



Cornerstone for Justice: How Louisiana 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 Louisiana:

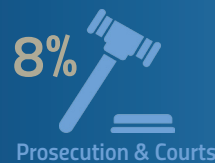
In 2016, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Personnel, operations, and supplies within an adult drug court in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court and a juvenile drug court in the 16th Judicial District.
- Training and resources to law enforcement agencies to assist with transitioning crime data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This is a collaborative effort between the Louisiana Sheriff's Association and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.
- Implementation of a highly visible campaign in the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area to reduce crime and provide a safer environment for our local populace and visitors. This Louisiana State Police project provides support to the New Orleans Police Department.
- Byrne JAG funds support 23 taskforces which serve the state's 64 parishes.
- Byrne JAG funds support supplies and operating expenses to the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory. This project provides extraction and purification of DNA samples and other forensic needs to 10 parishes in the northwest corner of the state.

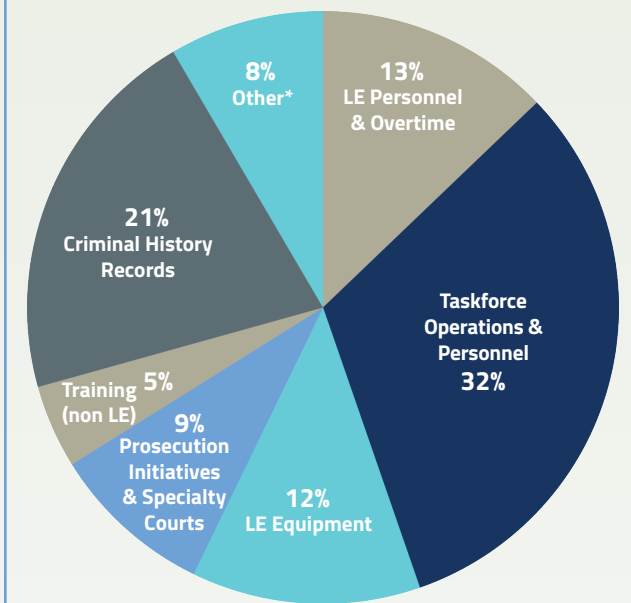
Byrne JAG keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives and not return to the criminal justice system.

Louisiana's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,898,636



How Louisiana Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: forensic services; indigent defense initiatives; law enforcement operations; law enforcement training; and pretrial justice initiatives

Additional Examples:

- Byrne JAG funds support prosecutor and support staff positions within the 22nd Judicial District's Attorney's Office focusing on drug trafficking investigations.
- Byrne JAG funds support the purchase of high tech digital recording equipment and related technology within the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.
- Byrne JAG funds support terrorist preparedness training for the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office Terrorist Response Team.
- Byrne JAG funds support a statewide training initiative conducted by the Louisiana District Attorney Association on racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations (RICO) and the prosecution of organized criminal networks.
- Byrne JAG funds support an external consultant position for the Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB) to complete a process evaluation and produce a comprehensive financial management handbook. The project intent is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the public defender system.

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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