

# The Impact of Federal Budget Cuts from FY10-FY13 on State and Local Public Safety

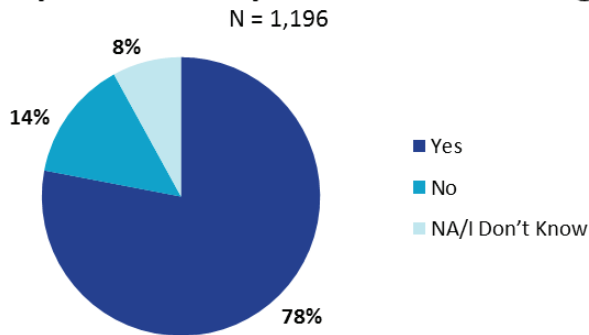
## Results from a Survey of Criminal Justice Practitioners

In the summer of 2013, the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) and the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) conducted its second annual survey of state and local criminal justice practitioners. Respondents were asked about their work and funding sources, and to describe the impact of recent cuts in federal funding on their communities. Of the 1,226 organizations that participated, 57 percent reported to be from a local government agency, 23 percent from a state government agency, and 17 percent from a nonprofit service provider. The remaining three percent were composed of membership associations, technical assistance providers, and research organizations, each of which represented approximately 1 percent.

### The Role of Federal Grant Programs in Protecting Public Safety

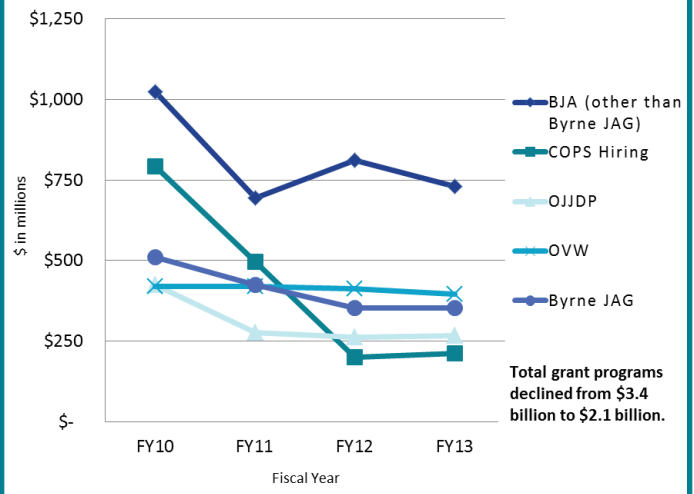
The federal government plays a vital role in protecting public safety, reducing crime, and preventing victimization through the Department of Justice's (DOJ) justice assistance grant programs. These include the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the Second Chance Act, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring program, the Victim of Crime Act, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention program, and the Violence Against Women Act programs.

**Figure 1: Over Three-Quarters of Respondents Report Cuts in Funding**



\* N reflects the number of respondents for each question.

**Figure 2: Reduction in DOJ Grant Program Funding, FY10-FY13**

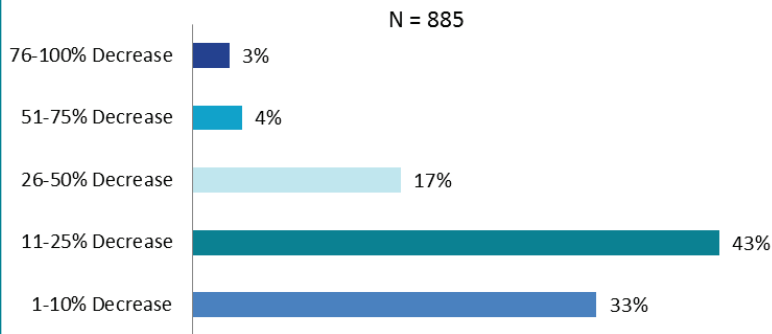


With the support of these federal grant programs, states and local governments test innovation, support law enforcement, strengthen their criminal justice systems, prevent crime, and support victims of crime. Specific initiatives include testing alternatives to incarceration, improving supervision of offenders in the community, replicating innovative policing strategies, and funding specialty courts and treatment programs that address the needs of non-violent offenders at a much lower cost than traditional incarceration. State Administering Agencies (SAAs) conduct statewide strategic planning to guide the use of the Byrne JAG and other grant funds. Based on that plan, states, local governments, territories, tribes, and nonprofit service providers design and implement evidence-based programs and practices, incorporating rigorous research, measuring performance, and replicating successful programs in other jurisdictions across the state and nation. These approaches and advances are yielding remarkable results.

### Grant Programs Hit Hard by Cuts in Federal Funding

The federal grant funds are shrinking, however. Overall funding for Department of Justice grant programs has dropped by 43

**Figure 3: Organizations Report Deep Cuts in Funding**



percent since FY10. For instance, since FY10 the Byrne JAG program has been cut by 34 percent, the COPS Hiring grants by 44 percent, in-prison drug treatment supported by the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) program by 67 percent, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by 75 percent, and juvenile delinquency prevention initiatives under the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention by more than 50 percent. As a result, funding for these programs is at an all-time low.

Furthermore, the Budget Control Act of 2011 set out a schedule for deficit reduction requiring additional cuts of about 5 to 8 percent in DOJ spending every year through FY21. The chart on the previous page (Figure 2) depicts these cuts.

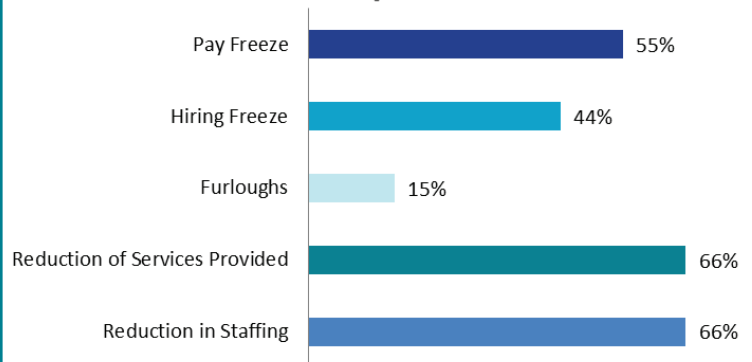
**Practitioners Describe Impact of Cuts**

As the charts on these pages illustrate, more than three-quarters (78 percent) of respondents reported that their

grant funding has decreased since FY10. Almost half (43 percent) of reported cuts were between 11 and 25 percent with another 17 percent reporting cuts from 26 percent to 50 percent. In addition, two-thirds (66 percent) of all respondents reported a reduction in their organization’s workforce. Two-thirds also reported having to curtail the services they provide in their communities. Respondents also reported instituting hiring and salary freezes and employee furloughs.

