



Cornerstone for Justice: How Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts:

In 2016, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- A network of victims' advocates in 20 courts throughout the state. Byrne JAG funds, blended with those from the Massachusetts Office of Victims Assistance, support court advocate training in helping victims navigate the paperwork associated with obtaining restraining orders, protective orders and child support orders.
- The Buyer Diversion Treatment Alternative (BDTA) program, currently operating in four counties. Byrne JAG funds support partnerships between each county's District Attorney and local police departments to provide funding for treatment beds.
- Delinquency prevention initiatives in Boston through the non-profit Center for Teen Empowerment. Funding supports programming which includes afterschool life skills trainings, leadership curriculum and job development trainings for youth at risk of system involvement.
- Support for the state's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), and the creation of a statewide youth gang records management system. SAC efforts focus on ensuring accurate data collection and appropriate back-end features.
- Byrne JAG funds support four drug, gang and violent crime taskforces throughout the state.
- Byrne JAG funds support multiple crime prevention projects in the City of Malden, including a teen dating violence prevention and awareness initiative through the YWCA and a teen violence reduction initiative through the YMCA.

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.

Massachusetts Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$4,473,354

27%



Law Enforcement

7%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

18%



Prevention & Education

40%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

3%

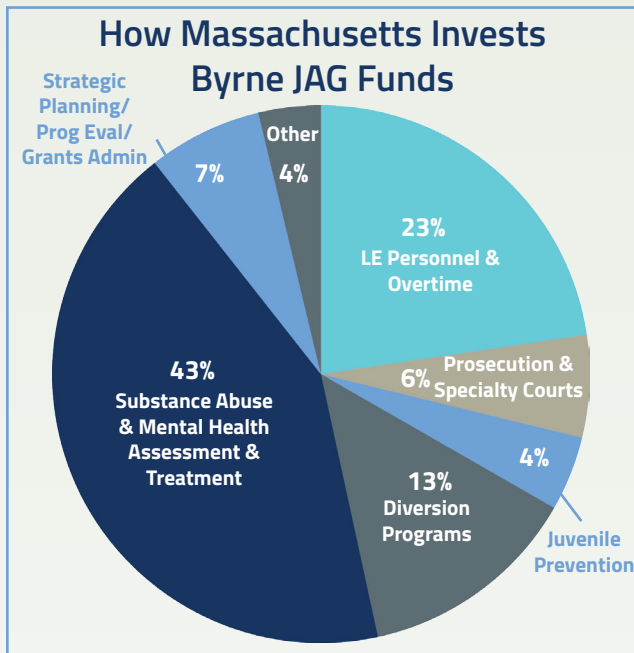


Prosecution & Courts (including indigent defense)

5%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry



* Other includes: Crime Prevention programs; Law Enforcement Equipment; and Information Sharing

Additional Examples:

- Byrne JAG funds support delinquency prevention initiatives through The Psychological Center in Lawrence and the Lawrence County Public School System. This initiative employs an evidence-based Second Step Curriculum, a classroom-based social-skills program that teaches social-emotional skills aimed at reducing impulsive and aggressive behavior, while increasing social competence.
- Byrne JAG funds help support residential drug treatment in correctional settings. A combination of Byrne JAG and RSAT dollars provide services in 10 local jails and in one Department of Corrections facility. The Massachusetts SAA has been using Byrne JAG funds to support residential substance abuse treatment services since 2009.
- The implementation and evaluation of the state funded Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative, which provides funding for localities to replicate the Office of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Prevention Model.
- Support for workforce development and reentry planning within the Barnstable House of Corrections' Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Specifically, funds

support staff within the Prison Industries Program (PIP) to provide vocational and educational work opportunities for offenders. The program provides inmates with skills that will increase their employment opportunities upon release while giving them the opportunity to partially support themselves and their families while incarcerated. As part of this effort, PIP staff work with businesses in Barnstable County to assist with job placement, retention and ongoing support for both the business and the offender.

- The Asian Taskforce Against Domestic Violence (ATASK), a teen dating violence prevention awareness campaign. Funds cover a portion of ATASK's teen dating violence curriculum for adult professionals working with youth. The curriculum addresses dating violence warnings signs, teen attitudes towards relationships, case scenarios, myths and facts, best practices and cultural competency.

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 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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