



Cornerstone for Justice: How New Jersey 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 New Jersey:

In 2016, the New Jersey Attorney General Department of Law and Public Safety invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Attorney General's New Jersey State Police Organized Crime, Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force, built on three regional bureaus in the northern, central and southern areas of the state. The Task Force uses an intelligence-led policing model to target violent street gangs and narcotics traffickers.
- Byrne JAG funds support Criminal Justice Information System improvement projects including New Jersey's Computerized Criminal History expunged record access and information upgrade. In New Jersey, new legislative mandates led to an increase in the number of Expunged Final Orders processed annually. Expunged criminal history record information will be available to New Jersey's criminal justice agencies in real time.
- New Jersey's 21 county prosecutor-led task forces combat crimes related to gangs, guns and narcotics. The task

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.

forces, each under the operational control of the county prosecutor, target drug and violent crimes within their jurisdictions.

- Byrne JAG funds support the Atlantic City Organized Crime Task Force, which directly supports and supplements local law enforcement activities within the Tourism District by focusing, through intelligence-led policing, on the interdiction, apprehension and prosecution of gang members, weapons traffickers and narcotics distributors.

New Jersey's Investment By Purpose Area

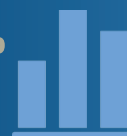
93%



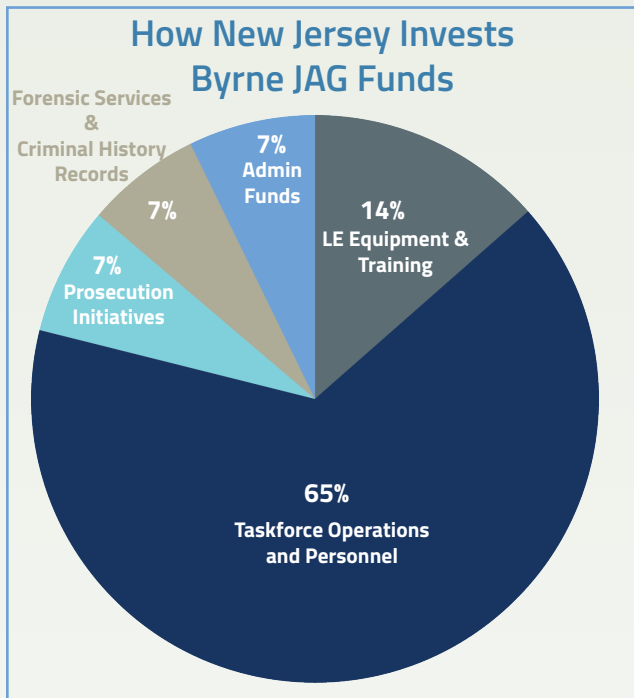
Law Enforcement

Total Investment = \$4,270,957

7%



Planning, Evaluation
& Technology



- Byrne JAG funds support the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Prosecutor’s Supervision and Coordination Section, which is responsible for oversight concerning the implementation of Megan’s Law, referred to as the Megan’s Law Coordinator 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.

Additional Examples:

- Support for law enforcement officers in municipal and county law enforcement agencies. Officers will be equipped with an additional 1,132 body worn cameras using Byrne JAG funding. Body worn cameras have been shown to be an effective tool to reduce the number of unwarranted civil complaints against police officers, increase law enforcement transparency, and as a tool for de-escalation between police and members of the community.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Division of State Police Ballistics Unit, which routinely serves agencies throughout the state by giving expert advice on firearms related evidence, preparing reports, offering courtroom testimony, providing lectures, and entering and correlating images in the NIBIN database.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Prosecutor’s Supervision Training Initiative on investigating and prosecuting gang and drug cases, facilitated through the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. The initiative offers training to state, county and local law enforcement officers engaged in the investigation of gangs, drugs and related violent criminal activity.

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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