The following pages are organized by sectors of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, judicial system, corrections and community corrections, juvenile justice and prevention programs, victim assistance programs, and social service programs. Each section includes summary data as well as respondents’ descriptions in their own words about how these cuts have impacted their organizations’ work in the field, or may do so in the future. The opinions in this report are of the survey respondents, and do not reflect the opinions of the Vera Institute of Justice or the National Criminal Justice Association.

**Figure 4: Both Services and Staffing Impacted**



The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) represents state, tribal, and local governments on crime prevention and crime control issues. Its members represent all facets of the criminal and juvenile justice communities, from law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, defense and courts, to victim-witness services and educational institutions. As the representative of state, tribal, and local criminal and juvenile justice practitioners, the NCJA works to promote a balanced approach to communities’ complex public safety problems. Visit the National Criminal Justice Association at [www.ncja.org](http://www.ncja.org)

The Vera Institute of Justice combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help leaders in government and civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety. Vera is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit center for justice policy and practice, with offices in New York City, Washington, DC, New Orleans, and Los Angeles. Our projects and reform initiatives, typically conducted in partnership with local, state, or national officials, are located across the United States and around the world. Visit the Vera Institute of Justice at [www.vera.org](http://www.vera.org).

# Impact of Federal Budget Cuts and Decreased Funding on Law Enforcement

"We have eliminated our Gang Task Force officer, are down to one investigator, are running with two (sometimes one) officer per shift when we should have three and a supervisor. We have eliminated two sergeant positions and are running shifts with senior patrol officers. We have no community policing, no outreach, and no intervention programs at all."

— **Law enforcement manager** in California

"Federal grants fund drug task forces in the state. Without the task forces, local law enforcement will be overwhelmed with methamphetamine labs and drug use. The task forces provide support for local law enforcement that will be lost without the funding. It is unbelievable that the funding has been cut year after year and local law enforcement is asked to pick up the slack. Unbelievable."

— **Officer on a drug task force** in Missouri

"Our police department partnered with the city rec center and a mental health agency to provide a safe place for child custody exchanges and visitation. This program was started in 2003 because there were a significant number of issues arising during exchanges at local businesses. The issues were severe enough that law enforcement was frequently called to intervene. The program that was developed provided a safe public place (the rec center) where children could be exchanged. The staff was provided with procedures to follow and training was offered to employees so that any situation could be handled. The mental health providers screened families, helped them understand expectations of behavior during exchanges, and provided intervention as needed. This program proved successful and reduced domestic calls requiring law enforcement intervention by 49 percent! Partners try to continue the services as they are able. However, they are not anywhere near the level they were before funding was removed."

— **Law enforcement practitioner** in Ohio

"The budget has been steadily reduced from around \$850,000 to the current \$605,000. Total agency employees have been reduced from 14 to eight. The School Resource Program has been eliminated. Two detectives assigned to the local drug task force have been removed as the primary patrol function is decimated. Of

the eight authorized positions, five are designated as patrol officers. Of the five patrol officer positions, only two are filled, as disparate wages and equipment create an environment in which recruiting and retention are impossible. We have one civilian employee, having lost two civilian positions, who struggles to undertake all the excess work."

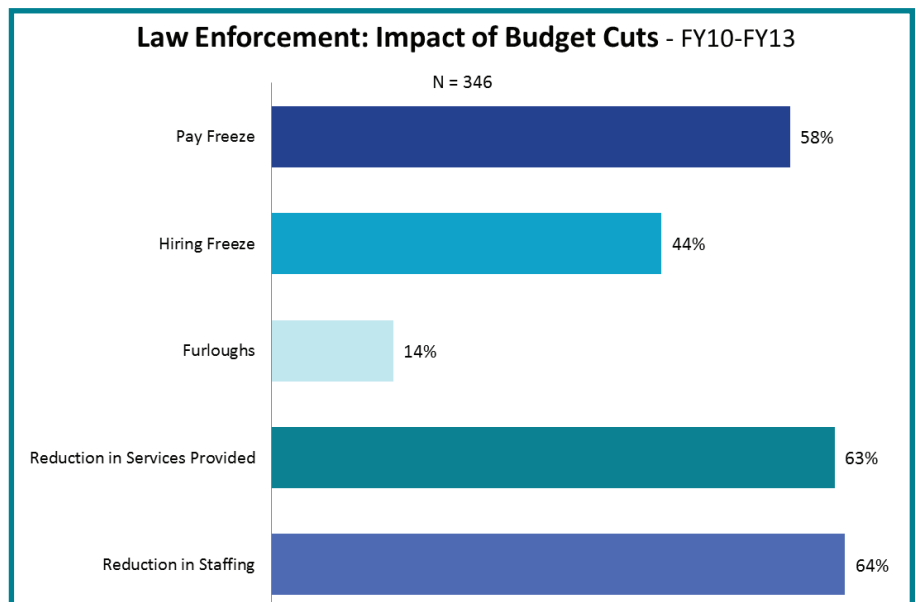
— **Law enforcement agency respondent** in Arizona

"As a result of budget cuts and the resulting hiring freeze, the Community Policing Division [in our city's] Police Department has been eliminated and the officers have been placed back in regular patrols. Any youth deterrence or prevention programs that were previously undertaken with funding through grants have been eliminated due to lack of funding."

— **Grant coordinator/public information specialist** in New York

"Our number of felons has increased; our staff has remained the same, funding for substance abuse and sex offender treatment has been cut, thus resulting in more felons violating the conditions of probation/parole and being sent back to jail, which has resulted in an overcrowding of our jails, sometimes as much as 130 percent of capacity."

— **Law enforcement practitioner** working in parole/probation in Alaska



"Arrests have decreased significantly with reduction of officers. Additionally, drug task force funding for meth lab clean up has decreased. This task has been assumed by the local task force with local funding. The Drug Task Force has been cut. There is no longer overtime, the interdiction of the local interstate is no longer part of the program."

— **Prosecuting attorney** in Arkansas

"We are a bi-state narcotics unit that focuses on educating the public, as well as targeting the mid-level narcotic traffickers in our jurisdiction. We are currently five officers short due to funding issues. This lack of manpower has had a dramatic effect on our overall operations and our office's efficiency in investigating these complex multi-state investigations."

