

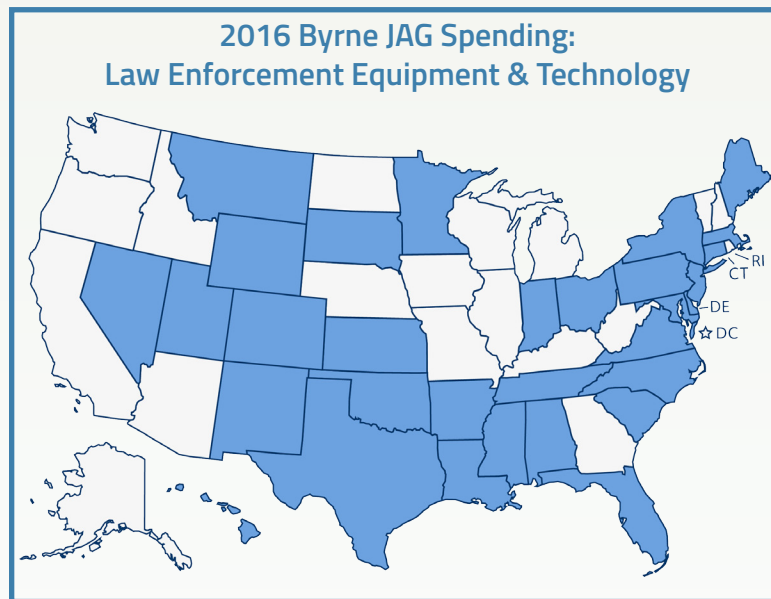
How States Invest Byrne JAG in Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment

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 Law Enforcement Technology & Equipment

Byrne JAG funding supported law enforcement technology and equipment purchases in at least 31 states, which are highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$18 million in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These purchases included investigative software, body worn cameras, digital radios, Livescan fingerprint technology, communications systems upgrades, mobile data terminals, recording equipment, tasers and naxalone. Many states also provide equipment grants to small or rural jurisdictions to purchase necessary items they would not have access to otherwise.

Examples of Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Purchases

- In Arkansas, Byrne JAG funding is used for 200 small equipment grants for local law enforcement agencies. Grants usually provide funding to purchase a variety of safety equipment, technologies including body worn cameras, digital radios and in-car computers as well as uniforms and items for field operations. The majority of the law enforcement agencies who participate in this grant program are located in rural areas of the state and lack the general revenues to purchase necessary items for officer's protection and safety as well as items for enforcement activities and operations.

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 Minnesota, Byrne JAG funds support investigative software and equipment used by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in the Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigative Task Force.
- South Carolina uses Byrne JAG funds to purchase equipment for regional drug analysis labs to increase the ability to rapidly analyze evidence and return accurate results to requesting state agencies. This program provides substantial reduction of drug analysis backlog.
- In Kansas, the Jackson County Sheriff Department uses Byrne JAG funds to update in-car computer terminals to assist officers and dispatchers allowing them quicker access to information during service calls, traffic stops, and allowing the department to better schedule officer resources.
- In Florida, funds support enhancement of technology equipment for local agencies through the purchase of computer-aided dispatch systems, mobile data terminals, and body worn cameras. Florida also uses Byrne JAG funds to enhance local agency public safety equipment for officers and law enforcement first responders for active shooter incidents.
- In Mississippi, Byrne JAG funds support equipment and technology purchases for 85 small to medium law enforcement agencies. Some of the most common purchases include, but are not limited to, bullet proof vests, tasers, body worn cameras, patrol cars, in-car computers, radios and repeaters.
- In Virginia, in response to the heroin and opioid epidemic, Byrne JAG funds have supported the purchase of nalox-

one kits for local law enforcement agencies. Qualifying law enforcement agencies must ensure officers go through the REVIVE training course offered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services on the proper use and administration of naloxone.

- Byrne JAG funds in Indiana support the Indiana State Police in obtaining technology to develop three-dimensional images of high risk public buildings, such as schools, in order to aid first responders in the event of an active shooter event.

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.

This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2016-DP-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions are those of the authors.