

The Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act

What is the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act (CPA)?

- CPA is a law that became effective in 2000 which provides funds to counties to support local, juvenile, crime-prevention programs. CPA was "ground breaking," because it represented the single, largest appropriation of state funds for youth crime and violence prevention in California history. In part, the CPA was designed by lawmakers to counter-balance rising state law-enforcement and incarceration costs. An investment in prevention, it was thought, would reduce the penetration of children into the deepest and most expensive sanctions, such as the California Youth Authority.
- Funded programs must meet performance requirements. CPA requires participating counties to spend funds on a "continuum of responses" to crime and violence, based on "programs and approaches that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing delinquency." Most local programs supported by the CPA offer prevention-based services in the areas of family support, mental health, school safety, gang prevention, after-school programs, and intensive probation supervision programs. The Act requires locally-funded programs to report outcomes on specific performance standards for each program.
- Local control is a key feature of CPA. The programs supported by CPA funds are selected by a local coordinating council which has broad stakeholder representation from law enforcement and from public and private agencies providing services to local youth. The board of supervisors must approve each county's spending plan.

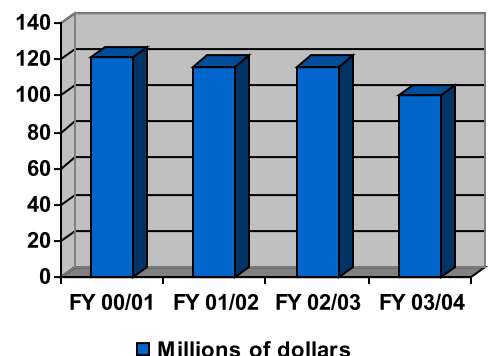
How much funding has CPA received?

In its first year (FY 00-01), CPA had a statewide appropriation of \$ 121 million, which was distributed to each of California's 58 counties based on county population. Since then, CPA has been re-funded each year, at modestly declining levels. For FY 03-04, the statewide fund level for the CPA was \$ 100 million. CPA funds are linked, dollar-for-dollar, to another important public safety program-the COPS program which supports local law enforcement salaries and operations. The continued funding of the CPA through recent deficit budget cycles underscores the commitment of the legislature and the governor to crime-prevention spending as a key component of the state's broader public safety policy.

KEY ISSUES

Should the Governor and the Legislature continue funding for the Crime Prevention Act, now and in the future, and if so at what level? In his May Budget Revision, the Governor has proposed funding CPA for FY 04-05 at a level of \$100 million-the same as last year.

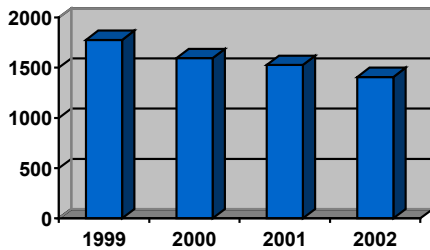
Schiff Cardenas Crime Prevention Act
State Funding Levels 2000-2003



The Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act

Does the Crime Prevention Act prevent crime and violence?

CALIFORNIA JUVENILE FELONY ARREST RATES, 1999 - 2000



■ Juvenile Felony Arrests per 100,000 youth

The Crime Prevention Act includes specific outcome objectives for locally funded programs. In its 2003 Annual Report on the Crime Prevention Act, the Board of Corrections concluded:

Nearly 60% of the programs met or exceeded their goal for rate of arrest, and juveniles participating in the programs had lower arrest rates than reference-group juveniles

In addition, CPA programs were able to demonstrate participant success in completing probation, completing restitution and performing community service.

Juvenile crime is down

Importantly, as California has maintained its Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act investment over the last four years, juvenile crime and violence rates have continued to decline. Between 1999 (the year before CPA) and 2002, the number of juveniles arrested for felony offenses declined by 10%; the (population adjusted) rate of juvenile felony arrests dropped by 21%, and the rate of juvenile arrests for violent crimes declined by 26% statewide.

Program Examples

San Francisco's Life Learning Academy

The Academy, located on San Francisco's Treasure Island, is an accredited Charter School with a day reporting center serving high risk youth. The Academy features small class sizes, tutoring and mentoring, vocational training, and courses on physical and emotional health. Academy students showed significant improvement in academic performance and significantly reduced justice system involvement- with much lower arrest and detention rates than a comparison group.

San Diego's Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court supervises young people with substance abuse histories. One goal of the program is to establish a positive and continuing connection between drug-involved juveniles and the local Juvenile Court judge. The program combines rehabilitative services with swift sanctions for program violations. According to the Board of Corrections, this San Diego program has achieved at 38% reduction in positive drug tests for participants in the program.

Orange County's Youth Guidance Center Program for Girls

Several counties have used CPA funds for specialized programs for girls in the juvenile justice system. This program includes health and mental health assessments, with individual treatment plans and gender-specific services including counseling for physical or sexual abuse. There are also education and job training components. Nearly two-thirds of the girls in the program have graduated with no further justice system contacts.

Los Angeles County's Gang Intervention Program

In this program, community-based agencies work with probation youth to discourage gang involvement and gang-related violence. Parents, schools, employers, law enforcement agencies and former gang members cooperate on gang prevention strategies which run the gamut from tattoo removal to finding jobs for youth.

"...because these local efforts build upon strategies that have proved successful in the past, the State's investment in the JJCPA should yield significant returns well into the future... The JJCPA is off to a very good start"
- California Board of Corrections, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, 2003 Report to the Legislature