



State Support for Law Enforcement Taskforces

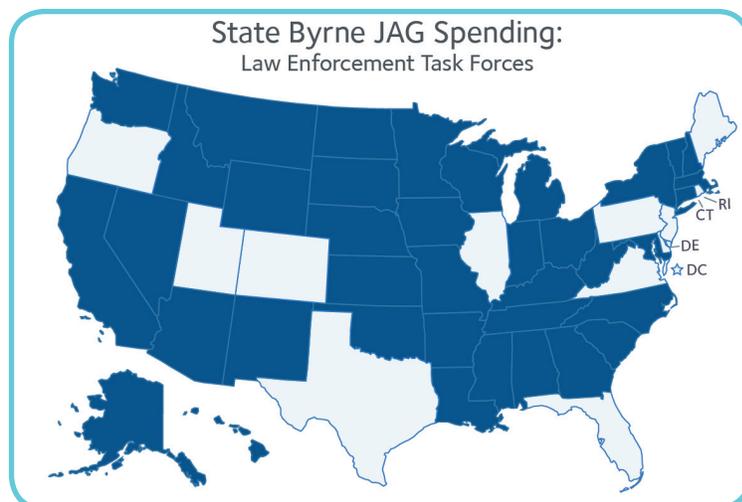
State Formula Spending for the Byrne JAG Program

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 Law Enforcement Taskforces

The 38 states highlighted in dark blue on the map below are among the states that reported using Byrne JAG funding for law enforcement taskforces in 2013-2014. These taskforces mainly worked on drug, gang and violent crime interdiction efforts. Please note, this information is self-reported and there may be additional states using Byrne JAG funds for this purpose.



Examples of Law Enforcement Taskforces

- In Alaska, Byrne JAG funds support the Statewide Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force program, which is a cooperative law enforcement effort involving several criminal justice agencies with jurisdiction over different areas of the state, sharing the common goal of addressing illegal drugs and alcohol and violent crime problems in Alaska. The program enables law enforcement agencies in different jurisdictions to work together as a single entity with the ability to improve communication, share intelligence, and coordinate activities. This allows for more efficient use of resources and targeting

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 & TASKFORCES

At least 38 states fund law enforcement taskforces with the state formula portion of Byrne JAG funding. These taskforces mainly worked on drug, gang and violent crime interdiction efforts.



ABOUT NCJP

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of offenders whose activities cross jurisdictional boundaries. Alaska also provides a large state share of funding to support this program effort.

- In Arizona, Byrne JAG funds support task force efforts that in 2014 resulted in 41,372 drug-related cases being referred for prosecution, a 7.4 percent increase from 2013. Of those 56.1 percent of these referrals moved forward for prosecution and in 6.2 percent of drug cases, offenders were directed to a drug diversion program. In FY 2014, 75.4 percent of drug cases resulted in convictions, 24.4 percent were dismissed with or without prejudice and 0.1 percent resulted in acquittal.
- In Arkansas, Byrne JAG state funding supports a statewide network of 19 multi-jurisdictional drug and gang taskforces. The Byrne JAG funds are combined with a larger share of dedicated state funding to support taskforce operations in two-thirds of the state's counties. These efforts are focused primarily on prescription drugs, methamphetamine and heroin interdiction. Each of the 19 taskforces is required to have a governing board that helps direct the work of each taskforce and provides investigative oversight when appropriate.
- In Connecticut, Byrne JAG funds support stipend grants to approximately 40 local police departments that participate in the Statewide Narcotics Task Force (SNTF) that focuses on investigations concerning illegal narcotics sales, trafficking, distribution and manufacturing. SNTF is comprised of the Connecticut State Troopers, federal and local law enforcement from the FBI, DEA, Connecticut National Guard and local police departments. The Narcotics Task Force operates primarily in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport and the surrounding towns.
- Using Byrne JAG, Iowa has established a network of 16 local drug enforcement task forces and one state task force (Division of Narcotics Enforcement). Grant funded task forces cover 54 of Iowa's 99 counties and over 75 percent of the population. Grant funding partially supports 47 state and local full time investigators. Local task forces have analysts strategically assigned throughout the state and work closely with the State Division of Intelligence to promote an intelligence driven enforcement approach. While the primary mission of drug task forces is public safety through drug enforcement, data show they also play a major role in getting more drug-addicted offenders into treatment. There are 45 percent more treatment admissions that occur via the criminal justice system in counties that are covered by drug task forces than those that are not. As part of Iowa drug investigations, these task forces also refer hundreds of drug endangered children to service providers and seize numerous firearms.
- In Michigan, Byrne JAG funds support 22 task forces which cover all of the state's 83 counties. Task forces are made up of leadership from the State Police and staffed by local law enforcement from participating cities and counties. To support these multi-jurisdictional efforts, Byrne JAG funds are used to support seven FTE's within the Michigan State Police crime labs working on evidence processing and case backlog reduction. Additionally, Byrne JAG funds support two crime analysts who help ensure coordination across the state, information sharing across task forces, and improve how and where enforcement resources are allocated. In FY15 the analysts will begin an evaluation of the state's enforcement efforts focusing on targeted drug types, violent offenders and demonstrating the impact and value of the state's network of Byrne funded MJTF efforts. All of these efforts are focused on ensuring that investigations are targeting violent offenders.
- In Minnesota, Byrne JAG funds support two multijurisdictional Violent Crime Enforcement Teams (VCET) that target drug distribution networks, firearm crimes, violent gang activity and other serious criminal activity. These teams cover 11 cities, five counties and three reservations.
- In Missouri, Byrne JAG funding, with state funding, supports 21 multi-jurisdictional drug task forces that operate in agreement with 107 of the state's 115 counties. Their efforts focus on the



