

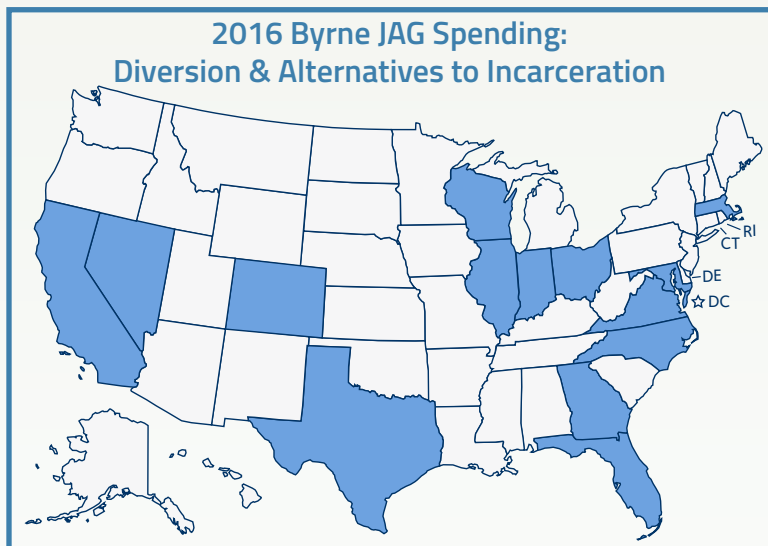
# How States Invest Byrne JAG in Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration Programs

## 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. Byrne JAG is used broadly for law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning evaluation and technology, mental health services, and crime victim and witness programs. This breadth and flexibility means states and local communities can use Byrne JAG to balance resources and address problems across the entire criminal justice system, and to react quickly to urgent challenges and changing circumstances. The Byrne JAG program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, provides grant funding to thousands of justice and public safety agencies and initiatives each year. To learn more about Byrne JAG visit: <http://www.ncja.org/ncja/policy/about-byrne-jag>.

## 2016 Byrne JAG Spending Study

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2016 Byrne JAG Spending Study conducted by the National Criminal Justice Association. Financial data was submitted by and qualitative interviews were conducted with all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This information was self-reported and additional states may also use Byrne JAG funds for a specific project type.



## Support for Diversion Programs & Alternatives to Incarceration

Byrne JAG funding supported diversion and alternatives to incarceration programs in at least 13 states, highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$5 million (not including California) in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These initiatives included: diversion programs for at-risk juveniles; diversion and treatment programs for substance abusers; law enforcement assisted diversion programs; pre-trial diversion programs; and specialty court programs.

## Examples of Alternatives to Incarceration & Diversion Programs

- In Colorado, Byrne JAG funds support Project Wellness, a diversion opportunity offered by the 1st Judicial District Juvenile Mental Health Court. This program serves high-risk, high-need juveniles who are involved in justice system and have been diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness. Project Wellness works to reduce recidivism by using a multidisciplinary approach and allowing a designated coordinator to ensure adherence to evidence based practices.
- In Massachusetts, Byrne JAG funds support the Buyer Diversion Treatment Alternative (BDTA) program, currently operating in four counties. Funds support partnerships between each county's District Attorney and local police departments to provide funding for treatment beds.

Byrne JAG grants are a catalyst for collaboration within communities and across states. This cross-jurisdictional model is being replicated across the country to tackle cross-boundary crimes, like drug and human trafficking and cyber crime, while saving money and increasing efficiency.

- In Broward County, Florida, Byrne JAG funds are being used to help fund comprehensive diversionary program services targeted toward juvenile offenders or young people who are at-risk of entering the criminal justice system. These services include counseling, supportive intervention and life skill training.
- In Maryland, Byrne JAG funds support behavioral Health System Baltimore's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program works in collaboration with law enforcement to connect participants, who have substance-use disorders and mental health conditions, with intensive treatment. The program helps to decrease criminal justice system utilization and improve relations between law enforcement and community members.
- San Diego County, California provides a continuum of detention alternatives to juvenile offenders who do not require secure detention, which include assessment, referral, case advocacy, home detention, reporting centers, non-secure shelter, intensive case management and wraparound family support services.
- Byrne JAG funds in Wisconsin support the implementation and expansion of pre-trial diversion programs throughout the state in coordination with the state's Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program. In 2015 and 2016 Byrne JAG funds support six prosecutor-led pre-trial diversion programs in Milwaukee, Dane, Fond du Lac, St. Croix, Winnebago and Walworth counties.
- In North Carolina, Byrne JAG funds support Veteran's Treatment Courts in Forsyth and Cumberland counties. These courts offer individualized and comprehensive treatment to veterans charged with misdemeanors or

nonviolent felonies to lower the recidivism rate for veterans charged with nonviolent crimes. Court personnel collaborate with the VA medical center, local providers, peer mentors, educational providers and other community agencies to provide treatment.

- In Ohio, Byrne JAG funds help support juvenile court dockets for diversion and community integration programming. Through organizations like Lighthouse Youth Services, funds support wrap around services to prevent youth from further involvement with the criminal justice system.

## How Byrne JAG Funding is Awarded:

Sixty percent of the overall Byrne JAG grant is awarded to the state criminal justice planning agency (known as the State Administering Agency or SAA), which, in turn, awards the funding, to local governments and non-profit service providers; the remaining 40 percent goes directly from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to local communities based on population and crime data.

Funding is authorized at \$1.1 billion annually. At its peak in FY02, Congress appropriated \$830 million. In subsequent years, funding held steady at about \$500 million. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in FY09 provided a one-time boost of \$2 billion. Since FY10, funding has dropped by about one-third. In FY17 the program was funded at \$335 million.

States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution, indigent defense, corrections, crisis intervention and behavioral health services, victim assistance, and other community-based supports and services.

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