



State Support for Behavioral Health Initiatives

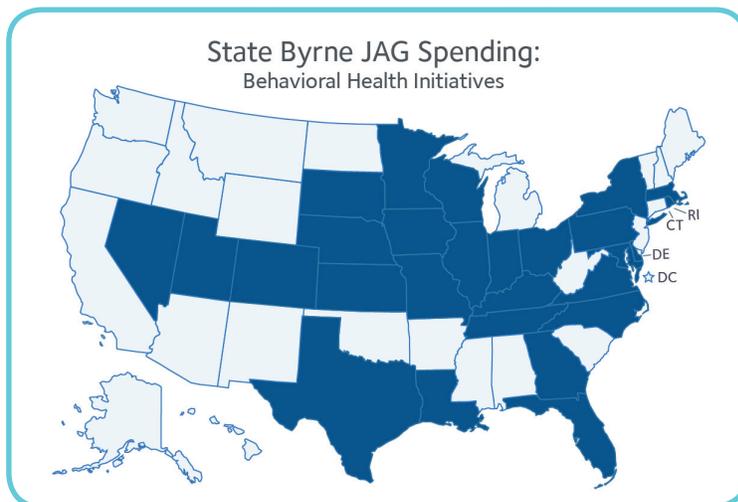
State Formula Spending for the Byrne JAG Program

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 Behavioral Health Initiatives

The 27 states highlighted in dark blue on the map below are among the states that reported using Byrne JAG funding for behavioral health related projects in 2013–2014. These initiatives include mental health courts, training for mental health and criminal justice professionals, jail diversion programs for inmates with mental illness, therapy and treatment services, crisis intervention teams, mental health centers of excellence, law enforcement trauma services, and health services for veterans. Please note, this information is self-reported and there may be additional states using Byrne JAG funds for this purpose.



Examples of Behavioral Health Projects

- Colorado used Byrne JAG funds to hire a Planning Coordinator for the Aurora Cross Jurisdictional Mental Health Wellness Court. The Planning Coordinator collaborates with stakeholders and conducts a service gap/sequential model analysis using the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s *Developing a Mental Health Court: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum* to plan an evidence-based wellness court

ABOUT BYRNE JAG

The Byrne JAG program was funded at \$376 million in FY 14. 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 AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

At least 27 states fund behavioral health related initiatives with their state formula portion of Byrne JAG. These initiatives include mental health courts, training for mental health and criminal justice professionals, jail diversion programs for inmates with mental illness, therapy and treatment services, crisis intervention teams, mental health centers of excellence, law enforcement trauma services and health services for veterans.





ABOUT NCJP

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- Colorado used Byrne JAG funding for the Integration of Trauma-informed Practice in Drug Treatment Services for Delinquent Youth. The program offers 140 adolescents standardized assessments of trauma events, symptoms, and problem behaviors, as well as psychiatric care to address mental health needs and implementation of SITCAP-ART (Trauma Intervention Program for Adjudicated and At-Risk Youth). Eight clinicians will receive trauma training. Additionally, checklists and outcome data will allow replication of new programs with fidelity. SITCAP-ART reduces symptoms of posttraumatic stress and other mental health and behavioral responses to traumatic experiences among delinquent youth.
- Florida used Byrne JAG funding for the Pinellas County Jail Diversion Expansion, a one year sub-grant for assessments, treatment and case management for the Pinellas County Mentally Ill Jail Diversion program. The program engages ex-offenders who have mental health and/or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders and provides treatment and case management assistance to them immediately upon release from jail or at the end of their prison sentence.
- In Florida, Byrne JAG funding is used to pay for the Osceola County Intensive Outpatient Program for Offenders. The one year grant will provide treatment services, individual, group and family therapy in combination with medication management for participants referred by the county drug court to the Intensive Outpatient Program. According to the Osceola County Public Safety Coordinating Council Re-entry Task Force 5-year Strategic Plan, Osceola County Corrections Department (OCCD) reports approximately 9 percent of the bookings represent drug offenses, and drug charges were the third most common type of offenses in 2010.
- In Georgia, Byrne JAG funds are blended with RSAT funding to support reentry and drug treatment services through the Department of Correction's Coastal Prison Strategic Intervention Program (SIP). The SIP diverts qualifying offenders sentenced to two years or less of prison time to three and six-month residential substance abuse treatment programs at one facility, followed by release to community supervision that includes aftercare. Offenders who are referred to programming have a Texas Christian University Drug Screen (TCUDS) score of three or higher. The six-month program, which is based upon the SAMSHA-created Therapeutic Community Model, targets high risk, high need offenders with a history of substance abuse as crime producing behavior leading to correctional supervision.
- In Illinois, Byrne JAG funding is used for the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Greater Chicago / National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Greater Chicago Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program, Advanced Juvenile CIT. There are three target populations for this program: Chicago police officers who want CIT training, Chicago Public School staff, and youth and families in need of mental health and/or social services. For Chicago police officers the intended outcomes are: enhanced potential for a safe outcome for both the officers and individuals in crisis; and enhanced officers' job satisfaction when they are empowered to identify and assist youth in need of mental health services to access services and divert arrests whenever possible. For Chicago Public School staff the intended outcomes are: increased awareness of mental health needs of their students; and 2 increased referrals of students and their family members to mental health resources. For the youth, the intended outcomes are to firmly connect the youth and their family members with needed mental, medical, and/or social services.
- In Illinois, Byrne JAG funding is used to help bridge the gap between mental health services provided to youth detained at the River Valley Detention Center and continuing community services once released from detention. These funds are used solely to pay for a licensed psychologist and two pre-doctoral interns who provide comprehensive psychological services to remanded youth. The primary goal of services include providing emotional support and crisis intervention, identifying and monitoring mental health symptoms, enhancing coping skills and social skills, improving impulse control and reducing the frequency of antisocial behavior. This is accomplished by individual and group therapy. In addition, this



funded team is responsible for completing court-ordered psychological evaluations, screenings, and substance abuse evaluations.

