

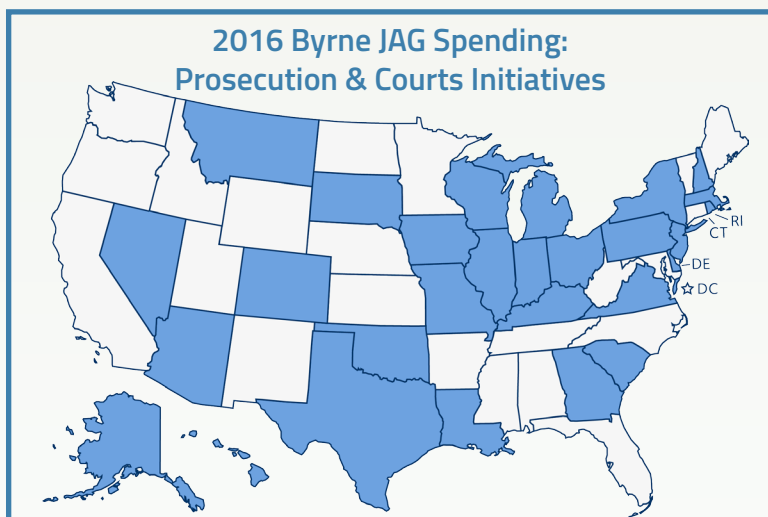
How States Invest Byrne JAG in Prosecution and Courts

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>.

About the 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.



Byrne JAG Support for Prosecution & Courts

Byrne JAG funding supported prosecution and court related initiatives in at least 29 states, highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$17 million in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These initiatives included: training for prosecutors and court personnel, enhanced prosecution projects, dedicated prosecutors and court personnel positions, specialized prosecution initiatives, and courtroom improvement and technology projects.

Examples of Prosecution & Courts Projects

- Byrne JAG funds in New Jersey support the Prosecutor’s Supervision Training Initiative on investigating and prosecuting gang and drug cases, facilitated through the NJ Division of Criminal Justice. The initiative offers training to state, county and local law enforcement officers engaged in the investigation of gangs, drugs and related violent criminal activity.
- The Pennsylvania District Attorney’s Institute is using Byrne JAG funds to develop and offer educational materials and resources to prosecutors statewide. The trainings focus on criminal law practice, procedure, and investigation. This project also provides technical assistance to prosecutors and other related professionals on legal issues relevant to adults and juveniles.

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 New York, Byrne JAG funds support enhanced prosecution projects in all five New York City counties district attorneys' offices as well as the NYC Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. Funds are used to enhance the investigation and prosecution of drug and firearms trafficking, gangs, and drug/gang related violent crimes throughout New York City with a focus on multi-agency cooperation targeting large-scale drug and gun trafficking organizations and associated violent crime.
- Byrne JAG funds support a drug prosecution coordinator position for an eastern Montana . This prosecution coordinator is tasked with addressing the challenges of drug investigations in 16 counties and on the Fort Peck Reservation in areas affected by the Bakken Oil Boom. The prosecutor serves as a statewide resource to promote consistency in the conviction of drug offenses, acts as a liaison with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and promotes drug prevention through public education.
- In Hawaii Byrne JAG fund support a project to improve language access in the courts through the translation of key court documents into 14 different languages. The effort also helps to screen and test translators for proficiency and provides them with practice tools for improvement.
- In South Dakota, Byrne JAG supports a prosecution team in the Attorney General's Office to work on drug and violent crime cases. This team also works with other state and local law enforcement agencies on related cases.
- Byrne JAG funds in New Hampshire are used to support a scholarship fund which allows court personnel to attend a regional drug court conference.

- In South Carolina, Byrne JAG funds statewide court room technology enhancements. Ten magistrate and municipal courts across the state received computers, televisions, document cameras, software, scanners, surveillance camera systems, walk-through and handheld metal detectors, and digital recording equipment.
- Byrne JAG funds in Oklahoma support prosecution programs in Tulsa and Oklahoma City that focus on gang related crime. Specialized prosecutors work with local law enforcement to investigate cases that have a gang nexus.

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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