



Cornerstone for Justice: How Florida 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, 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 Florida:

In 2016, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Approximately 30 multijurisdictional task forces and targeted enforcement programs.
- Enhancement of technology equipment for local agencies through the purchase of computer-aided dispatch systems, mobile data terminals, and body worn cameras.
- Byrne JAG funds are being used in Pinellas County to support programs which provide assessment, evaluation, treatment and cases management services for offenders and ex-offenders, particularly those with mental health and/or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. These programs provide support services to individuals immediately following their release from jail or prison.

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

Florida's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$11,351,298



Additional Examples:

- In Broward County, Byrne JAG funds are being used to help fund comprehensive diversionary program services targeted toward juvenile offenders or young people who are at-risk of entering the criminal justice system. These services include counseling, supportive intervention and life skill training.
- Byrne JAG funds are used to enhance local agency public safety equipment for officers and law enforcement first responders for active shooter incidents.
- Byrne JAG funds were used to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in recouping some of the extraordinary costs associated with large-scale response efforts following the mass shooting at the PULSE nightclub in Orlando and shooting incident at the Ft. Lauderdale International Airport.
- The implementation of a statewide substance abuse screening program run by the Department of Corrections that prioritizes inmates on a statewide list for substance abuse programs. The agency uses Byrne JAG funds, in conjunction with the state's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment funds to support the direction of substance abuse treatment activities at designated institutions that focus on the addiction and recovery process, criminal thinking, interpersonal relationships, relapse prevention, values, problem solving, defense mechanisms and changing maladaptive thinking patterns.

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.