

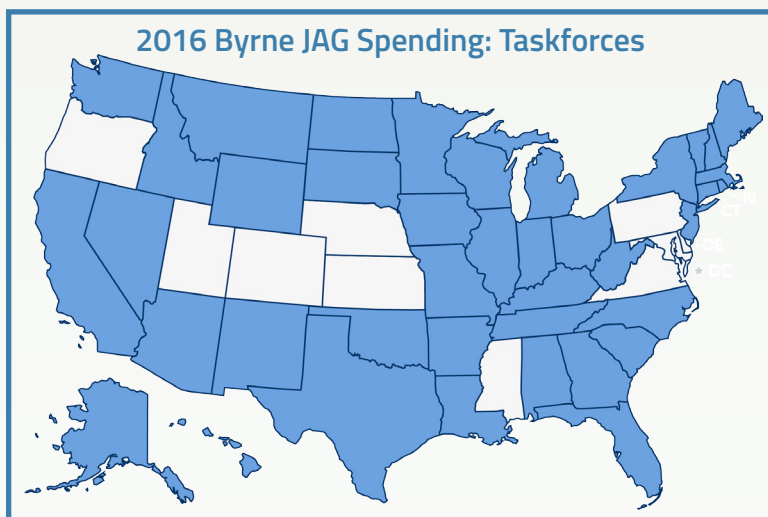
## How States Invest Byrne JAG in Law Enforcement Taskforces

### 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 Multi-jurisdictional Taskforces

Byrne JAG funding supported multi-jurisdictional law enforcement taskforces in at least 40 states, which are highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$36 million (not including California) in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These multi-jurisdictional taskforces fight drugs, gangs, weapons and violent crime. They include federal, state, local and county law enforcement as well as dedicated prosecutors.

### Examples of Byrne JAG Supported Taskforces

- Byrne JAG funds in Kentucky support 11 Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces. These funds support a wide range of interdiction needs and assist task forces in implementing best practice models. In an effort to improve the effectiveness of enforcement, Byrne JAG funds were used to fund dedicated prosecutors to assist two of the drug task forces with strengthening the evidentiary chain and improving enforcement outcomes. Byrne JAG funds were also awarded to the Bowling Green – Warren County Drug Task Force to support the Kentucky Narcotic Officer’s Conference which highlighted The Naked Truth About Marijuana, Drug Related Death Investigations and Detecting Deception.
- In South Carolina, Byrne JAG funds support for one multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional gang task force through the Richland County Sheriff’s Office, as well as a street gang unit through the Colleton County Sheriff’s Office.

## 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 Alaska , Byrne JAG supports the Statewide Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force and Prosecution program, which is a cooperative law enforcement and prosecution effort involving several criminal justice agencies with jurisdiction over different areas of the state, sharing the common goal of addressing illegal drugs and alcohol and violent crime problems in Alaska. The program enables law enforcement and prosecution agencies in different jurisdictions to work together as a single entity with the ability to improve communication, share intelligence, and coordinate activities. This allows for more efficient use of resources and targeting of offenders whose activities cross jurisdictional boundaries. Alaska also provides a large state share of funding to support this program effort.
- Byrne JAG funds in New Jersey support the Atlantic City Organized Crime Task Force, which directly supports and supplements local law enforcement activities within the Tourism District by focusing, through intelligence-led policing, on the interdiction, apprehension and prosecution of gang members, weapons traffickers and narcotics distributors.
- In Washington , Byrne JAG support the state's 17 regional multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces. The SAA maintains quality control and conducts evaluations through a peer review evaluation process that assesses performance and offers training on best practices for task force management. An oversight board made up of representatives from the county, state and local law enforcement and prosecution helps to guide the work of each multi-agency interdiction team. These accountability standards draw upon best practices endorsed by the DEA and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- In West Virginia, Byrne JAG funds support 13 multi-jurisdictional task forces that have been a pioneering initiative

in the battle against violent crime and drug abuse for several years. The state currently has one statewide task force and several local task forces, spanning five counties. The task forces are made up of officers at the local, county, state, and federal levels, allowing for more effective coordination and use of combined resources and improving public safety in the fight against drugs and violent crime.

- In New Mexico , Byrne JAG funds support all violent crime related facets of the criminal justice system throughout the state that including Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces (MJTFs) that specifically target violent criminal offenses, violent fugitives and violent gang members. The task forces collaborate with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies including the FBI, DEA, HIDTA, ATF, and ICE.

## 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.