



State Support for Courts and Court Technology

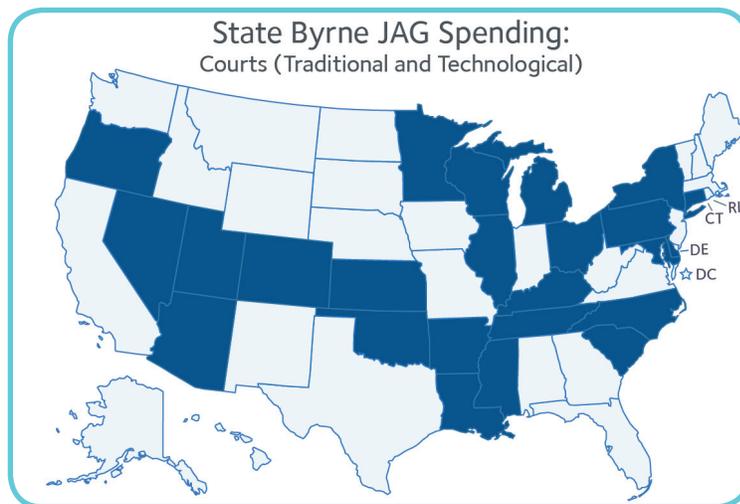
State Formula Spending for the Byrne JAG Program

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program

The cornerstone of federal support for state and local justice systems, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is a federal-state-local partnership enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs. The Byrne JAG program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, provides grant funding to thousands of justice and public safety agencies and projects each year. Sixty percent of the overall Byrne JAG funding goes through the state criminal justice planning agencies known as State Administering Agencies (SAAs) while the remaining 40 percent goes to local direct award recipients. Designed to be flexible, Byrne JAG funds are used for a wide variety of public safety programming from prevention through reentry. To learn more about Byrne JAG, visit ncjp.org/byrne_jag.

Byrne JAG Support for Courts and Court Technology Initiatives

The 24 states highlighted in dark blue on the map below are among the states that reported using Byrne JAG funding for courts and court technology initiatives in 2013-2014. These initiatives include support and technology related to speciality court dockets; courtroom technology and equipment; information management systems; public defense initiatives; and training for prosecutors and court personnel. Please note, this information is self-reported and there may be additional states using Byrne JAG funds for this purpose.



Examples of Courts and Court Technology Projects

- In Connecticut, through the use of Byrne JAG funds, court cases and investigations have been expedited by enabling local police to install audio-video recording technology in police interrogation rooms to ensure that interviews are conducted to specific standards.

ABOUT BYRNE JAG

The Byrne JAG program was funded at \$376 million in FY14. For many years funding levels hovered around \$500 million. Since FY10 funding for the program has been cut by one-third in the name of deficit reduction.

BYRNE JAG & COURTS

At least 24 states fund court and court technology related initiatives with the state formula portion of Byrne JAG funding. These initiatives include support and technology related to speciality court dockets; courtroom technology and equipment; information management systems; public defense initiatives; and training for prosecutors and court personnel.