— **Law enforcement manager** in Illinois

"Our task force is partially grant-funded and is designed to address drug trafficking organizations and drug-related violent crime. Local agencies do not have the manpower or funds to address this level of violator and federal agencies concentrate their efforts on multistate or out-of-country suppliers. This means the source of illicit narcotics in most jurisdictions is not addressed by anyone. Lack of grant funding directly impacts the ability of drug task forces to fill the gap left by federal and local efforts."

— **Law enforcement manager** in Georgia

"We have had to eliminate any proactive crime watch and community engagement programs. Our property crimes have increased, and while we met 90 percent of the need for hiring additional officers, our crimes against persons was not high enough so we were turned down for additional officers under the grant programs."

— **Law enforcement manager** in California

"Our task force has 13 officers for 15 counties. Not cities. Counties. The reduction of the task force and the funding has greatly impacted local law enforcement. The officers are not allowed to work over eight hours because there is no funding to pay for it. If a meth lab is located after hours then the officers may not be able to respond to assist because the funding is not there."

— **Task force police officer** in Missouri

"[Our] Tri-County Drug Enforcement Task Force serves three area counties in Iowa. This Task Force has been a very powerful and successful organization for more than 20 years. We have been funded by the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program. Over the past several years, we have lost substantial funding in our operations budget. Next year in fiscal year 2014 we have already been made aware that our funding will be cut 45 percent across the

board. This will either cut the Task Force operations altogether, or put a drastic cut in narcotics enforcement in the area; this will negatively affect the community and put the citizens in higher risk of violence because of lack of narcotics enforcement."

— **Drug task force lieutenant** in Iowa

"In the past, we have successfully been able to proactively work crimes against children using the Internet by actively working in an undercover position. Due to funding constraints, we are no longer able to proactively seek perpetrators looking to commit crimes against children, but are rather forced to investigate these crimes after children have been victimized."

— **Law enforcement practitioner** in Missouri

"Due to budget cuts, we are having to cut back all aspects of operations. With the last cut we just received, we are working diligently to secure funding to not have to let drug agents go. We are a small agency, employing two full-time agents, a part-time director, part-time deputy director and a part-time bookkeeper. If we have to lay off a full-time agent, we will not have enough manpower to remain functioning. Our drug task force works with many of the local agencies and also has independent cases. We help with the drug problems because most agencies cannot afford drug agents and the regular patrol force. We have also worked with federal cases that have brought down several 'larger scale' drug rings....Due to reduction in funding, there are many leads that we have to dismiss."

— **Law enforcement budget administrator** in Tennessee

"Since 2010, our police department has lost approximately 18 percent of its sworn personnel members. This has led to an elimination of the Department's Community Affairs Section, which primarily handled community outreach programs and quality-of-life issues; reductions in regular gang tasks force details; and reduced sworn personnel in the Office of Criminal Investigations. Since the same period of time, the Department has seen a slight increase in violent crimes and significant increases in property crimes."

— **Police department grants manager** in California

"Our narcotic and gang enforcement programs have been reduced by approximately 40 percent. Our Marijuana Suppression Program is particularly successful and well documented. Street narcotic enforcement has been reduced due to cuts. Gang suppression enforcement efforts have been reduced by 50 percent over the past five years."

— **Law enforcement, budget manager** in California

# Impact of Federal Budget Cuts and Decreased Funding on the Judicial System

“Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) funding has been eliminated, and our office lost funding for a PSN coordinator position that assisted the federal and state prosecutors on gun cases. These cases will not be handled as quickly without this coordinator. A prosecutor position was eliminated when the Arrest Grant funding was not renewed by the federal government. This position was an essential prosecutor position in the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit. More than 50 percent of the cases that come through the courts are domestic violence cases, and the caseload per prosecutor is increased because of the loss of the funding for this position. Two criminal investigators in the Gang Prosecution Unit will not have jobs after December 31, 2013 because [Byrne] JAG funding has been reduced. The prosecution of the most horrific gang cases in Memphis and Shelby County, at best will be slower, and at worst will not be prosecuted because witnesses and evidence will not be available for the prosecution team.”

— **Prosecutor** in Tennessee

“Strategies Against Gang Environments (SAGE) provides legal services aimed at reducing street gang activity, narcotics sales and use, and related problems occurring within cities. SAGE prosecutors are assigned to specific geographical areas within Los Angeles to respond to public nuisance problems that deteriorate quality of life in these neighborhoods. ... The Clearinghouse Electronic Surveillance System (CHES) is structured to handle State and Federal agency-generated telephone wiretap applications processed through the Los Angeles Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LARCIC). Nearly 300 wiretap applica-

tions are processed per year resulting in the seizure of millions of dollars in narcotic proceeds and thousands of kilograms of cocaine, other narcotics and dangerous drugs. The reduction in federal funding since 2010 has resulted in the elimination of positions in each of the programs. Two SAGE prosecutor positions were eliminated. Therefore, two geographical areas no longer have a dedicated SAGE prosecutor ...One CHES prosecutor position was eliminated. This reduction in CHES impacts the level of assistance our office can provide to the State, Federal and local law enforcement agencies and multi-jurisdictional task forces with processing wiretap applications.”

— **Grants and contract manager** in California

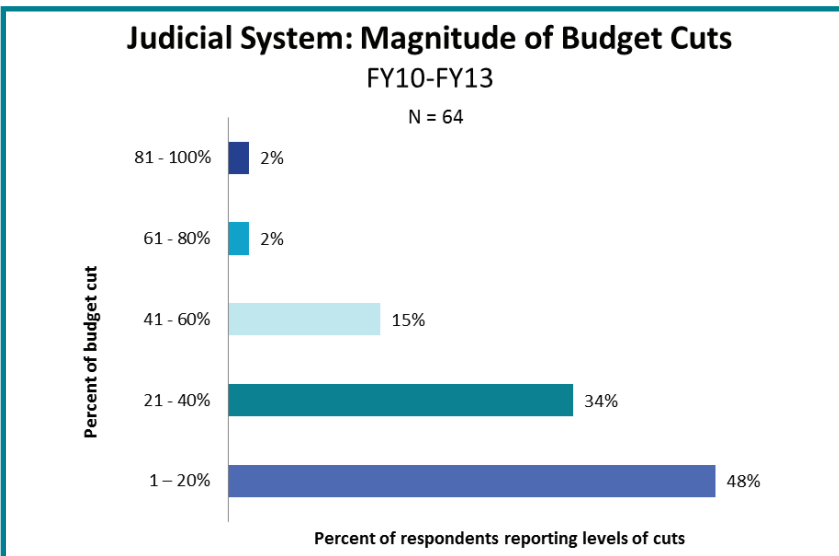
“We have had to eliminate our drug and violent crimes unit, which has successfully handled over 40 drug cases just in the past year, which included a drug bust which took down a distribution ring which had cartel affiliates who were arrested. Additionally, our violent crimes investigator successfully investigated and/or assisted other agencies in over 50 cases. Now, because of being cut completely, we have no drug investigator, and not having that asset in our district is detrimental.”

