



## Cornerstone for Justice: How New Mexico 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 Mexico:

In 2016, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Byrne JAG funds support all violent crime related facets of the criminal justice system throughout the state that included Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces (MJTFs) that were specific in targeting violent criminal offenses, violent fugitives and violent gang members..

Task forces are one of the most effective law enforcement structures to address complex drug trafficking organizations and cross jurisdictional investigations. The task forces collaborate with local, state, and several federal law enforcement agencies including the FBI, DEA, HIDTA, ATF, and ICE. Byrne JAG funding allows states, localities, and tribal nations the opportunity to address their most pressing public safety challenges, fill funding gaps, leverage other resources, and work across city, county and state lines.

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.

New Mexico's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$1,595,858

99%

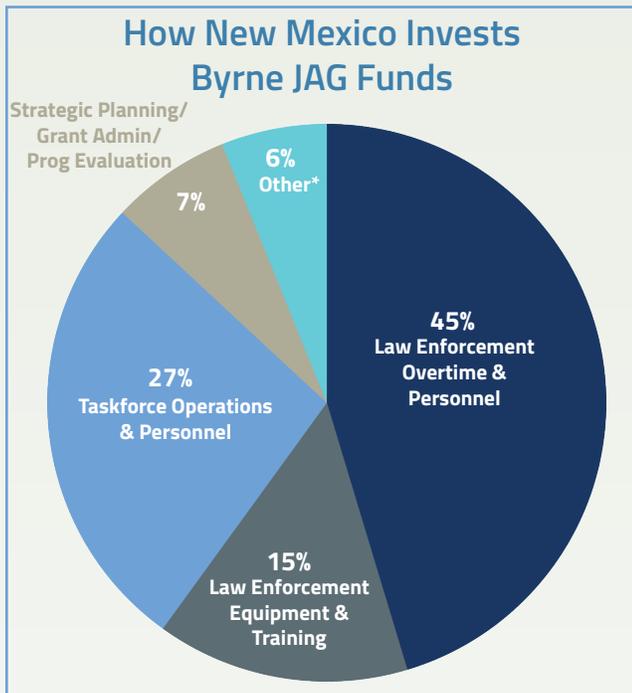


Law Enforcement

1%



Prevention & Education



\* Other includes: Law Enforcement Operations, Training (other than law enforcement), and Crime Prevention programs.

- Byrne JAG funds also support the New Mexico State Police in their effort to provide a variety of services to other state agencies, including: undercover personnel and contingency funds; hazardous material response officers; access to audio/visual surveillance equipment; and investigation efforts of clandestine methamphetamine labs throughout the state.

New Mexico State Police’s presence and expertise is needed most in rural areas of the state where local law enforcement agencies have limited access to resources. New Mexico Byrne JAG funding is instrumental to providing support for officer overtime to assist with highly complex investigations and operations, and maintain effective partnerships with both regional MJTFs and other local, state, and several federal law enforcement agencies.

### 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 Administrating 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.

### 2016 Byrne JAG Spending Study:

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2016 Byrne JAG Spending Study conducted by the National Criminal Justice Association. Financial data was submitted by and qualitative interviews were conducted with all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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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