



Cornerstone for Justice: How North Carolina 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 North Carolina:

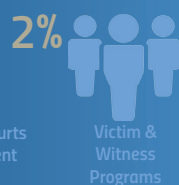
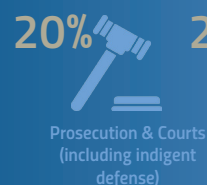
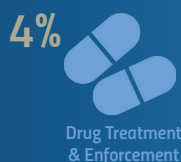
In 2016, the North Carolina Governors Crime Commission invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

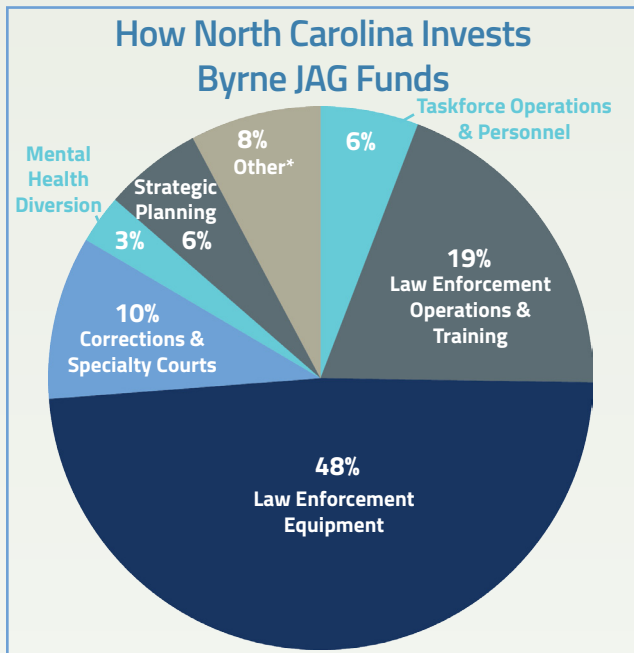
- Veteran’s Treatment Courts in Forsyth and Cumberland County which offer individualized and comprehensive treatment to veterans charged with misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies in an effort to lower the recidivism rate for veterans charged with nonviolent crimes. Court personnel collaborate with the VA medical center, local providers, peer mentors, educational providers and other community agencies to provide treatment.
- The Enhanced Data Integration Solution, through the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS), State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and North Carolina Data Exchange, is making legacy incident and arrest data previously stored at local levels available to the entire North Carolina law enforcement community. The data will be made available for investigative, analytical, and other law enforcement related purposes.

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 better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives and not return to the justice system.

North Carolina’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$5,000,000





* Other includes: Victims Services and Supports; Information Sharing, Pretrial Justice initiatives; and Prosecution initiatives.

Additional Examples:

- Support for the Nash County Sheriff's Office Gang and Drug Task Force. This project allows law enforcement agencies within the 7th prosecutorial district to work efficiently with surrounding jurisdictions, save on labor costs and increase effective interagency communication. Since 2014, the Nash County Sheriff's Office alone has seized almost three quarters of a million dollars in controlled substances. Additionally, this program creates the opportunity for real time information sharing of investigated gangs and drug trafficking organizations among partnered law enforcement agencies which increases both officer and public safety. Since its initial funding in 2016, this program has yielded extremely positive results for communities across North Carolina and is now being assessed as the new model for task forces throughout the state.

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.

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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