— **Prosecution manager** in Oklahoma

“The crime scene investigations training we provide has made a huge impact on criminal investigations, first in identifying suspects through the collection and analysis of evidence through the prosecution. Reduced funding has significantly impacted the professional training that is needed for law enforcement to aid their communities, reducing crime by identifying offenders and aiding in their prosecution.”

— **Administrator and prevention manager** in Tennessee

“Our Behavioral Health Therapeutic Drug Court program recently completed a review of our success for recidivism. We found that, before Drug Court participation, defendants recidivated (new felony charges over a two-year period) at a rate of approximately 75 percent. After Drug Court participation, that rate decreased to 25 percent; for our graduates, the rate decreased to 11 percent. The costs savings can almost not even be computed, when one considers the impact for improving public safety and returning citizens to productive, tax-paying status. Without



federal discretionary funds, our program (and others across the country) would have to be reduced or eliminated.”

— **Manager** in Washington state

“Drug Court Programs rely on federal funding to sustain community-based treatment services and recovery efforts for court-involved individuals. Without federal funding, positions could not be sustained to assist program participants in successful recovery plans, reduce recidivism or allow for ongoing community based monitoring.”

— **Court manager** in Maryland

“[Our] Adult Drug Court had to be shut down due to lack of funding. We had a very successful adult drug treatment court, that was based in one of Maine’s larger cities and covered two counties that had to be shut down due to the cut in funding. While the Court itself continued to handle cases, we could not operate the program effectively without the outside support groups/staff who provided tracking of defendants, supervision, referrals, etc.”

— **Court personnel** in Maine

“All treatment services provided for Tribal Court clients, including substance abuse, trauma, and violence have shown to be effective, with a reduction in recidivism. All of these treatment services as well as program evaluation will be completely eliminated without federal funding.”

— **Court administrator** in Colorado

“One of our worst losses was a Veteran’s Court that was created using Byrne JAG Recovery funds and then supported additionally by small regular [Byrne] JAG funds. Our portion funded one Public Defender who worked with veterans who come into the criminal justice system on a non-violent charge to divert them by helping with housing, drug treatment, assistance with the VA. It has been hugely successful, but because of cuts, they may completely end at the end of September. More than 200 veterans have been diverted from prison through this program, and the very modest amount of money it took (about \$65,000 year) was a wonderful example of what could be done with a small amount of money.

— **Manager, administration and policy** in Arkansas

“Byrne JAG...funds salaries for prosecutors and support staff so that we can prosecute drug offenses

which would otherwise not be prosecuted for our city. The County prosecutor’s office declines to prosecute certain drug possession charges. These are class 6 felonies such as possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia which are then waived down to our office, the City prosecutor’s office. The prosecutors in the drug unit then proceed on these cases along with driving under the influence of drugs. Without this federal funding we would have to cut these positions and would be unable to prosecute these cases at our current level. This prosecution supports police action taken in the City to ensure our parks and other areas of the City are policed for these crimes. This in turn makes [our city] a better place for the general public and for businesses in the City limits.”

— **City prosecutor** in Arizona

“[Due to funding cuts] we will have the ability to serve less people in our problem-solving courts, fewer people will receive needed substance abuse and mental health treatment, and fewer people will receive needed medications.”

— **Substance abuse treatment provider** in Illinois

“We hired a Firearms Examiner using funding from a [Byrne] JAG grant. This scientist was quickly trained and provided forensic testing on firearms-related cases.... The loss of this scientist would severely impact the laboratory’s ability to provide timely forensic testing services. The [Byrne] JAG grant was used to hire part-time firearms examiner consultants. They were temporarily furloughed when the grant was cut until new funding could be found. This resulted in an increase in the number of backlogged firearms cases”

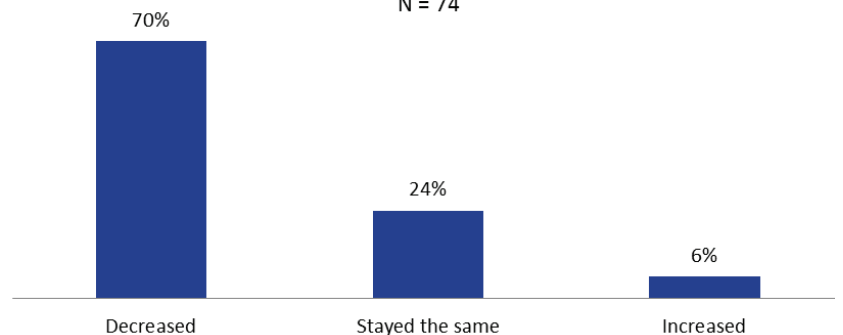
— **Forensic scientist** in New York

### Judicial System: Percent of Respondents Experiencing Cuts in Grant Funding

FY10-FY13

■ Courts, Prosecution & Defense

N = 74



# Impact of Federal Budget Cuts and Decreased Funding on Corrections and Community Corrections

“The re-entry program and substance abuse programs [run through our corrections department] are gaining momentum and traction in reducing recidivism... Sequestration has caused a reduction in the amount of grant funding available. This loss of funding has caused us to eliminate programs and services with community partners that have provided direct services in counseling and substance abuse for released offenders. We have been unable to expand any programs or services for our inmate population and these reduced services could lead to an increase in recidivism rates over the next few years as our inmates return to the community.”

— **Corrections official** in Nevada

“The college program [in the prison] was discontinued. It is the most expensive program, but also the most effective. It is very successful at opening the offender’s mind to more than just their community and reduced recidivism greatly. It also lessened conduct problems due to the increase in thinking skills, communication skills, and goal planning. My work is reentry focused. The loss of shelters and missions due to lack of federal grants has hit the offender population pretty hard. Also, sex offenders, even if distasteful, are more difficult to place because of it.”

— **Casework manager** in Indiana

“Residential facilities housing sex offenders and other offenders being released back into the community have been impacted. These facilities are badly needed to allow for the appropriate

monitoring, supervision and reentry into the larger community. Offenders [are] more likely to reoffend when released without a home plan and structure after long periods of incarceration. This is a public safety issue.”

