



Cornerstone for Justice: How Minnesota 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 Minnesota:

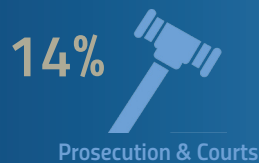
In 2016, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Two multijurisdictional Violent Crime Enforcement Teams (VCET) that target drug distribution networks, firearm crimes, violent gang activity and other serious criminal activity. These teams cover 11 cities, five counties and three reservations.
- Four jail-based reentry programs that provide pre-release and reentry integrated mental health and substance abuse assessment, referral, case management, and/or services. One of these jail-based program, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, implements a Release Advance Planning (RAP) program using case planners to provide pre-release and reentry services. Success is measured, in part, by a reduction in jail bed days. Preliminary results showed an 80 percent reduction in jail bed days for those that had been out of the program one year.

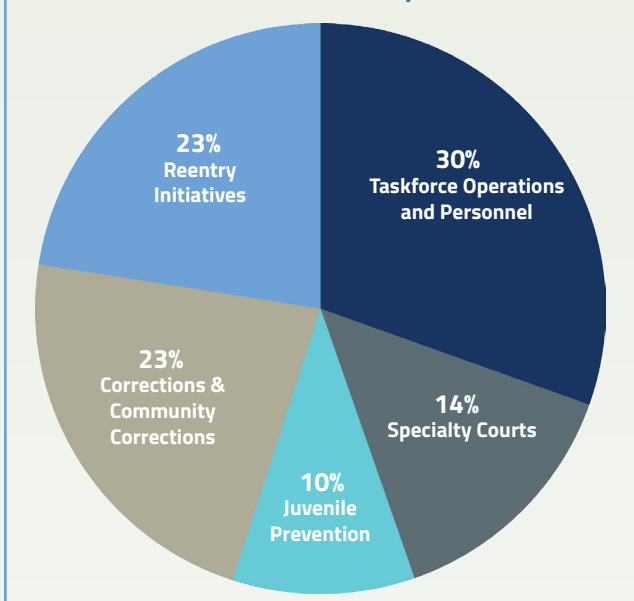
Byrne JAG keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives and not return to the criminal justice system.

Minnesota's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,077,148



How Minnesota Invests Byrne JAG Funds



Additional Examples:

- A Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Analyst with the Drug Monitoring Initiative who assists in securing access to key data sets and disseminating reports to help address the crisis caused by opioids and other drugs in Minnesota.
- Investigative software and equipment used by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in the Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigative Task Force.
- Eight recidivism reduction programs that provide pre-and post-release services to a variety of populations including men, women, and juveniles around the state. Programming is based on evidence-based practices and includes wrap around services, cognitive peer coaching, case management to address stable housing, mental health, substance abuse, employment, etc. One program, the Domestic Violence Restorative Circles (DVRC) program with Men As Peacemakers addresses offenders' issues and helps them transition back to the community through restorative justice circles, making victims and the community safer. System partners express a high degree of satisfaction with the program, feel that DVRC increases offender accountability, is responsive to the needs of victims, provides valuable information to systems partners, and seems the most impactful option available to change

offender thinking and behavior. The program has been highly successful in community engagement, with 96 active volunteers. To date, no one has recidivated with a violent domestic violence offense; and only one participant violated a no contact order while in the program.

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. 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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