



Cornerstone for Justice: How Montana 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 Montana:

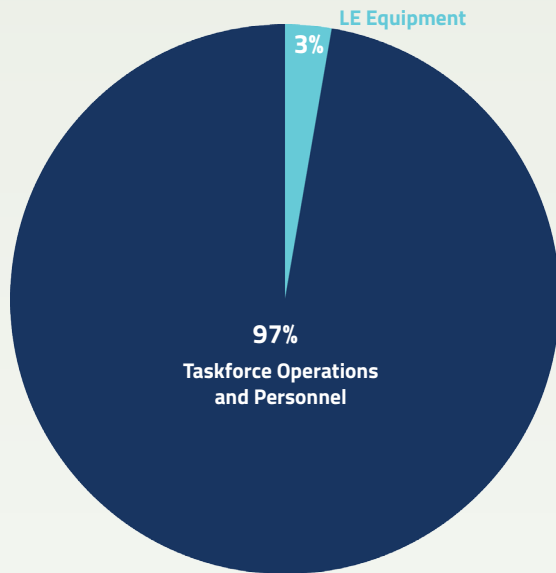
In 2016, the Montana Board of Crime Control invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Montana's 6 multijurisdictional drug task forces (MJDTF) which represent 41 counties and three tribal reservations within the state. The MJDTFs play a major role in identifying and dismantling clandestine methamphetamine labs, enforcing prescription drug laws, and removing other illegal drugs. The Montana Board of Crime Control collects uniform crime data from the MJDTFs in an effort to identify and target drug and gang interdiction, as well as identifying and providing aid to drug endangered children.
- Support for 12 law enforcement equipment grants. Funds were used to purchase tough book computers and associated software, iPads and associated software, Tasers, portable handheld radios, electronic driver feedback signs, radar units, a hazardous material storage system and an evidence fuming chamber.
- A drug prosecution coordinator position for an eastern Montana. This prosecution coordinator is tasked with addressing the challenges of drug investigations in 16 counties and on the Fort Peck Reservation in areas affected by the Bakken Oil Boom. The prosecutor serves as a statewide resource to promote consistency in the conviction of drug offenses, acts as a liaison with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and promotes drug prevention through public education.
- The purchase and installation of security cameras in six permanent driver's license offices through the Montana Department of Justice Driver's License Bureau.
- The purchase of a mass spectrometer, a gas chromatograph and other testing materials through the Montana Department of Justice Forensic Science Division (FSD). One of two forensic science labs in the state, the FSD provides services to law enforcement and court entities around the state.

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

How Montana Invests Byrne JAG Funds

Total Investment = \$867,064



Additional Examples:

- Montana's Board of Crime Control used Byrne JAG funds to revamp its National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) repository. The Montana Incident-Based Reporting System is used by 99 percent of local law enforcement agencies statewide. The online repository provides a secure way for local agencies to enter or import crime data, and allows local agencies and the public to generate incident-based crime statistics. Users can see reports based on offense, offender/arrestee, victim, and property data elements or create custom reports using data back to 2005. Also, drug task force activity can be easily separated and distinguished from other law enforcement activities.
- Support for a records management improvement project within the Fergus County Sheriff's Office. Funds supported the purchase of three new work stations as well as hardware and software upgrades.
- The Whitefish Police Department enhancement of crime data reporting through the purchase of Live Scan fingerprint technology. The technology increases the efficiency of the police department and provides real-time crime data to state stakeholders.

- An architectural contractor position for programming and schematic design to complete the planning for an expansion of the Dawson County Jail.
- Equipment purchases for the Musselshell Court Compliance Program in Musselshell County. The program provides supervision for defendants found guilty for misdemeanor and felony offenses. Funds support educational programs, electronic monitoring, home detention devices and urinalysis supplies

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 Adminstrating 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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