— **Missouri budget, parole and probation administrator**

“Due to the reentry program losing almost half of its funding, many services have been eliminated. We are no longer able to assist with the costs of obtaining birth certificates, clothing for employment or driver’s license abstracts for our participants... Due to the cuts, we are unable to expand the hours of one of our case managers and are not able to serve as many people in a timely manner. We are unable to provide food vouchers as we have in the past. It has become more difficult to provide for the basic needs of our ex-offenders; things such as underclothing and hygiene products cannot be purchased due to the lack of funding. Donations of these items are becoming scarce.”

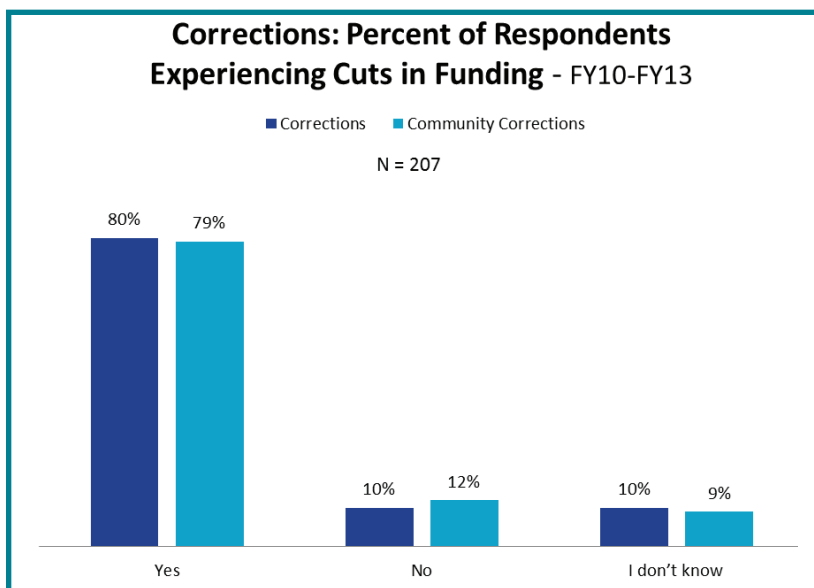
— **Parole and probation manager** in New York

“To date, we have managed the cuts through an increase in the cash match share for grantees and by eliminating 13 grant-funded positions (in addition to a 25 percent cut to staff in our office). We have eliminated two task forces and eight corrections/community corrections grants in the past two grant cycles. We have also implemented policies requiring cash match and limiting non-task force grantees to 48 months of eligibility. The FY09 ARRA (Recovery Act) funding helped push back some of the cuts for our grantees. Beginning with next fiscal year (2014-15) we will be passing through 42 percent fewer grant funds through the Byrne JAG program. At that time, we will be forced to make significant cuts to all programs - reducing the federal share of funded positions and eliminating positions and projects altogether. We expect to reduce funding for 26 positions currently funded through the Byrne JAG program.

— **Grant manager** in Iowa

“All funding and grants for treatment programs were eliminated. In Oklahoma we have no treatment money for offenders on probation. Without treating the cause for which the offenders committed crimes, we are struggling with recidivism.”

— **Parole and probation manager** in Oklahoma



"I work for a federal agency that supplies training and technical assistance to state and local corrections agencies. Our agency is now experiencing a 40 percent vacancy rate as we are not permitted to hire due to the hiring freeze. This has forced our limited staff to take on unacceptable workloads. Our agency has not seen a budget increase in the past several years, but has continued to serve our customers effectively though costs have significantly increased over that time."

— **Corrections practitioner** in the District of Columbia

"When funded we have been able to reduce criminal recidivism by up to 50 percent by providing education, resources and social services intervention to persons returning to the community from custody. When cuts are made, these same persons are more likely to return to custody, which results in more substantial costs of incarceration, and families returning to social service assistance."

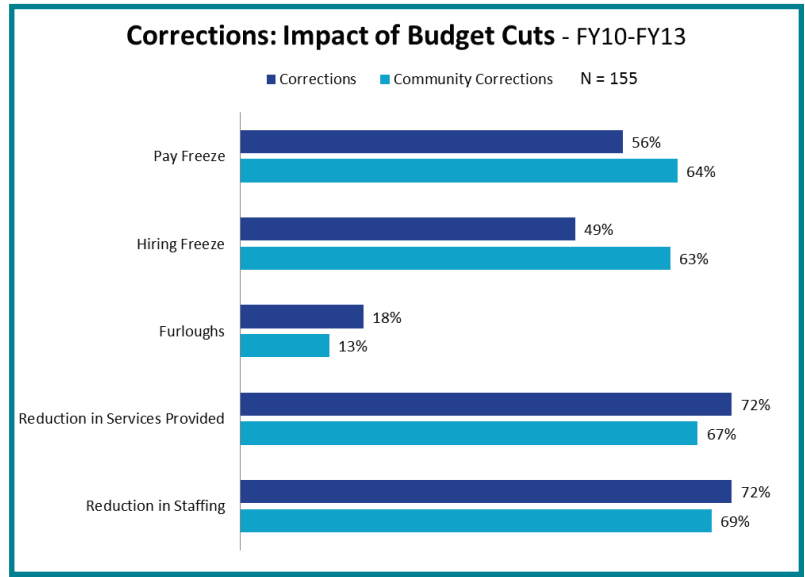
— **Manager in education and prevention** in California

"Our facility has been inmate-to-staff violence-free since 2004 and only five instances of inmate-on-inmate violence have occurred since 2004. Without funding to continue the services of our counselor and case manager, violence could very likely increase significantly, thereby putting both inmates and staff in danger. Approximately 70 percent of our inmates have a mental health and/or alcohol or other drug issue, some of them severe. We are currently able to provide them with stabilization, resources and referrals. Without stable, consistent funding, these inmates will be released back into the community in the same condition or worse, thereby putting both the released inmate and society at risk for a myriad of problems associated with the untreated addict/mental health sufferer."

— **Mental health provider** in a prison in Ohio

"We had created a Women's Treatment and Resource Center for the supervision and support services of female offenders supervised on probation and parole. Over 85 partners in the community joined forces to bring resources to these at-risk women leaving prisons and jails... However, in the last year the program has been closed down and the building is now being used as an overflow for classes for the Women's Community Correctional Center, which is co-located in the building. A program that once served thousands of women a year, now serves the 60 women living in the half-way house and a few select others on Wednesdays, when very few classes are now offered. The collaborations have stopped with our community partners and we are facing a housing crisis at the prison because we are sending so many women to prison."

