



Support for State and Local Public Defense

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 for 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.

ABOUT BYRNE JAG

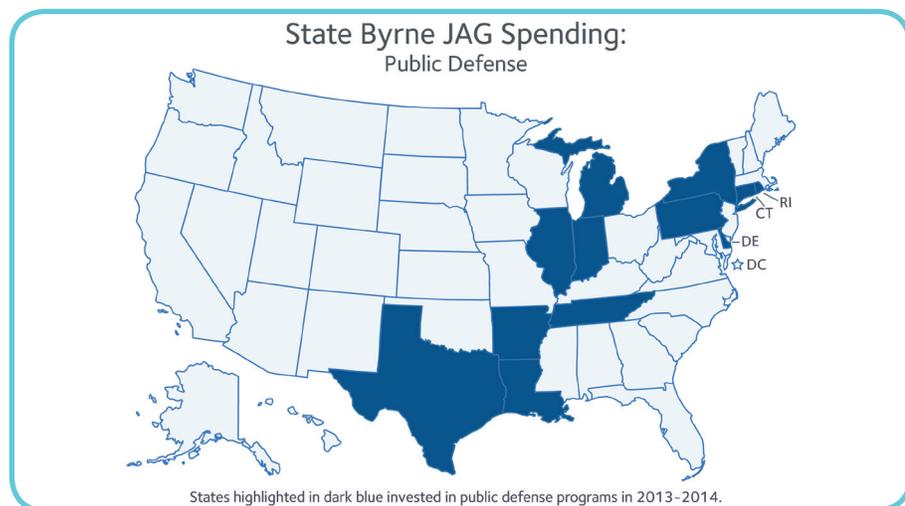
The Byrne JAG program was funded at \$376 million in FY 14. For many years funding levels hovered around \$500 million. Since FY10 funding for the program has been cut by one-third in the name of deficit reduction.

BYRNE JAG AND PUBLIC DEFENSE

Currently 12 states fund public defense initiatives with the state formula portion of Byrne JAG. These initiatives include programs that fund dedicated social workers, psycho-forensic evaluators, case management software, trainings and case review.

Byrne JAG Support for Public Defense

In 2013-2014 12 SAAs provided over \$4 million for state and local public defense initiatives. This represents a dramatic increase from the \$1.3 million provided to indigent defense in 2012, a year in which SAAs administered nearly 33 percent more in Byrne JAG funding.



Statewide Public Defense Projects

- In Connecticut, Byrne JAG funding supported the development of a management information system for the Division of Public Defender Services (DPDS) juvenile caseload. The new digital system will enhance the ability of public defenders to track case disposition, collect outcome data, manage schedules, route communications and generate reports. Specifically Byrne JAG funds supported equipment purchases and technical assistance services to design, pilot and test the system.



NCJA Center for Justice Planning

ABOUT NCJP

The NCJA Center for Justice Planning is a project of the National Criminal Justice Association. To learn more about NCJP and our work please visit www.ncjp.org.

To learn more about the National Criminal Justice Association, please visit www.ncja.org.

ABOUT BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to make our nation's communities safer. To learn more, visit www.bja.gov.



- In Connecticut, Byrne JAG funds also supported the pilot phase of the DPDS, Domestic Violence Social Worker Pilot Program. Byrne JAG was used to support culturally sensitive wrap-around services, treatment planning and domestic violence education. The social workers help clients address the underlying issues that perpetuate the cycle of domestic violence.
- In Delaware, Byrne JAG funding supports two full-time evaluators in the State Office of the Public Defender's Psycho-Forensic Unit. These psycho-forensic evaluators support the work of public defenders by obtaining relevant background information on a client's medical, mental health and substance abuse history; connecting clients with treatment services; developing client-specific plans for conditional pretrial release; and making recommendations for alternatives to incarceration.
- In Michigan, Byrne JAG funds supported the State Appellate Defender Office's (SADO) Wrongful Conviction Unit. Specifically, funding was used to support efforts to open old cases that may have been influenced by testing errors by the now defunct Detroit Crime Lab. In response to changes in the states mandatory minimum drug sentencing laws, SADO used Byrne JAG funding to review cases where defendants may be eligible for a reduced sentence or release from incarceration.
- In Pennsylvania, Byrne JAG funds supported the development of juvenile defender trainings through the Juvenile Defender's Association of Pennsylvania. Funds were used to develop, update and provide training on [Pennsylvania's Juvenile Defense Notebook](#) and the [Performance Guidelines for Quality and Effective Juvenile Delinquency Representation](#).

Local Public Defense Projects

- In Arkansas, Byrne JAG funds support the public defender position in the Sixth Judicial District's Veterans Treatment Court. Supported with Byrne JAG funds since 2010, the court works to divert veterans with behavioral health disorders from state and local justice systems and into U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs funded outpatient or residential treatment.
- In Illinois, Byrne JAG funding supports the Cook County Public Defender's Office's Public Defender Mitigation Project. Effective mitigation at sentencing can reduce correctional spending, impact sentence length and help divert offenders with unmet behavioral health needs. Funding was used for staff positions and to support supervision for 10 interns. It's estimated that the projects has multiplied the office's mitigation efforts tenfold with no additional funds beyond the grant.
- In Nebraska, Byrne JAG funds support an alternative sentencing pilot project in the Douglas County Public Defender's Office. Funds also support a Community Resource Coordinator position that identifies treatment needs, schedules evaluations, connects clients to community resources, and presents treatment-related alternatives sentencing plans. The coordinator also developed a comprehensive community resources manual. This guide, along with current resource material will be translated into multiple languages for non-English speaking residents.



- In New York, Byrne JAG funds support various public defense projects in Erie, Onondaga, Monroe, Nassau, and Suffolk counties as well as New York City. These projects include expansion of indigent defense services, legal and case management services to reduce pre-trial incarceration, representation and advocacy for treatment alternatives for defendants charged with non-violent offenses, and representation of those charged with sex crimes in a specialized sex offender court.
- In Ohio, Byrne JAG funds support an alternative sentencing social worker position in the Athens branch of the state public defender's office. The social worker provides assessment and referral services to individuals awaiting adjudication as well as those currently on community supervision. Funds support mental health and substance abuse assessment, targeted case management, referral services, and alternative sanctioning case planning.
- In Tennessee, Byrne JAG funds supports social service positions in the Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office. These positions focus on mitigation, reentry planning, behavioral health and workforce development referrals.

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.