enforcement of all illegal narcotics, especially prescription drugs, heroin, and synthetics. In FY15, the task forces initiated 8,239 new cases, provided 2,149 assists to other agencies in cases initiated, arrested 5,379 persons, made 2,264 drug buys, served 1,180 search warrants (of which 1,104 resulted in drug-related seizures), eradicated 9,824 marijuana plants, seized/dismantled 708 methamphetamine labs, seized drugs valuing \$94.4 million (\$68 million via interdiction efforts and \$26 million via non-interdiction efforts), and provided 427 educational/training programs to businesses, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, schools, and the general public. Each of the task forces is required by state statute to have a policy board; the involvement of such policy board varies but generally they help direct the work of the task force and provide oversight in performance and investigative techniques. Each of the task forces is also required to meet minimum standards to receive grant funding to include, but not limited to, the multi-jurisdictional nature of the project, investment from member agencies, training requirements of personnel, standard operating procedures for informant use, evidence storage, and deconfliction, and involvement in preventative and rehabilitative efforts.

- In New Hampshire, the Attorney General's Task Force supports local law enforcement with the investigation of street level drug crime. The Task Force compliments the efforts of other drug enforcement entities in the state such as the State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) groups. The current and emergent focus has been on heroin, fentanyl and prescription drugs due to the staggering number of overdose deaths.
- In North Dakota Byrne JAG funds support a network of five multijurisdictional drug, gang and violent crime taskforces across the state. In an effort to maximize federal support, Byrne JAG money is blended with a set aside from the state lottery to provide statewide taskforce coverage. In addition to the five directly funded taskforces, the state funds the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to provide oversight and training to an additional five taskforces within the state. As part of the state's response to its oil boom, the taskforces have had to expand the types of crime they investigate, with an increasing focus on gangs, violent crime and organized crime cases.
- In Oklahoma, Byrne JAG funding supports 13 multi-jurisdictional drug and violent crime task forces in Oklahoma that cover 37 of the state's 77 counties. These task forces are operated through the local District Attorney's offices, which coordinate law enforcement agencies throughout the districts. Collaboration improves shared responses, evidentiary chains, investigative protocols and the collection and sharing of actionable information. Additionally, Byrne JAG supports gang prosecution units in Oklahoma's two largest counties, enabling those teams to work closely with officers on the street.
- In South Dakota, Byrne JAG funds support a statewide Drug and Violent Crime Taskforce run out of the State Division of Criminal Investigation. The taskforce leverages statewide resources to focus on heroin and methamphetamine as well as homicide and violent crime cases that smaller and more rural jurisdictions are not equipped to investigate.
- In Vermont, Byrne JAG funding is blended with state funds to support the Vermont Drug Task Force (VDTF), which is managed by the Vermont State Police. The VDTF is made up of state, local and county law enforcement along with prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office. The primary focus of the VDTF continues to be the aggressive targeting of individuals trafficking heroin but also includes investigations involving crack cocaine, prescription pills, and methamphetamine. The VDTF works closely with federal law enforcement partners and the U.S. Attorney's office targeting drug trafficking organizations.



- In Washington, Byrne JAG funds support 18 regional multijurisdictional drug and gang taskforces that support about 95 percent of the state's population. An oversight board helps guide the work of each multi-agency interdiction team. Boards often include a diverse representation of state police, local prosecution, corrections and victim's services officials. Evaluation and quality control is maintained through a peer review evaluation process that assesses performance and offers training on best practices for task force management. In CY2013, 97 percent of taskforce arrests were at the felony level, resulting in the disruption or dismantling of 174 criminal organizations.
- In Washington, Byrne JAG also funds the administrative compliance and taskforce peer review process. The Washington State Department of Commerce uses a peer review system to provide oversight and ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the program. The peer review system encourages the use of sound management practices, policies and operating procedures in drug enforcement and assesses the comparative productivity and impact of each taskforce on illicit drug trafficking in its respective region.
- In Wyoming, Byrne JAG funds support The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation's five regional enforcement teams. Team offices are located in Cheyenne, Casper, Evanston, Gillette, Rock Springs, Afton, Pinedale, Laramie, Powell, Sheridan, Rawlins and Riverton. Agents and taskforce officers are supported by a combination of Byrne JAG funds, general state funds and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant. In 2014 Byrne JAG funds provided for nine taskforce officers.

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.