

**Presentation to the Joint House and Senate Public Safety Subcommittee
Virginia General Assembly
October 20, 2010**

**Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act
Briefing Paper**

Since 2002, Virginia's state allocation under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) has been reduced by almost \$20 million (from \$29,500,000 to \$9,600,000: see attached spreadsheet). These funds are the primary resource to provide a system of graduated sanctions and targeted services to deal with the juvenile delinquent population of the State. These funds support local communities in developing and implementing an array of services and programs for juvenile court clients and their families. These cuts have severely curtailed both the number of youth we are able to serve and the intensity/duration of the services provided. It is important to note that *the services provided under VJCCCA to juvenile offenders tie directly to public safety* and target those risk factors most closely linked to delinquency. The system of services and programs that VJCCCA has developed has been shrinking at an alarming rate. These efforts target high risk youth in an effort to intervene before these juveniles become even more entrenched in crime/weapons/drugs, gangs and the justice system. This is a critical issue for Virginia because this money goes directly to serving some of the most challenged and challenging youth in the Commonwealth ... *those youth whose actions in the community will demand a response*. Without these funds, many youth who come before the court will remain in the community without services to address the risk factors and family dynamics that lead to delinquency. This leaves Judges and Court Service Unit staff in the untenable position of deciding which juvenile offenders NOT to serve. It also leaves law enforcement to respond to physical and sexual assaults, theft/burglary, domestic violence cases, and gang related crime knowing that the youth may face no consequences nor receive appropriate intervention through juvenile services. As the General Assembly evaluates the impact of juvenile crime on the economic development opportunities of the State and of the quality of life for our residents, we request that at least partial restoration of funding for the VJCCCA program be brought forward with great urgency in the next General Assembly.

Going into FY 2011, another 18.7% was cut with a second budget amendment entered by the Governor to take an additional 5.5% in FY 2011 and 12.2% in FY2012. The cuts in the second budget amendment were taken from VJCCCA in order to save the National Guard's Commonwealth ChalleNGe program. While a popular program, Commonwealth ChalleNGe was funded under the Department of Military Affairs and is not oriented to the juvenile justice population. Most youth involved with the Courts are not accepted into Commonwealth ChalleNGe because of their criminal history and/or substance abuse history.

In justifying these cuts, much emphasis has been placed on the declining number of youth committed to the Juvenile Correctional Centers (JCC's). These reductions are to be applauded, and VJCCCA programs have contributed significantly to providing alternatives to commitments. However, the demand on local Courts and law enforcement is significant. Consider the following statistics: (*provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice Research and Evaluation Unit)

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- Commitments have steadily declined since 1998 and have been reduced by 51.3%. Contributing to lower numbers of commitments was a change in the Code of Virginia: in 2000, the eligibility criteria for commitment was changed from *two* class 1 misdemeanors to *four* class 1 misdemeanors. Because of these declines, Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center (and its nationally recognized substance abuse program) was closed. Subsequent reductions in DJJ's budget forced the closing of Natural Bridge JCC and the Virginia Wilderness Institute.
- *Re-Entry*: Additionally, resources to support community re-entry for juveniles have been slashed. In 2005, the state operated three halfway houses, contracted for a transitional living program and funded the detention re-entry programs in Shenandoah and Chesapeake. These programs provided for 68 residential re-entry placements. Today, there are only two halfway houses in the state, with capacity for only 24 placements. Funds for non-residential community based re-entry services have also been significantly reduced, impacting such critical services as substance abuse and sex offender relapse prevention services, mentoring services and intensive supervision of parolees.
- However, juvenile Intakes at the local courts have decreased by only 6.2% between FY 2005 and FY 2009
- New Probation cases have decreased 10.4% between FY 2005 and FY 2009
- Detention home placements are down 15.3% between FY 2005 and FY 2009. Many of these youth are being served in detention alternatives provided by VJCCCA
- The Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) does not provide funding for the majority of youth in the juvenile justice system since they usually do not fit into a "mandated" category. With declining CSA funds and higher local match rates, most localities have eliminated funding for the "non-mandated" population.

While there are reductions in the number of youth involved at all levels of the juvenile justice system (a national trend), the above data demonstrates that youth who would have been placed in secure settings are now remaining in the community. And, with drastic re-entry cuts, many parolees (especially those over 18) are returning to their home localities without appropriate housing or support services. VJCCCA is needed more than ever to address these needs and assure public safety.