— **Parole and probation manager** in Utah



"The Alcohol and Drug Treatment program at Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility in Cleveland, Mississippi, is unique in corrections in Mississippi in light of the fact it is the only treatment program that is governed by a House bill... Under this law, and the contract the state has with the county to provide substance abuse treatment to offenders housed at Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility, House Bill 454 also entails an intensive aftercare component. For second and subsequent DUI offenders, we are certified to perform the diagnostics by Mississippi Department of Mental Health. This means that after completion of our alcohol and drug program participants will be eligible for a reduction in suspension time of their Mississippi driver's license. Of all MDOC offenders, an estimated 80 percent meet the criteria for being in need of substance abuse treatment in varying degrees. For 2012, the recidivism rate of this program stands at 7 percent. Studying the outcome of the program's 10-year history the overall recidivism rate is 11 percent. Realistically, the services and partnerships that has helped this program achieve its success with offenders could be eliminated as a result of budget cuts. The cuts would force a reduction in staff and provisions for having offenders to serve. Due to budget cuts and reduction in staff this program has to eliminate an evidence-based program, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), that was offered to offenders at this facility... According to statistical data, recidivism is reduced by 30 percent for those completing the MRT program. In addition to the MRT, those participating in the program are also being exposed to a Cognitive Behavior approach to dealing with anger. This program has been proven to assist offenders into their reentry to society and allowing aftercare services to gain partnerships with the community-based programs that accept ex-offenders; therefore, reducing chances of offenders re-offending."

— **Treatment program director** in Mississippi



# Impact of Federal Budget Cuts and Decreased Funding on Juvenile Justice and Prevention Programs

“As a result of budget cuts, the police department has been forced to remove the School Liaison position. This program had previously been responsible for over 300 interactions with school-aged children in our district schools. These calls for service must now be handled by regular patrol officers who lack the necessary training in handling school-based problems.”

— **Law enforcement budget administrator** in Michigan

“We’ve experienced a total loss of funding for a residential program serving juvenile males with sexual assault histories; those youths are now being served at residential treatment centers in other Texas communities, away from home and not in coordination with local treatment providers. There has also been a loss of funding for First Offender Programming, which enables law enforcement to refer youth charged with minor crimes and their parents to an educational/skills-building program. Drug Court funding has also been severely decreased, pushing eligible youth further into the juvenile justice system without treatment.”

— **Texas budget and administration manager** in juvenile justice

“Since 2008, we have lost two-thirds of the funding for serious juvenile offenders. At the same time, other agencies like substance abuse and mental health have lost funding. The lack of availability of programs forces judges to incarcerate rather than intervene. While these offenders have not increased the risk to the community when attending interventions, it is not necessary to incarcerate. We have had significant drops in juvenile referrals. Some of this can be attributed to the use of evidence-based practice; however the lack of focus of law enforcement on juvenile crime because of cutbacks has also been a factor. The lack of funding for prevention programs for juveniles kicks the problem down the road to the adult system. I think we are taking steps backwards in dealing with juveniles.”

— **Deputy state court administrator** in Utah

“We have had so many success stories; however, the one that stands out the most is one of a former gang member. He came into the program one day, asking if he could start boxing. We took one look at him and knew he was on drugs. [We] said, “come back tomorrow, when you are sober.” The individual was upset, but

left. He came back the following day. He came back every day since then. He graduated from high school. He left the gang. He went to college. He opened a business. He got married. He started a family. And he still comes in every day. He is one example. But he represents 96 percent of kids that walk through our door. If our funding is further eliminated, we will close the doors to our center. And all those kids that we see will be out in the street, in gangs, shooting each other, going to jail, and not doing anything with their lives...Our funding has been cut by almost 75 percent in the past three years.”

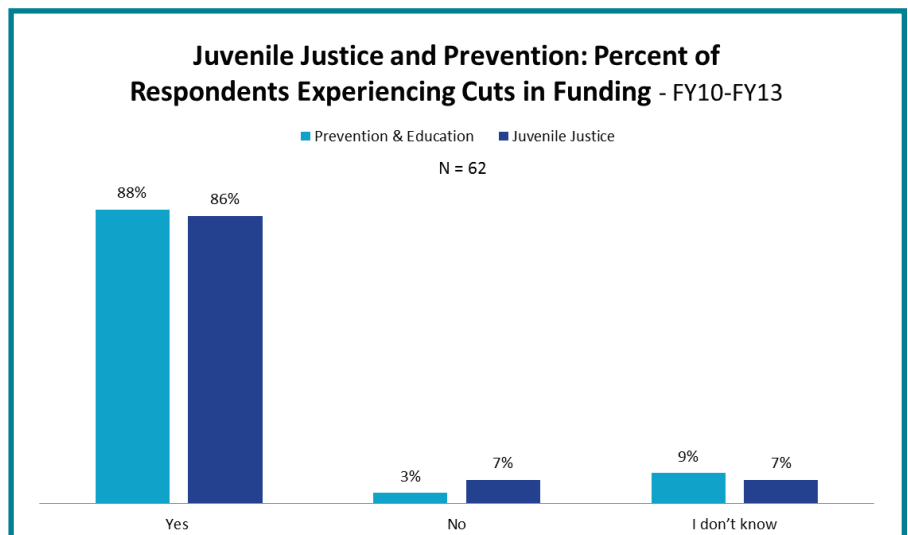
— **Fiscal officer in education and prevention** in New York

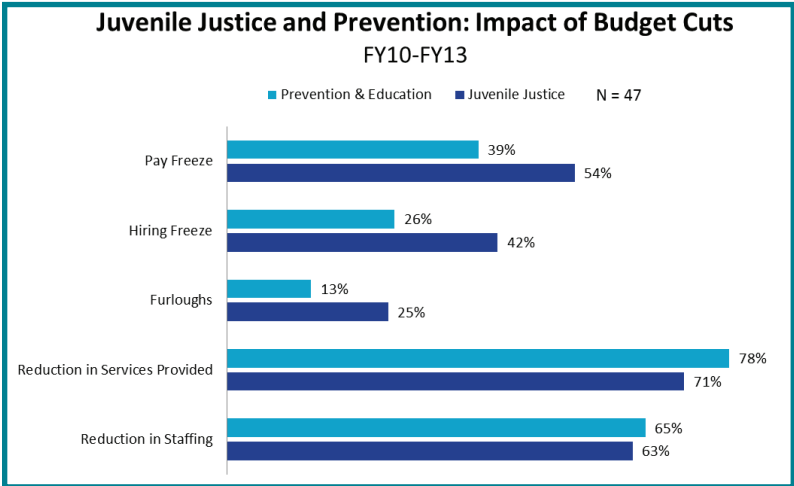
“Our national outreach had a huge impact on both diversifying training to agencies that could not travel to our facility, but also in the number and types of agencies that could attend (rural vs. metropolitan). With the reduction/loss of funding, those agencies and the communities they serve are less able to solve crimes based on suspect identification or testify credibly during the prosecution (due to lack of formalized training).”