ABOUT NCJP

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- In Delaware, Byrne JAG funds supported the purchase and implementation of an information management system for multiple specialty court dockets across the state including a mental health court, drug court and juvenile gun court.
- In Maryland, Byrne JAG funds support specialty court dockets in Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County and Baltimore City for drug and mental health courts. In Anne Arundel County, funds went to purchasing mobile drug testing equipment, which improves offender accountability by providing on-site testing. Maryland also used Byrne JAG funds for information management systems and Live Scan finger printing technology in multiple Baltimore City courts.
- In Minnesota, Byrne JAG funds mental health enhancement services to a drug court, DWI court, and mental health court through Hennepin County Community Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- In Mississippi, Byrne JAG funding supported the implementation of 12 new adult and juvenile drug court dockets throughout the state and implementation assistance available through The Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP). In addition to certification, MADCP will ensure that the dockets are implemented with fidelity to the national drug court model.
- In New York, Byrne JAG funds public defense projects in Erie, Onondaga, Monroe, Nassau, and Suffolk counties, as well as in New York City. These projects support enhancements to public defense that include expansion of indigent defense services, legal and case management services to reduce pre-trial incarceration, representation and advocacy for treatment alternatives for non-violent offenders, and representation of those charged with sex crimes in a specialized Sex Offender court.
- In North Carolina, Byrne JAG funding supports Veteran's Treatment Courts in Buncombe and Cumberland County, which offer individualized and comprehensive treatment to veterans charged with misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies in an effort to lower the recidivism rate for veterans charged with nonviolent crimes. Court personnel collaborate with the VA medical center, local providers, peer mentors, educational providers and other community agencies to provide treatment.
- In North Carolina, Byrne JAG funding supports efforts by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Technology Services Division to replace the Automated Criminal Infraction System, based on 1980s technology, with the web-based Criminal Court Information System-Clerk's Component (CCIS-CC). The CCIS-CC is designed to improve efficiency by reducing manual processes, introducing ease-of-use features and improving data quality.
- In Ohio, Byrne JAG funded 13 specialty courts in 2013 and 12 specialty courts in 2014 throughout the state including veteran treatment, drug, mental health, juvenile and domestic violence courts. Each docket receives certification through the specialized docket section of the Ohio Supreme Court to ensure they utilize established best practices.
- In Ohio, Byrne JAG funds support juvenile court dockets for diversion and community integration programming. Through organizations like Lighthouse Youth Services, Byrne JAG funds support wrap around services to prevent youth from further involvement with juvenile or adult justice systems.



- In Oregon, Byrne JAG supports efforts to improve and update the Oregon Treatment Court Management System. This management information system will assist with improving court performance and accountability, data collection, grant monitoring and future drug court evaluation.
- In Oregon, Byrne JAG funds 14 of the state's network of 68 specialty courts. Byrne JAG funds support one Family Court, one Veterans Courts and 12 Adult/Juvenile drug courts. As the largest single Byrne JAG investment for the state, the SAA continually monitors outputs and evaluations and recently completed a randomized controlled trial of four adult drug courts targeted for high risk/need nonviolent property offenders.
- In Pennsylvania, Byrne JAG funds support trainings for prosecutors and law enforcement officers in the areas of juvenile and adult prosecutions. Through the use of Byrne JAG funds, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute offers a variety of training courses for law enforcement professionals. These funds combine the training and technical assistance needs of prosecutors working in both criminal and juvenile courts across the state.
- The Rhode Island Family Court Juvenile Mental Health Clinic receives Byrne JAG funding to provide assessments and consultations that ultimately allow the court to refer juveniles to appropriate mental health services with an aim to decrease recidivism.
- In South Carolina, Byrne JAG funds statewide court room technology enhancements. Ten magistrate and municipal courts across the state received computers, televisions, document cameras, software, scanners, surveillance camera systems, walk-through and handheld metal detectors and digital recording equipment.
- In Wisconsin, Byrne JAG funding supported the implementation and expansion of specialty courts throughout the state as part of the state's Treatment Alternatives to Diversion program. In 2013 and 2014, Byrne JAG funds supported nine specialty court expansion grants and two initial implementation grants including Adult Drug Courts, DUI Courts, a Mental Health Court and a Veterans Court.
- In Wisconsin, Byrne JAG funds support the development of the Comprehensive Outcome, Research, and Evaluation (CORE) Reporting System, a web-based data collection and reporting system for use by specialty courts and pre-trial diversion programs funded through Byrne JAG and the state's Treatment Alternatives to Diversion (TAD) program. This new data management will give researchers a unified data set upon which to build their evaluation efforts.

2013-2014 Byrne JAG Spending Study

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2013-2014 Byrne JAG Spending Study conducted by the NCJA Center for Justice Planning. Financial data was submitted by and qualitative interviews were conducted with all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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