



Cornerstone for Justice: How Arizona 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 Arizona:

In 2016, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Multijurisdictional task forces (MJTFs) and drug-related projects. Arizona's implementation of MJTFs includes a tandem prosecutor component, forensic drug analysis support, and adjudication projects. Arizona's approach to funding and monitoring the performance of MJTFs and other drug control projects is consistent with a research-based framework that evaluates performance and effectiveness. As a result of these efforts, 4,786 drug-related arrests were made, seizing illicit drugs in excess of \$154 million and 479 weapons. Drug prosecutors secured over 20,200 convictions, with 58 percent sentenced to probation and 24 percent to a term of incarceration.
- Byrne JAG funds support prosecution and court services and forensic drug analysis for the state's multi-jurisdictional drug task forces. This focus on enhanced enforcement has led to funding probation-based drug monitoring programs and other probation-related services, drug courts, and indigent defense services for drug offenders.

The state monitors the performance and effectiveness of this strategy and collects data on a variety of measures and drug-related outcomes, including drug-related convictions and sentencing, drug-related mortality rates, drug treatment admissions and emergency department admissions.

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.

Arizona's Investment By Purpose Area

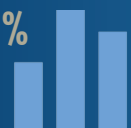
Total Investment = \$3,810,497

41%



Law Enforcement

11%



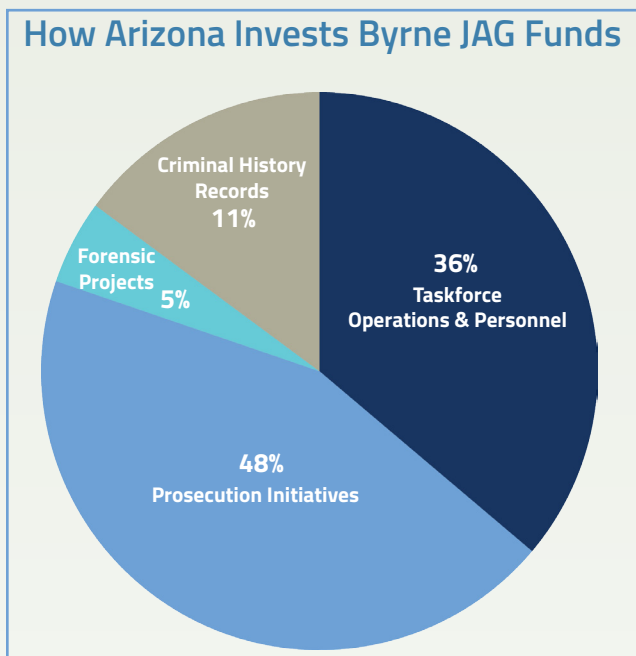
Planning, Evaluation & Technology

48%



Prosecution & Court
Programs

How Arizona Invests Byrne JAG Funds



Additional Examples:

- Byrne JAG funds helped support forensic projects, which analyzed 15,850 samples, providing court testimony 167 times and adjudication project efforts resulted in 2,940 probationers served, including 1,960 that received drug treatment, and legal services provided to over 924 indigent defendants.
- The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission set aside 5 percent of its Byrne JAG funding for criminal justice records improvement projects. These projects support criminal history records improvement and information sharing under an approved strategic plan.

In FY 2016, funding was provided to support an assessment of using biometric fingerprint technology to capture fingerprints in courtrooms, and to begin implementation of mobile fingerprint technology for all criminal courtrooms in the state.

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.

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.

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