



Cornerstone for Justice: How the District of Columbia 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 the District of Columbia:

In 2016, the DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

- Access Youth's Restorative Justice in Schools Program, which provides early intervention and support to 75 DC Public High School DCPS students at risk of suspension, arrest, and court referral, with the goal of improving their engagement in school, and reducing the likelihood of delinquency and justice system involvement. Program activities include direct services to youth as well as program supervision and support such as managing intake from schools, conducting mediation and restorative conferences, and providing training/life skills sessions.
- Community Family Life Services (CFLS), which provides housing and case management services for successful reunification of families from the District of Columbia who are housed at DC Correctional Treatment Facility as well as U.S. Bureau of Prisons facilities. CFLS offers services for female returning citizens who are victims of trauma and/or who have co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.

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.

DC's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$1,400,000

7%



Prevention & Education

7%



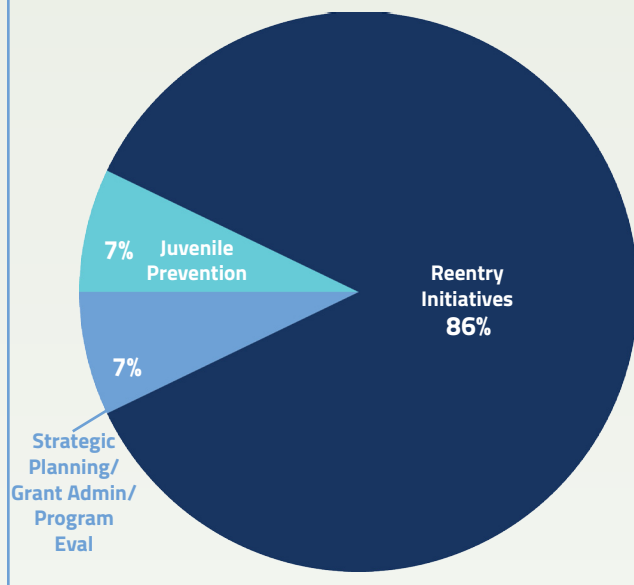
Planning, Evaluation & Technology

86%



Corrections, Community
Corrections & Reentry

How DC Invests Byrne JAG Funds



Additional Example:

- Byrne JAG funds support the Building Capacity for Performance Measurement and Evaluation (BCPME) Project. The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) was funded to build the BCPME project with multiple-years of Byrne JAG funding.

The BCPME project provides process evaluation services to District of Columbia Reentry Coalition (DCRC) grantees, and builds out a web-based, case management system (Efforts to Outcomes-ETO) for reentry grantees to be able to serve specific target populations. Based on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Self-sufficiency Matrix domains, JRSA helped grantees to: maximize collaboration among providers, share data in order to address service gaps, and serve clients holistically while maintaining the individual strengths of a diverse set of partners.

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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