



Cornerstone for Justice: How Maryland 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 Maryland:

In 2016, the Maryland Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Baltimore City District Court’s Re-Entry Services program helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program works to reduce recidivism in Baltimore City by connecting residents with job opportunities and educational training programs.
- The Salisbury Police Department’s Crime Camera Expansion reduces and prevents violent crime, as well as promotes security integration, deploys force multiplying technology and reduces street crime.
- Behavioral Health System Baltimore’s Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program works in collaboration with law enforcement to connect participants, who have substance-use disorders and mental health conditions, with intensive treatment. The program helps to decrease

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.

criminal justice system utilization and improve relations between law enforcement and community members.

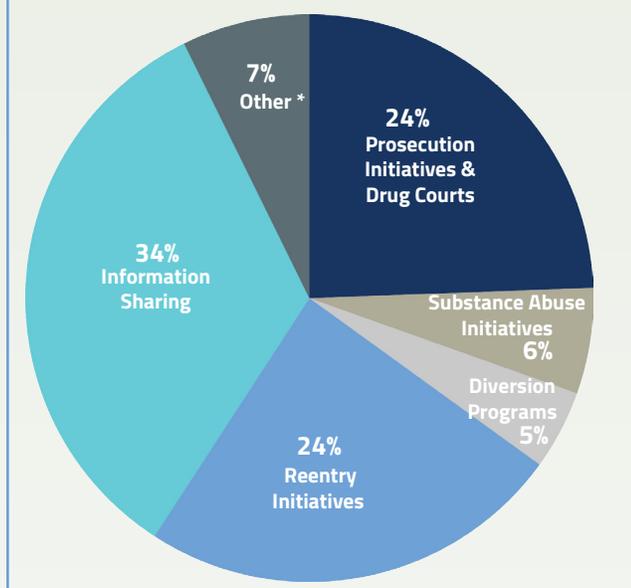
- Equipment and technology purchases such as Mobile Data Terminals, license plate readers and live scan machines in Caroline, Frederick, and Garrett counties.
- The Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City’s Reducing Violent Crime program improves the ability to analyze, map and target opioid trafficking in Baltimore City and prosecute repeat violent juvenile offenders.

Maryland’s Investment By Purpose Area



Total Investment = \$4,159,569

How Maryland Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: Law Enforcement Training; Taskforce Operations and Personnel; and Juvenile and Adult Prevention Programs.

Additional Examples:

- The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' Re-Entry Planning program provides risk and needs assessment and substance abuse screening. These screenings and assessments serve to assist case managers with completion of reentry case planning.
- The Wicomico County Department of Correction's Medication Assisted Treatment program helps high risk individuals to succeed in recovery by assisting with the transition from substance abuse treatment during incarceration to community based treatment, recovery housing, community support and other recovery supportive resources.
- Thirty-nine specialized training scholarships were awarded to local law enforcement agencies between 2015 and 2016. Trainings included school resource officer training, cell phone technology and forensics recovery, violent crimes and terrorism trends, latent print examination, courtroom security, drug recognition training, domestic violence training and crime scene investigator training.

- Numerous diversion initiatives for non-violent felonies, which work to reduce recidivism and provide alternatives to incarceration by offering drug treatment, mental health treatment, and employment training.
- Carroll County State's Attorney's Office's Adult Drug Court program promotes the recovery efforts of its participants providing supportive services and promoting accountability through drug testing. The project assists drug court participants, including those who are leaving jail or homeless, with securing essential services to assist in their recovery and provides drug testing to monitor their abstinence from drugs.

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.

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.

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