

# ARREST THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

## QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- **FUMBLE:** An inefficient bureaucratic system where the vast majority of funding for child abuse victims cannot be used during the original 12-month project period
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Create a system to ensure funding can actually be used

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded 28 Victims of Child Abuse Act grants from FY 2010-2013, totaling about \$74 million.<sup>353</sup> The grants address important needs for the most vulnerable in American society: children who have been abused. The funding helps develop child-abuse investigations and prosecution programs and funds national organizations to provide assistance to attorneys and others involved in the criminal prosecution of child abuse.<sup>354</sup>

For the 28 grants, on average grantees spent less than 20 percent of the grant during the project's original 12-month period.<sup>355</sup> According to GAO that is due to OJJDP's inefficient administrative review and approval processes that have severely delayed grantees' ability to utilize their funds. This is a waste of both time and resources that could be spent helping an abused child. Abused children, attorneys, and other advocates who step up to

help them should not have to waste months wading through processes so they can actually use the funding.

More importantly this is a missed opportunity. Victims of child abuse deserve the absolute best care possible. If the federal government makes the commitment to step up and help a child in need, it absolutely must do it. If the federal government cannot do that, it needs to step back and allow a non-profit or private entity that specializes in this area—such as a church in the child's community—to deliver the essential assistance.

## RECOVERY

Congress needs to immediately demand that the OJJDP develop a working system to ensure the most children possible benefit from the available aid.

***For more information, please visit:***

[GAO: Victims of Child Abuse Act: Further Actions Needed to Ensure Timely Use of Grant Funds and Assess Grantee Performance](#)

[DOJ: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program](#)