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U.S. Department of Justice awards Department of Corrections 2-million dollar grant

(Pierre) – The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded the South Dakota Department of Corrections more than 2-million dollars in a federal formula grant for the state's compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA).

The \$2,018,000 allocation includes three federal fiscal years (FY 2001 to FY 2003) worth of funding. The state was not eligible to access the formula grant funds for the prior federal fiscal years because the state was out of compliance with the federal act.

Governor Mike Rounds introduced legislation during the 2003 legislative session to bring the State of South Dakota back into compliance with the federal act. Senate Bill 202 made the necessary changes in state law for compliance and Senate Bill 8 created a Council of Juvenile Services to oversee the state's compliance with the act.

"Compliance with the federal act is part of Governor Rounds' vision to maximize the resources available for troubled youth in South Dakota," said Corrections Secretary Tim Reisch. "We're pleased the Department of Justice is providing the previous years funding to assist the state, counties and tribes in working together to make that a reality."

The JJJPA supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements including implementation of a system of graduated sanctions, treatment programs and aftercare services.

Funds will be used to assist counties in covering the costs associated with compliance with the requirements of the Act, including not placing juveniles in adult jails and keeping status offenders out of secure detention. Funds will also be used for local juvenile justice system improvement projects aimed at filling gaps in services and meeting the needs of youth in their home community.

A portion of the funds will also be sub-granted out the Indian Tribes in South Dakota to assist them with their respective juvenile justice issues. An assessment of the over-representation of minorities in South Dakota's juvenile justice system will also be conducted and projects will be funded to address this issue.

