or the consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors.

Fayette County Schools
126 West Market Street
Somerville, TN 38068
(901)465-5260

Funding Period: July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006
Current Funding: \$50,000.
Funding Year: 1st Year
Contact: Chris Dupree

The program "Think About It" is allowing students in the middle and high schools of Fayette County to have a better understanding of the dangers of using and abusing alcohol. The program provides students with not only class room work but provides students with outside activities such as driving a vehicle with special goggles that allow them to understand the effects of alcohol while driving, walking, etc.

Metro Drug Commission
P.O. Box 53375
Knoxville, TN 37919
(865) 588-5550

Funding Period: July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006
Current Funding: \$65,000
Funding Year: Second
Contact: Tyra Haag

Implementation of a community wide, multi-strategic program designed to enhance the enforcement of underage drinking laws, limit access and examine weaknesses in the laws, policies and regulations regarding minor consumption.

Sample D



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JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth (TCCY) strongly urges Congress to maintain funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) enacted in the 2002 reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Formerly funded through appropriations bills as the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG), the current Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program provides dollars for use by states and units of local government to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. From its beginning in 1998 to September 2001, the Department of Children Services (DCS) administered these funds in Tennessee. Effective October 1, 2001, the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) became the administrator for the JAIBG/JABG program. The benefits to Tennessee have been numerous, including:

- Tennessee has received a total of \$28,810,900 from 1998 through 2006 for accountability-based juvenile justice system programs.
- Rural counties across the state have received funds to help with juvenile court services and the backlog of juvenile cases.
- Programs funded have included: 1) intensive probation services; 2) residential observation and assessment services; 3) intensive after care services; 4) alternative school and summer adventure-based programs; 5) additional referees to handle cases; 6) improved data systems for tracking juveniles; 7) new youth and drug courts for diversion from the regular juvenile justice system; etc.
- Juvenile courts in rural areas, which normally have minimal resources, now have a greater variety of services to meet more individualized needs.
- In Tennessee, juvenile offense referrals for crimes such as homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, rape, larceny, and burglary have been reduced by 24 percent from 1997 to 2004 (data is not available for 2006).

Unfortunately, JABG funds to Tennessee have been drastically reduced since 2001. The total award for 2006 was \$755,300 compared to \$4,302,300 in 2001.

It is important to maintain Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds to continue the success of reducing juvenile crime in Tennessee and providing more individualized, accountability-based interventions for youth involved with the juvenile courts.

Sample E



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**JABG Funds Awarded By TCCY
 FY 2003-2006
 Third Congressional District**

Counties: Anderson, Bradley, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamilton, Jefferson (partial), Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Roane (partial) and Union

Grantee	Amount Funded	Program Category	Counties Served
2003-04			
Anderson County Juvenile Court	21,425	Pass-Through	Anderson
Bradley County Government	26,459	Pass-Through	Bradley
Bradley County Government	83,614	State-Allocated	Bradley, Meigs, McMinn, Polk and Rhea
Hamilton County Juvenile Court	192,276	Pass-Through	Hamilton
Helen Ross McNabb Center	125,000	State-Allocated	Blount, Sevier and Union
Roane County Government	6,761	Pass-Through	Roane
2004-05			
Anderson County Juvenile Court	15,861	Pass-Through	Anderson
Bradley County Government	21,303	Pass-Through	Bradley
Bradley County Government	83,614	State-Allocated	Bradley, Meigs, McMinn, Polk and Rhea
Hamilton County Juvenile Court	142,489	Pass-Through	Hamilton
Helen Ross McNabb Center	153,750	State-Allocated	Blount, Sevier and Union
2005-06			
Bradley County Government	65,600	State-Allocated	Bradley, Meigs, McMinn, Polk and Rhea
Hamilton County Juvenile Court	39,725	Pass-Through	Hamilton
State-Allocated			\$511,578
Pass-Through			\$466,299
Total JABG Funds obligated to the 3rd District			\$977,877