

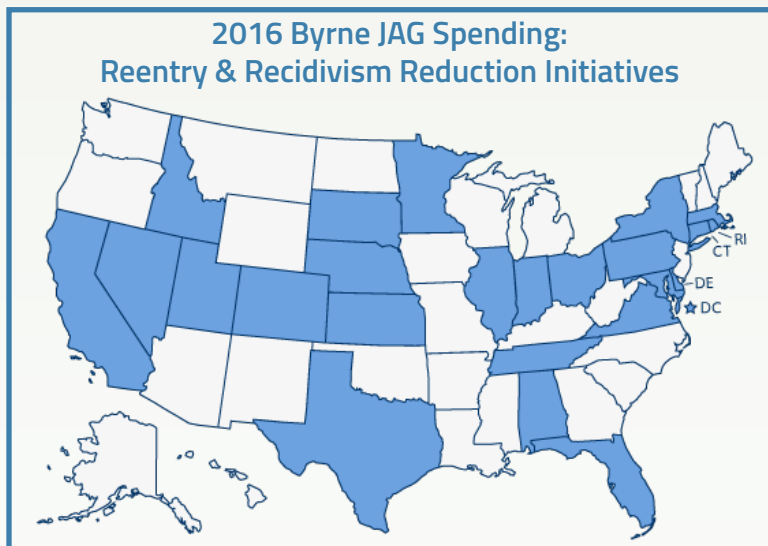
## How States Invest Byrne JAG in Reentry and Recidivism Reduction Initiatives

### 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 Reentry and Recidivism Reduction

Byrne JAG funding supported corrections and community corrections programs in at least 26 states, highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$10 million (not including California) in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These initiatives included: workforce development and jobs training, housing, transportation, case management services, training for parole and probation staff, mental health and substance abuse treatment, family re-unification and other community supports.

### Examples of Reentry and Recidivism Reduction Initiatives

- In Minnesota, Byrne JAG funds support eight recidivism reduction programs that provide pre-and post-release services to a variety of populations including men, women, and juveniles around the state. Programming is based on evidence-based practices and includes wrap around services, cognitive peer coaching, case management to address stable housing, mental health, substance abuse, and employment. One program, the Domestic Violence Restorative Circles (DVRC) program with Men As Peacemakers helps offenders transition back into the community through restorative justice circles, making victims and the community safer. System partners express a high degree of satisfaction with the program, feel that DVRC increases offender accountability, is responsive to the needs of victims, provides valuable information to systems partners, and seems the most impactful option available to change offender thinking and behavior.

- Byrne JAG funding in Colorado supports the 10th Judicial District's Addict 2 Athlete (A2A) Program which is based on the core principles of pro-social services by active engagement of individuals in a structured eight-week exercise and learning program that includes substance abuse education, cognitive restructuring, life skills, and development of biological, sociological, and environmental strategies essential in helping individuals abstain from self-damaging behavior.
- In the District of Columbia, Byrne JAG funds support Community Family Life Services (CFLS), which provides housing and case management services for successful reunification of families from the District of Columbia who are housed at DC Correctional Treatment Facility as well as U.S. Bureau of Prisons facilities. CFLS offers services for female returning citizens who are victims of trauma and/or who have co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.
- In Texas Byrne JAG funding supports the expansion of re-entry programs that include individualized treatment and coordinated case management services.
- Byrne JAG funds in Utah support the Utah Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) a statewide criminal justice reform effort intended to reduce recidivism, hold offenders accountable and control corrections spending. Byrne JAG funding, in combination with other state resources, funds evidence-based supervision/ transition programs and practices implemented by the county jails to reduce recidivism and the number of offenders per capita.
- In Nevada, Byrne JAG funds support reentry services for individuals returning to Washoe County following incarceration. Funds support transitional housing, drug treatment and supportive employment services through two local non-profits.
- In Alabama, Byrne JAG funding supports the partnership between the City of Montgomery and A Cut Above the Rest Training Facility to train ex-offenders and other hard-to-place workers for employment in the construction industry. This program is essential for helping reduce high recidivism rates among ex-offenders in Alabama, as well as removing barriers to successful reentry by providing education and vocational opportunities.
- Funds in Rhode Island support the RI Department of Corrections' Recidivism Reduction Project, which proactively addresses the treatment needs of individuals battling mental illness who are at risk of re-offending. Using a multidisciplinary approach, behavioral health staff from the DOC work in coordination with probation and parole officers to deliver effective treatment.
- Byrne JAG funds in Maryland support the Baltimore City District Court's Re-Entry Services program which helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program reduces recidivism in Baltimore City by connecting residents with job opportunities and educational training.

## 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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