

Support for State and Local Problem Solving Courts

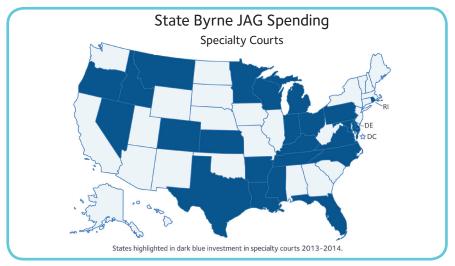
State Formula Spending for the Byrne JAG Program

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 forto 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 Problem Solving Courts

In 2013-2014, 24 SAAs provided over \$20 million to support problem solving court operations, treatment services and information management systems. During this time Byrne JAG funds supported at least 135 specialty courts and an additional 10 projects which provided ancillary support for court operations. One of three major federal grant programs responsible for the national adoption of problem solving courts; Byrne JAG spending on speciality courts has historically hovered between 4-8 percent of SAAs state Byrne JAG allocation.



Problem Solving Court Projects

In Delaware, Byrne JAG funding was used to support the purchase and implementation of a management information system that supports multiple specialty court dockets across the state. This system provides a data collection platform for multiple dockets including mental health

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 PUBLIC DEFENSE

Currently 24 states fund speciality court initiatives and programs with the state formula portion of Byrne JAG. These funds supported at least 135 specialty courts and an additional 10 projects which provided ancillary support for court operations.





NCJA Center for Justice Planning

ABOUT NCJP

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courts, drug courts, and a juvenile gun court. The new management information system will not only enhance the efficiency of the court but also enhance the ability of the courts to collect data, monitor outputs and evaluate longer term outcomes.

- In 2013, due to the success of the New Castle County Mental Health Court, Byrne JAG funding supported the creation of two new mental health courts in Sussex and Kent counties. With the addition of these new courts, there are now mental health courts in every county in the state.
- In Indiana, Byrne JAG funds supported 10 specialty courts in Marion, Grant, Madison, Park, Monroe, Hancock, Lawrence and Delaware counties. Funds support a range of problem solving court dockets including adult and juvenile drug, reentry, community corrections and mental health courts.
- In Kansas, Byrne JAG funds support the Topeka Municipal Alternative Sentencing Court (ASC) for misdemeanor offenders who suffer from a diagnosed serious mental illness. The ASC is a collaboration between the City of Topeka Municipal Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the Probation Office, the Topeka Police Department, and the Shawnee County Adult Detention Center.
- In Maryland, Byrne JAG funds were used to support drug and mental health court dockets in Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, and Charles counties and in Baltimore City. Funds were spent on specialty court administrative functions including court coordinators, mobile drug testing equipment, treatment services and enhanced supervision efforts.
- In Michigan, Byrne JAG funds support 14 specialty courts overseen by the State Court Administrative Office. Funds support diversion efforts specifically for adult felony probation violators and felony offenders who, based on Michigan Sentencing Guidelines, would otherwise be sent to prison.
- In Minnesota, Byrne JAG funds support a mental health court in the Sixth Judicial District and two drug courts in the Fifth Judicial District. In addition, funding was used for enhanced mental health services for a drug court, a DWI court, and mental health courts in Hennepin County and mental health enhancements to two drug courts in the Fifth Judicial District.
- In Mississippi, Byrne JAG funds support the implementation of 12 adult and juvenile drug court
 dockets throughout the state. In addition to funding the creation of these new dockets, the SAA
 has made implementation assistance available through The Mississippi Association of Drug Court
 Professionals (MADCP). MADCP ensures that the dockets are implemented with fidelity to the
 national drug court model.
- In North Carolina, Byrne JAG funds support veterans' treatment courts in Cumberland, Buncombe and Harnett counties and an adult drug court in Lee County. Participants in the veterans and drug courts are provided with evidence-based behavioral health treatment. The states three veterans' courts are tied into comprehensive treatment and rehabilitative services offered through the Department of Veterans Affairs.





- In Ohio, Byrne JAG funds were used to support 13 specialty courts in 2013 and 12 specialty
 courts in 2014. Specialty courts include veterans' treatment, drug, mental health, juvenile and
 domestic violence dockets. To ensure these specialty courts are using established best practices
 each docket is required to receive certification through the specialized docket section of the
 Ohio Supreme Court. The specialty docket section provides technical support for the implementation of specialty dockets.
- In Oregon, Byrne JAG funds support 14 of the state's network of 74 specialty courts. Funding
 provides drug treatment, operations, monitoring and wrap around services. Of the 14 specialty
 courts, Byrne JAG funds support a family court, a veterans' court and 12 adult and juvenile drug
 courts. As the largest single Byrne JAG investment in the state, the SAA is continually monitoring outcomes and recently completed a randomized controlled trial of four adult drug courts in
 the state.
- In Tennessee, Byrne JAG funds enhanced a state initiative to support the creation of multiple
 veterans' treatment courts throughout the state. Byrne JAG funds were used to support training
 and implementation assistance through the Administrative Office of the Courts for local jurisdictions seeking to start these specialty dockets.
- In Texas, Byrne JAG funds were used to support 28 problem solving courts around the state.
 These dockets included adult, juvenile and family drug courts, mental health courts, veterans' courts and prostitution prevention courts. Due to the success of these dockets, beginning in 2015/2016 these courts will now be supported with dedicated state funding.
- In Wisconsin, Byrne JAG funds have historically been used to support the implementation and expansion of specialty courts through the state's Treatment Alternatives to Diversion (TAD) program. In 2013 and 2014 Byrne JAG funds supported nine specialty court expansion grants and two initial implementation grants. In an effort to ensure implementation with fidelity, Byrne JAG funds have also been used to create a statewide drug court coordinator to assist localities with expansion and implementation. This position also supports the development of a web-based reporting system for participant data for treatment courts and diversion programs statewide. Specialty courts include seven adult drug courts in Wood, Dunn, Outagamie, Chippewa, Pierce, Dodge and Winnebago counties; three DUI courts in Bayfield, Dodge and Walworth counties; a mental health court in Kenosha County; and a veterans' treatment court in Racine County.

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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