— **Executive director** of a law enforcement innovation center in Tennessee

“Our federal [Byrne] JAG funds help to support our juvenile diversion program which has a 96 percent success rate. With the reduction in funds we will no longer be supporting this program with federal dollars. Over 80 children are served annually in this program.”

— **Juvenile justice manager** in Florida





“As a small rural community, we do not have access to a lot of resources that other urban areas may have. In FY 2011, the school lost a significant amount of funding from the state, and among other things, cut its budget for the School Resource Officer. The SRO had been installed through a federal grant several years ago...The SRO was integral in working with youth and their parents to provide lessons on safety, to help at-risk youth find their way before they enter into the system, and to be a friendly face for the police force encouraging youth to have a positive view of officers in town. Since then, we have seen the negative behaviors of youth increase dramatically. Data show clearly that the drug/alcohol/tobacco incidents with juveniles increased dramatically with the loss of the SRO going from two arrests in 2011 to 36 in 2012.”

— **Local government budget administrator** in Texas

“These agencies seek to reduce the number of youth suicides, with one of the highest suicide rates in the nation. These are not just programs; they are compassionate experts in the field of first responders, law enforcement, shelters, victim advocates, county attorneys, juvenile probation officers, mediators, who work in these professions to try to make our state a better place. Without the funding we receive from these programs, many of the small nonprofits will be forced to close.”

— **Administration and policy manager** in Montana

“Reduction in funding has resulted in elimination of shared funding for the [Council] to help with placement costs of children being removed from their homes or those children who need a residential placement.”

— **Juvenile justice manager** in Ohio

“We provide an alcohol and drug prevention program after school to the most high-risk children because of school incidenc-

es, poverty, living conditions, and overall socio-economic conditions they are living with and in. This program was eliminated. This program has been for some children and adolescents their only avenue to understand their dilemma where family members have alcohol and drug dependencies and/or the child is beginning to experience and indulge in some of the same practices.”

— **Executive director** of a nonprofit organization in Tennessee

“Many of our youth have severe mental health issues that may go undiagnosed and/or untreated. With the loss of our federal grant, our program to work with violent offenders will be watered down; we will not have enough money for all clients to receive individual counseling.”

— **Juvenile justice manager** in Texas

“Funding cuts have affected [our law enforcement academy] from doing field training [on] domestic violence. That includes our Native American population and rural law enforcement departments. They lack resources and require us to bring training to them. We also have not been allowed to continue our 40-hour victim advocate basic course. This course provided critical training on collaboration to keep victims and children safe while holding offenders accountable. These funding cuts have set our state back after many years of progress.”

— **Budget administrator** in Montana

“Our on-site trauma-focused therapy services, which has been available to victims since 2008, has now ended as a result of federal budget cuts. At our height, our on-site therapist provided trauma-focused therapy to over 50 child victims of sexual abuse annually. Trauma-focused therapy is an evidenced-based intervention proven to aid victims in building resiliency and reversing the adverse effects of sexual abuse. Our [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention] funded Girls Circle evidence-based support group was eliminated in 2011. Over 25 at-risk female juveniles were no longer served through this program. Our on-site therapy services were eliminated in 2013. Over 50 sexual abuse victims were no longer served.”

— **Executive director** of a nonprofit service provider in West Virginia

“Due to lack of funding our School Resource Officer program had to be eliminated and a position was not filled when an officer retired. This has impacted our relationship with youth at risk and we have seen an increase in bullying, drug activity and other related crimes.”

— **Chief of police** in Montana

# Impact of Federal Budget Cuts and Decreased Funding on Victim Assistance Programs

“Staffing shortages have resulted in burnout and turnover, and have forced us to curtail most of our prevention activities. Outreach activities have been reduced significantly. We have no travel or training funds; have depleted agency education and promotional materials; eliminated women and children’s enrichment activities; cannot send new board members for training. We cannot replace outdated and non-working computers, telephones, or security systems. We often run low on food and have been forced to limit client transportation. We cannot update technology, even to meet mandates from funders.”

— **Victim assistance manager** in Indiana

“Due to budget cuts, our Central Ohio program had to eliminate staff positions that provide emergency response and long term restorative care to victims of trafficking, resulting in our program serving a greatly increased number of victims with fewer staff. Additionally, we were unable to expand a human trafficking victim services program in Cincinnati to address a 42 percent increase in identified victims of trafficking.”

— **Victim assistance manager** in Ohio

“The greatest success story is that our small community with awareness programs and visibility of the victim advocate, domestic violence reports have decreased about 20 percent in the past year; also teenage girls are more willing to report rapes and be cooperative witnesses for prosecution with the interaction of the victim advocate and victim. [It] has taken six years to get to this point. Absence of grants will eliminate this office which will increase domestic violence and rapes not being reported. Continued cutbacks or possible elimination will close the office for the victim/witness advocate and there will be no assistance for fragile victims for the entire county. Training has been cut to the bare minimum; awareness material is cut to the bare minimum. To cut the grant further or eliminate it will close the one-person office, reducing services to victims 100 percent. Our county is rated in the poverty level; the county would not be able to cover the salary of the one-person advocate.”

