



Cornerstone for Justice: How Connecticut 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 Connecticut:

In 2016, the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Connecticut's Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, which uses FDA-approved medications in combination with evidence-based behavioral therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to treating substance use disorders. The MAT program is currently operating in two jail facilities, the New Haven Correctional and Bridgeport Correctional Centers, and targets pre-trial detainees and inmates battling substance use disorders to reduce the risk of recidivism and help control spending within the criminal justice system.
- The Young Adult Offender Unit is a new housing unit within a state prison to service young adult offenders between the ages of 18 and 25. The mission of the Unit is to incorporate progressive correctional practices and re-entry strategies that help young adult offenders acquire and maintain the necessary skills to become successful and law-abiding members of society. Funds were used

Byrne JAG funding 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.

to support the development of a customized training curriculum targeted to corrections officers who are supervising and staffing the new unit. The curriculum is based on a new model for supervising young offenders with a greater focus on skills development and mental health issues and builds a team approach to the corrections process.

Connecticut's Investment By Purpose Area

20%



Law Enforcement

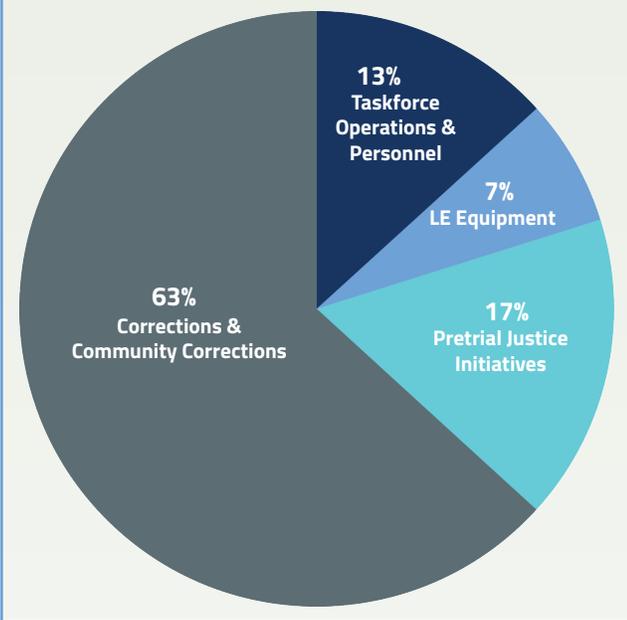
80%



Corrections, Community
Corrections & Reentry

Total Investment = \$1,503,427

How Connecticut Invests Byrne JAG Funds



- Byrne JAG funds support the Connecticut Department of Corrections in the development of a new supervision model for the state women’s prison, York Corrections Institution. Byrne JAG funding was used to develop training curricula, along with services to support a trauma informed and recovery oriented supervision and treatment model for female offenders.

Prior to the development of the Byrne JAG funded training, there was a waiting list for access to appropriate domestic violence programs which prevented some inmates from qualifying for early prison release or release at end-of-sentence. The new curricula developed with the help of Byrne JAG funds resulted in reduction in length of stay and generated cost savings.

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 Administrated 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 funding 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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