



# State Support for Victims Services

## 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](http://ncjp.org/byrne_jag).

### ABOUT BYRNE JAG

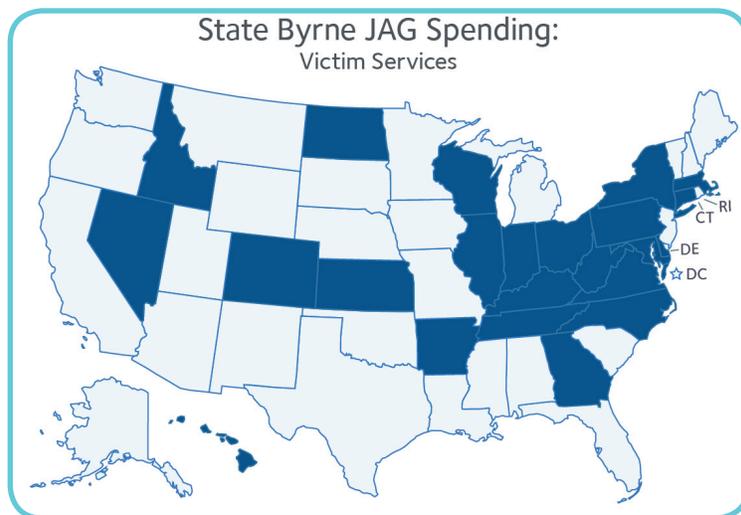
The Byrne JAG program was funded at \$376 million in FY14. For many years funding levels hovered around \$500 million. Since FY10 funding for the program has been cut by one-third in the name of deficit reduction.

### BYRNE JAG & VICTIMS SERVICES

At least 23 states fund victims-related initiatives with the state formula portion of Byrne JAG funding. These initiatives include elder abuse victim specialists; restorative justice programs; victim assistance academies; family crisis centers; victim advocate positions; and domestic violence initiatives.

### Byrne JAG Support for Victims Services

The 23 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 elder abuse victim specialists; restorative justice programs; victim assistance academies; family crisis centers; victim advocate positions; and domestic violence initiatives. Please note, this information is self-reported and there may be additional states using Byrne JAG funds for this purpose.



### Examples of Victims Services

- In Colorado, Byrne JAG funds support an Elder Abuse Victims Specialist position which focuses on providing specialized advocacy for victims over the age of 60 in the city of Denver. It includes contacting victims prior to arraignment, safety planning, making appropriate community referrals, assessing risk factors, and assisting victims throughout trials.



## 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](http://www.ncjp.org).

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- In Delaware, Byrne JAG funds the restorative justice program, Victims' Voices Heard. Victims of violent crimes have the opportunity to communicate face-to-face with their perpetrator and perpetrators have the opportunity to take responsibility, which gives survivors have an active role in the justice process.
- In Hawaii, Byrne JAG funds support efforts by the Hawaii Police Department to train and retain sexual assault nurse examiners.
- In Idaho, Byrne JAG funding is used for the Idaho Victim Assistance Academy, which provides multi-disciplinary training for state and local justice professionals. The Academy focuses on best practices when working with victims and helps participants better understand the needs of and services available to sexual and domestic violence victims. The Academy is run by the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.
- In Kansas, Byrne JAG funds support a Family Crisis Center in Great Bend for families experiencing domestic and sexual violence. A portion of the funds support an outreach coordinator position for domestic violence advocacy.
- In North Dakota, Byrne JAG funds support forensic interviewing and examination services through the Sanford Bismarck Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC). Funds support culturally competent and age appropriate forensic interviewing, examination and intervention services to children who are victims of or witnesses to crimes.
- In Massachusetts, Byrne JAG funds a network of victims' advocates in 20 courts throughout the state. Byrne JAG funds, blended with those from the Massachusetts Office of Victims Assistance, support court advocate training to helping victims navigate the paperwork associated with obtaining restraining orders, protective orders and child support orders.
- In Ohio, Byrne JAG funds are blended with VAWA funds to support a variety of domestic violence initiatives across the state. These initiatives fund a cyber-stalking investigator position, domestic violence advocates, case management, crisis hotlines, shelter services and child advocacy centers.
- In Tennessee, Byrne JAG funds support training for group facilitators to conduct victim impact classes for offenders in the Tennessee Department of Correction facilities and in probation and parole offices throughout the state. Coordination between the Department of Correction and the Board of Parole has led to more offenders taking part in these evidence-informed programs while in custody or under supervision.
- In Wisconsin, Byrne JAG funding is used to support the Attorney General's statewide Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) efforts in 38 counties. Funds assist teams with planning, training and technical assistance. These multidisciplinary response teams provide direct intervention to sexual assault victims as they interact with the criminal justice system by coordinating effective investigative and prosecutorial efforts while working with the victim. SART teams include representatives from law enforcement, SANE, victim advocates and prosecution.



## 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.