- Illinois' Byrne JAG funding was used by the 17th Judicial Circuit Court / Winnebago County Therapeutic Intervention Program to maintain essential services for justice-involved persons with mental illness through its Therapeutic Intervention Program (TIP). Currently, TIP, a collaboration between Winnebago County and the Janet Wattles Center, is a problem solving mental health court in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court in Winnebago County. Funding is used to support a dual disorder specialist, a gender-based trauma specialist, a nurse specialist; and a part-time family support specialist.
- In Illinois, Byrne JAG funding is used to fund the Illinois Center of Excellence (COE). Dedicated to improving outcomes for criminal justice-involved people with behavioral health disorders, the COE provides training and technical assistance to state and local criminal justice system stakeholders. Trainings include but are not limited to improving court practices, enhancing team functioning and cross-team training, increasing communication, increasing the use of and fidelity to evidence-based practices, developing of new courts and increasing statewide collaboration. Since its inception in 2012, the COE has provided training and assistance to more than 2,200 representatives.
- In Iowa, Byrne JAG funds supported crisis stabilization efforts within the Department of Corrections. Funds were used to implement tele-medicine services for the states rural prisons to assist offenders in mental health crisis obtain access to psychiatrists and other licensed medical/mental health staff. With many rural facilities lacking daily access to licensed psychiatrists, this effort sought to bridge the services gap between rural and urban institutions.
- In Minnesota, Byrne JAG funds support a mental health therapist position within the Carver County Jail Offender Release Program. This program aims to improve the mental health of jail inmates and reduce recidivism by providing mental health diagnosis, treatment, and offender reentry services to mentally ill inmates. A component of the program also allows eligible individuals in custody to complete insurance registration paperwork so upon release they are able to quickly enroll in a health insurance plan offered through the exchange.
- In Nebraska, Byrne JAG funding supports a pilot program for the Sarpy County Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program which uses a therapeutic approach to provide services to individuals with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system. Services reduce future contact with the system and employ an evidence based problem solving model.
- In North Carolina Byrne JAG funds the National Alliance on Mental Illness North Carolina to hold a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Conference for law enforcement, magistrates, judges, security, mental health crisis providers, advocates, school personnel, people with mental illness and their families with a focus on safer schools and ensuring CIT trained officers are present at scenes and with transport in cases involving someone with a mental illness.
- In North Carolina Byrne JAG funding is used by the Department of Public Safety to provide statewide mental health training for all probation officers and evaluate specialty mental health probation officer training. This project is a partnership with the UNC School of Social Work and the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse.
- In Pennsylvania, Byrne JAG funds support programs such as the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (CoE), which is a collaborate effort between Drexel University and Western Penn Psychiatric Institute in Pittsburgh. Collectively, they work on the development and improvement of programs serving adults with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system and promote the proliferation of evidence-based and promising practices by providing technical assistance in support of the start-up, operation and sustainability of jail diversion and reentry programs. Additionally, the CoE acts as



a clearinghouse for information and resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse. The CoE also serves as a resource for counties in implementing specialized behavioral health training for law enforcement and justice practitioners that includes: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT); CIT for Veterans; and Mental Health First Aid. The CoE also coordinates the annual Statewide CIT Meeting, where administrators of established CIT sites around the state share best practices.

- Pennsylvania Byrne JAG funds support system-wide training in Mental Health First Aid at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PADOC). The Mental Health First Aid course is a rigorously evaluated program proven to improve mental health literacy and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness. It is designed to give ordinary people the skills to help someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis or intervene early to prevent a crisis from occurring. With 22 percent of offenders at the PADOC diagnosed with a mental illness in 2012, the introductory level training complements the crisis intervention training and on-going operational improvements in support of the mentally ill population.
- In Rhode Island, Byrne JAG funds are used to support the Rhode Island Family Court Juvenile Mental Health Clinic 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 Tennessee, Byrne JAG funds a collaborative initiative between the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association and the Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services of Tennessee to provide officers involved in a shooting with trauma debriefing and counseling to help them work through any residual trauma or post-traumatic stress associated with the shooting. This assistance is, in part, provided by their peers as well as licensed counseling professionals. Training and debriefings by these supportive peers and counseling professionals is part of the project.
- In Virginia, Byrne JAG funds support a behavioral health awareness campaign within the Virginia Department of Veterans Services' Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP). The four-year project is a partnership between the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and Mental Health America and has trained more than 1,500 professionals, including judges, magistrates, attorneys, law enforcement, community corrections and probation and parole personnel on the behavioral health and post-deployment issues facing returning veterans.

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.