



State Support for Prosecution and Court Initiatives

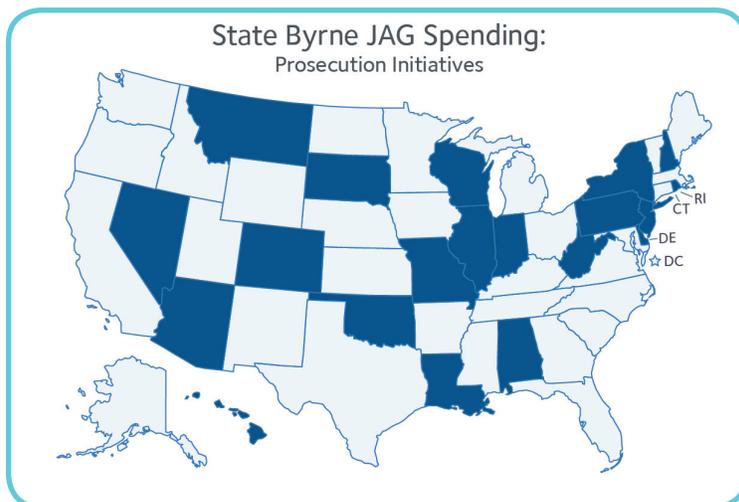
State Formula Spending for the Byrne JAG Program

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 Prosecution and Court Initiatives

The 20 states highlighted in dark blue on the map below are among the states that reported using Byrne JAG funding for prosecution and court related projects in 2013-2014. Prosecution and court program initiatives accounted for 6 percent of all state formula Byrne JAG funding, totaling about \$12 million. These initiatives include case management systems; statewide trainings; enhanced prosecution projects; and prosecutor-involved multi-jurisdictional taskforces for things like electronic crimes, drugs, gangs, and violent crime. Please note, this information is self-reported and there may be additional states using Byrne JAG funds for this purpose.



Examples of Prosecution and Court Projects

- Alabama established the Joint Electronic Crimes Task Force (JECTF) at the University of Alabama in August 2014. It was created through a partnership between the Department of Criminal Justice and local law enforcement agencies. The lab assists local and national law enforcement officials with processing digital evidence for use in cybercrime prosecutions.

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 & PROSECUTION

At least 20 states fund prosecution and court-related initiatives with the state formula portion of Byrne JAG funding. These initiatives include case management systems; statewide trainings; enhanced prosecution projects; and prosecutor-involved multi-jurisdictional taskforces for things like electronic crimes, drugs, gangs, and violent crime.



ABOUT NCJP

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- In Colorado through the use of Byrne JAG funding, the Denver District Attorney's Office successfully developed the witness protection case management system for judicial districts throughout the state. Currently the U.S. Marshalls, CDAC, 18th Judicial, 4th Judicial, 17th Judicial, and 7th Judicial are working together with the Denver District Attorney's Office to review the software's capabilities. Law enforcement personnel along with administrative staff are receiving training from the vendor. This training is held via a live feed from Social Solutions. Social Solution's computer screen projects to those receiving the training so they can learn firsthand how to navigate the software. This training teaches investigators how to operate the system when out in the field, enabling them to successfully upload case information in a real time. Administrative personnel learn how to operate the software from the back end, enabling reports and data entry requirements to be successfully completed. The project was successful in designing a case management system for witness protection needs and distributing the software to judicial districts throughout the state.
- In Illinois, Byrne JAG funds are used to support a statewide network of specialized drug prosecutors who work with multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task forces to build strong cases that target the distribution of drugs. Funds also support a crime analyst in Lake County, Illinois, that provides intelligence briefings for more than 30 communities. In addition, Byrne JAG funds support the Systemic Sentencing Appeals program at the Office of the State's Attorneys' Appellate Prosecutor, which handles appeals for all counties with populations under 300,000. This Appeals program was created as a complement to the Byrne JAG-funded Systemic Sentencing Appeals program at the Office of the State Appellate Defender to provide the balanced resources necessary to facilitate timely resolution of these appeals.
- In Louisiana, Byrne JAG funding supports a statewide training initiative conducted by the Louisiana District Attorneys Association on racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations (RICO) and the prosecution of organized criminal networks. The RICO training provides prosecutors and law enforcement officers knowledge of current technology and laws to aid in detection, apprehension and court room skills for successful case results.
- In New Hampshire, the New Hampshire 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 New Jersey, the Attorney General's State Police Organized Crime, Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force, uses an intelligence-led policing model to target violent street gangs and narcotics traffickers from three regional bureaus in the northern, central and southern areas of the state. The statewide Division of Criminal Justice Multi-Jurisdictional Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force works collaboratively with federal, county and local law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute members of criminal gang and gun trafficking organizations whose operations cross county jurisdictions or state boundaries.
- In New York, Byrne JAG funding is used for enhanced prosecution projects in five District Attorneys' offices: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond as well as for a grant to the New York City Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. These funds are used to enhance the investigation and prosecution



tion of drug and firearms trafficking, gangs, and drug/gang related violent crimes throughout the city of New York. The focus is on multi-agency cooperation to target large-scale drug and gun trafficking organizations and the violent crime that is often associated with them.

- In Oklahoma, Byrne JAG funding is used for 13 multi-jurisdictional drug and violent crime taskforces that cover 37 of the state's 77 counties. These taskforces are run out of the local District Attorney's office help taskforce personnel improve evidentiary chains, investigative protocols and collect actionable information. Additionally, the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, which is the State Administering Agency, works with the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center to evaluate the adoption of federally identified best practices for multi-jurisdictional taskforce operations.
- In Pennsylvania, Byrne JAG funds support joint training for prosecutors and law enforcement personnel developed and administered by the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI). PDAI offers a variety of courses that provide timely training on criminal case law, evidence issues, criminal procedure, courtroom protocol, and newly enacted legislation and policies. Because the law is constantly changing and expanding, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel need this on-going, standardized, statewide training and resources to stay abreast of the vast array of legal issues they face on a daily basis.

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.