STATE VJCCCA FUNDING

**VJCCCA Funding History FY 2002 through FY 2012
Tidewater Youth Services Commission and Virginia State Totals**

Locality	FY 01/02 Allocation	FY 02/03 Allocation (50.84% cut 7/02)	FY 07/08 Allocation (2.5% cut 10/07)	FY 08/09 Allocation (Fr/Sh cut)	FY 09/10 Allocation (5% cut)	2011-2012 Biennial (18.7% cut)	2011 Additional (5.5% cut)	2012 Proposed (12.2% cut)	Percentage of Decrease
Tidewater Youth Serv. Comm.									
Virginia Beach	\$ 2,471,043	\$ 1,214,823	\$ 1,184,452	\$ 1,184,452	\$ 1,125,229	\$ 914,102	\$ 863,854	\$758,464	-69.31%
Chesapeake	\$ 701,717	\$ 344,984	\$ 336,359	\$ 336,359	\$ 319,541	\$ 259,586	\$ 245,316	\$215,387	-69.31%
Portsmouth	\$ 523,041	\$ 257,142	\$ 250,713	\$ 250,713	\$ 238,177	\$ 193,488	\$ 182,852	\$160,544	-69.31%
Suffolk	\$ 352,961	\$ 173,526	\$ 169,188	\$ 169,188	\$ 160,729	\$ 130,572	\$ 123,394	\$108,340	-69.31%
Isle of Wight County	\$ 68,175	\$ 33,517	\$ 32,679	\$ 32,679	\$ 31,045	\$ 25,221	\$ 23,834	\$20,926	-69.31%
Franklin	\$ 44,119	\$ 21,690	\$ 21,148	\$ 20,266	\$ 19,253	\$ 16,322	\$ 15,424	\$13,422	-69.58%
Southampton	\$ 29,804	\$ 14,653	\$ 14,287	\$ 13,691	\$ 13,006	\$ 11,027	\$ 10,420	\$9,149	-69.30%
Totals	\$ 4,190,860	\$ 2,060,335	\$ 2,008,826	\$ 2,007,348	\$ 1,906,980	\$ 1,550,318	\$ 1,465,094	\$1,286,232	-69.31%

\$882 Franklin
\$596 Southampton

STATE TOTALS	\$29,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,100,000	\$14,100,000	\$13,200,000	\$10,300,000	\$9,600,000	-67.46%
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combined 18.7+5.5% cut

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Impact of Budget Reductions on Member Localities of the
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TYSC TOTAL YOUTH SERVED
BY VJCCCA FUNDING
FROM FY 2001/2002 THROUGH FY 2009/2010

Fiscal Year	Chesapeake	Franklin	IOW	Portsmouth	Southampton	Suffolk	Va. Beach	TOTAL
FY 01/02	280	63	63	552	2	224	866	2050
FY 02/03	81	33	63	334	6	170	419	1106
FY 03/04	82	38	52	368	9	210	464	1223
FY 04/05	101	19	77	353	3	309	487	1349
FY 05/06	101	36	104	333	8	296	437	1315
FY 06/07	107	31	87	381	8	205	467	1286
FY 07/08	102	12	51	270	5	198	426	1064
FY 08/09	112	4	26	230	2	119	340	833
FY 09/10	101	36	56	252	3	213	358	1019
Total Youth Served	1067	272	579	3073	46	1944	4264	11245
% of Decrease	-63.93%	-42.86%	11.11%	-54.35%	50.00%	-4.91%	-58.66%	50.29%

VJCCCA Program Closures/Services Discontinued or Reduced

Residential Programs: (Placements funded by VJCCCA)

In 2001, TYSC operated 6 group homes, and a foster care program that prepared youth for independent living. An Apartment Living Program for youth re-entering the community from the Juvenile Correctional Centers, funded under contract from the Department of Juvenile Justice was cut in 2008 due to other DJJ budget reductions (non-VJCCCA).

Capacity: 100 beds # Placements FY 2002: 323

In 2010, TYSC operates 3 group homes: 2 for boys and one co-ed. There are neither female-only facilities, nor any facilities for youth over the age of 18.

Capacity: 36 beds # Placements FY 2010: 156

Non-Residential Programs: (Programs and placements funded by VJCCCA)

- **Closed** School Based Case Management Program targeting high school and middle school youth who were truant, more than one grade level behind, behavior management problems in school: **served 227 youth in FY 2002.**
 - **Closed** Outpatient Group Services (anger management, parenting groups and life skills groups) **served 143 youth in FY 2002.**
 - **Closed** Court based diversion counselors/early intervention specialists: staff based at court service unit which performed crisis intervention, diversion programs, law related education, parenting classes to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system: **served 463 youth in FY 2002.**
 - **Reduced** Mentoring services by **77%** (FY 2002 vs. FY 2010; 22 youth vs. 5)
 - **Reduced** Substance Abuse services by **20%** (FY 2002 vs. FY 2010; 105 youth vs. 85))
 - **Reduced** Intensive In Home Services by **56%** (FY 2002 vs. FY 2010; 75 youth vs. 33)
 - **Reduced** Anger Management Services by **81%** (FY 2002 vs. FY 2010; 102 youth vs. 19)
- Total reductions in non-residential services: 1020 youth**
(Note: youth may have received more than one service)**

Reduction in Work Force:

Since 2001, TYSC has lost approximately **75 full time positions.**