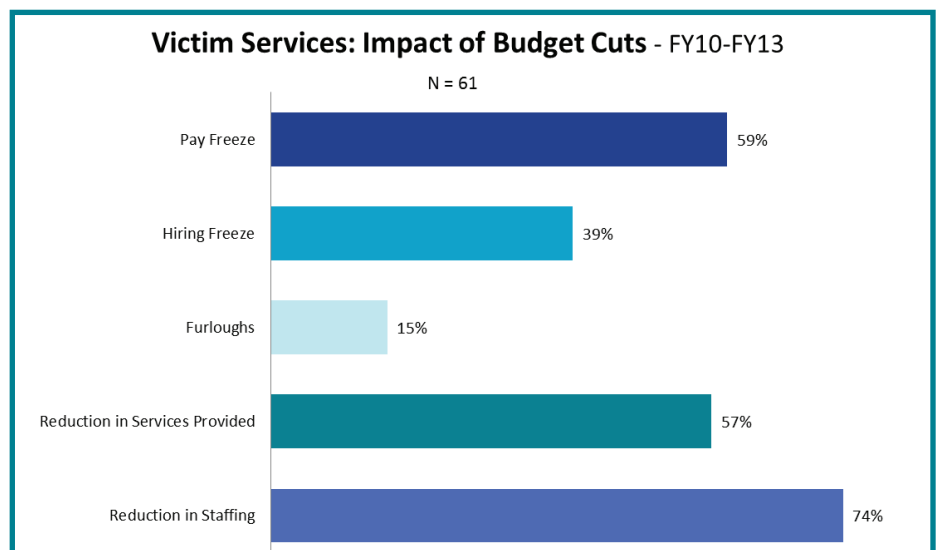
— **Victim assistance advocate** in Montana

“Waiting lists for substance use disorders treatment services in community-based programs have grown from three weeks to three months over an 18-month period, and our largest provider of residential treatment services is about to go out of business.”

— **Substance abuse treatment manager** in Virginia

“The budget cuts affect the daily operation of our emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence (food budget and salaries to staff the shelter). The shelter serves victims of domestic violence and their children....Our budget is extremely tight. Any reduction to our budget at this point, impacts the agency severely. Salaries were always extremely low, but as we have not even had a cost-of-living increase for at least five years, things are desperate. Positions have been lost and those that continue to work here struggle to do so. We have lost our Transitional Housing Program that was extremely effective in stabilizing families and bringing them to a place where they could be self-sustaining when they exited the program. The lawyer’s position that assisted victims of domestic violence has been eliminated. The lack of legal representation speaks for itself. The food budget for the shelter has been cut... To be more specific... that comes to \$2.16 for 36 people. Paper goods, including toilet paper, can be difficult to keep on hand. We no longer are able to offer transportation assistance to victims who are trying to reach our shelter. Unfortunately, some are unable to come due to this reduction in services. We have lost a therapist, a children’s program worker, the only housekeeper we had, and the assistant to the Executive Director. ”

— **Shelter director** in Maryland



# Impact of Federal Budget Cuts and Decreased Funding on Social Service Programs

“This program originally was staffed with 10 clinicians. For the past three years, our budget has steadily decreased, which has resulted in the loss of three staff members. Clinicians are carrying caseloads of over 60 clients. With statistics indicating that approximately 85-90 percent of offenders are in the criminal justice system due to use/abuse of alcohol or other drugs, any further cuts to our budget will devastate this program, and needed services will not be available to those offenders who are in need of treatment.”

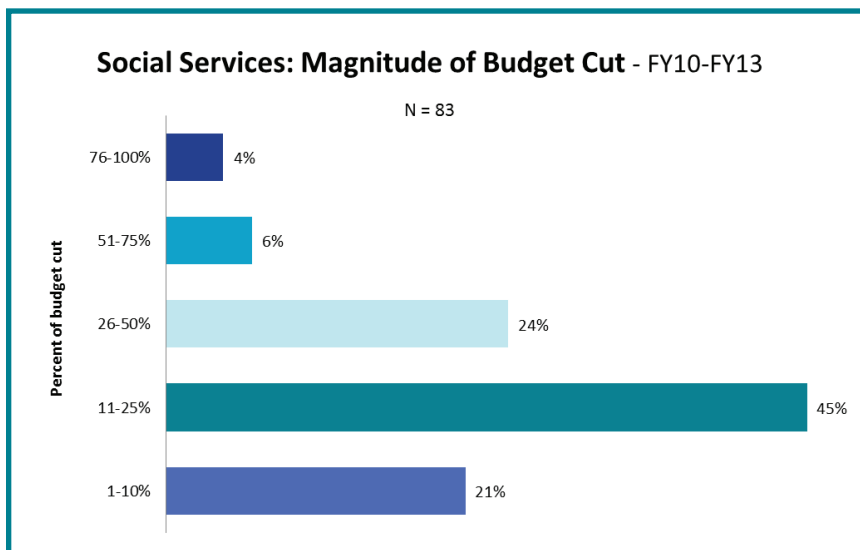
— **Nonprofit manager** in Ohio

“A community center was opened due to funding from a federal grant. This center has made a huge impact on the community. There is less crime, more employment, and the citizens care about their neighborhood now. If the grant is not extended, I truly feel the community will have lost one of the best assets it has ever had. Not only have the citizen-to-citizen relationships improved, but the officer-to-citizen relationships have opened new doors that never existed in this community.”

— **Community-based organization** in Tennessee

“Funding for the Bilingual Victim Assistant position has been totally cut. Without a Bilingual Victim Assistant in a mental health organization that works with victims of all crimes - hospitals, the State’s Attorney’s Offices, law enforcement, etc. have nowhere to send distressed primary and secondary victims of crimes.”

— **Executive Director** for counseling organization in Maryland



“Under the Second Chance Act and Illinois Department of Corrections, we provide much needed reentry services to parolees and their families. Without our support, the recidivism rate climbs higher and higher. Given the current state of prison facilities, this is causing a domino effect of overcrowding and dangerous situations for the corrections personnel who work in the prisons. Assaults on corrections officers are up and the services that are available, education, training, etc. are shrinking due to loss of funding. This causes more expense to state governments in the long run. It’s a vicious circle of not being able to fix a problem due to funding losses.”

— **Social services practitioner** in Illinois

“We are a small facility, housing ex-offenders, and providing material support to secure employment and independence. Other than food and shelter, which we have independently provided for the past three years, we have not been able to assist with employment or transportation, or skills assessments. There have been no other resources available to assist these men. Our success rate for them, securing training and employment, has been about 20 percent compared to 70 percent the previous years. Our 2010 grant source was cut short and only allowed us to maintain services for about four months. We have been forced to decline and turn away 40 percent of the clients requesting assistance.”

— **Director** of a nonprofit service provider in Texas

“Our flagship Lost Sheep Project’s Apprenticeship program and mentoring programs have become diminished to the point of almost closing.... Budget cuts have reduced state block grant allocations, which has strangled funding to local nonprofit reentry organizations such as ours. We were training about 20 adults per year at 80 percent of journeyman-level construction wages with a 75 percent two-year completion rate; and 20 youths were redirected each year with about a 70 percent success rate in getting juveniles ages 15-19 to stay in or return to school or adult education for at least one school year.”

— **President** of a community-based organization in Louisiana