



Cornerstone for Justice: How Alabama Uses Byrne JAG Funding to Protect Public Safety and Prevent Crime

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. Many innovative criminal justice practices demonstrated using Byrne JAG funds have been replicated nationwide, such as drug courts, opioid prevention and addiction response, methamphetamine lab reduction, anti-gang strategies, reentry programs and information sharing protocols.

Byrne JAG in Alabama:

In 2016, the Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs, Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Alabama Drug Enforcement Task Force (ADETF) was created through a partnership between Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and local law enforcement agencies. The ADETF began in October 2016. The seven-multijurisdictional regional drug task forces work to break down the barriers between interstate jurisdictions to combat narcotics related crimes and drug trafficking organizations.
- The partnership between the City of Montgomery and A Cut Above the Rest Training Facility (CARTF) expands the capacity to train ex-offenders and other hard-to-place workers for employment in construction industry jobs. 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.

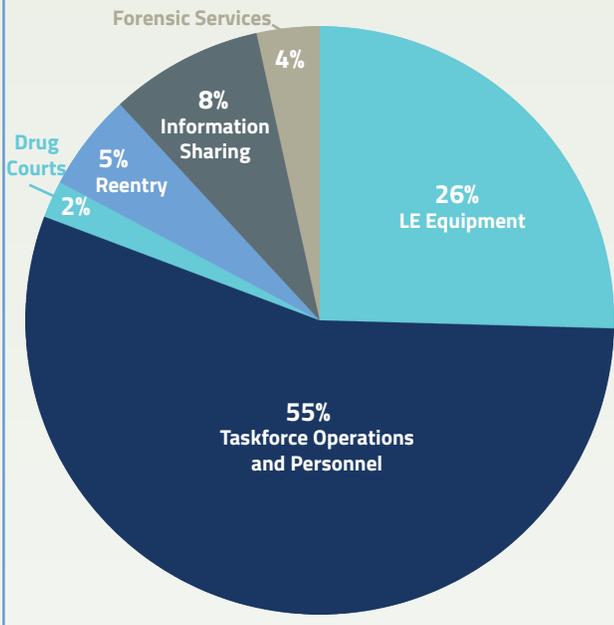
Byrne JAG keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives and not return to the criminal justice system.

Alabama's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$3,314,605



How Alabama Invests Byrne JAG Funds



Additional Examples:

- Byrne JAG funds support a partnership with the Jacksonville State University Center for Applied Forensics (CFAF) to improve the effectiveness of local law enforcement and public safety entities regarding the processing of medicolegal death scenes by providing the training and tools necessary to properly assess, examine, and document death scenes. CFAF places special emphasis on targeting rural agencies to participate in the training.
- Byrne JAG funds support Law Enforcement Equipment Grants awarded to local law enforcement agencies for much needed equipment and technology upgrades.

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 Administrating 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.

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.

Byrne JAG supports the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation and testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide. States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system.

This funding touches nearly every city and town in America through projects funded and investments made in the state and local justice systems.

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.