



LEGISLATIVE BRIEF: CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDING

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) and the Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) were not given recurring funding for 2008-09 in the state budget adopted last July. Instead, the programs were part of a series of programs that were granted only one year of non-recurring funds and were to be given continuation reviews to determine if the state should continue funding these programs on a recurring basis.

JCPC is intended to develop community-based alternatives to youth development centers and to provide community-based delinquency and substance abuse prevention strategies and programs. [G.S. 143B-543]. This program is critical because it assesses various community needs as local JCP councils select programs tailored to specific needs.

As part of structured sentencing, the General Assembly enacted CJPP, through which the Department of Correction awards grants to counties that have community correction programs. This partnership of state and county government is designed to reduce recidivism, the number of probation revocations, alcoholism and other drug dependencies among offenders, and the cost of incarceration to prisons and county jails.

Status: Gov. Mike Easley included approximately \$22.7 million of recurring funds in his budget for JCPC, and the House budget included an additional \$1 million. Gov. Easley and the House both restored recurring funding for CJPP of approximately \$9.2 million, and the House budget added an additional \$500,000.

Key players: Senate Justice and Public Safety Appropriations Committee members

Co-Chair: Sen. Ellie Kinnaird (Orange) – 2115 Legislative Building; (919) 733-5804

Co-Chair: Sen. John Snow (Cherokee) – 2111 Legislative Building; (919) 733-5875

Vice Chair: Sen. Dan Clodfelter (Mecklenburg) – 408 Legislative Office Building; (919) 715-8331

Sen. Tom Apodaca (Henderson) – 1127 Legislative Building; (919) 733-5745

Sen. Stan Bingham (Davidson) – 2117 Legislative Building; (919) 733-5665

Sen. Pete Brunstetter (Forsyth) – 522 Legislative Office Building; (919) 733-7850

Sen. Ed Jones (Bertie) – 623 Legislative Office Building; (919) 715-3032

Sen. Tony Rand (Cumberland) – 300-C Legislative Office Building; (919) 733-9892

Action needed: Make sure the Senate understands how important JCPC and CJPP are to counties and that recurring funding is critical for these two programs.