



## Cornerstone for Justice: How Arkansas 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 Arkansas:

In 2016, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- A statewide network of 19 multi-jurisdictional drug taskforces. Byrne JAG funds are combined with dedicated state funding (40 percent Byrne JAG/ 60 percent state funds) to support taskforce operations in 67 of the 75 Arkansas counties.

Drug enforcement efforts in Arkansas are focused primarily on methamphetamine, marijuana, prescription/ opioid drugs and heroin interdictions and eradications. Each of the 19 taskforces are required to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and a governing board that helps direct the work of each taskforce and provides investigative oversight when appropriate.

- Byrne JAG funding also supports 200 small equipment grants for local law enforcement agencies. Grants usually provides funding to purchase a variety of safety equipment, technologies including body worn cameras,

digital radios and in-car computers as well as uniforms and items for field operations. The majority of the law enforcement agencies who participate in this grant program are located in rural areas of the state and lack the general revenues to purchase necessary items for officer's protection and safety as well as items for enforcement activities and operations.

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 equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives.

### Arkansas' Investment By Purpose Area

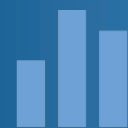
Total Investment = \$2, 091, 303

90%

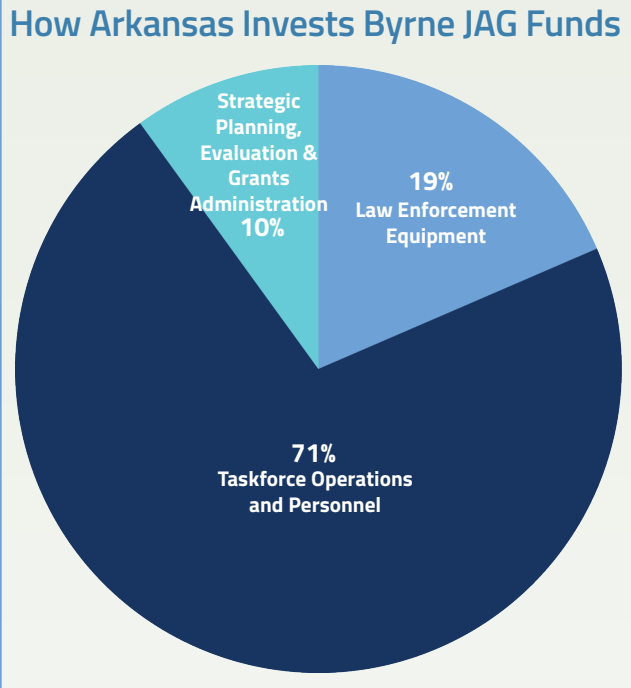


Law Enforcement

10%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology



## 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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## 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 Administrative 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.