



## Cornerstone for Justice: How North Dakota 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 Dakota:

In 2016, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Support for a network of four multijurisdictional drug, gang and violent crime taskforces across the state. In an effort to maximize federal support, Byrne JAG funds are blended with a 45 percent set aside from the state lottery fund and matched with 35 percent of local funding along with non-cash resource contributions to provide statewide taskforce coverage. Non-cash contributions include personnel, overtime, vehicles, equipment and operational support.
- Byrne JAG funds support a network of 16 domestic violence programs across the state. Run by local non-profits, these service providers assist the victims of domestic violence with shelter support, counseling, education, accompaniment, and advocacy services and help with victim's compensation when appropriate.

Byrne JAG funding 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.

North Dakota's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$479,155

71%



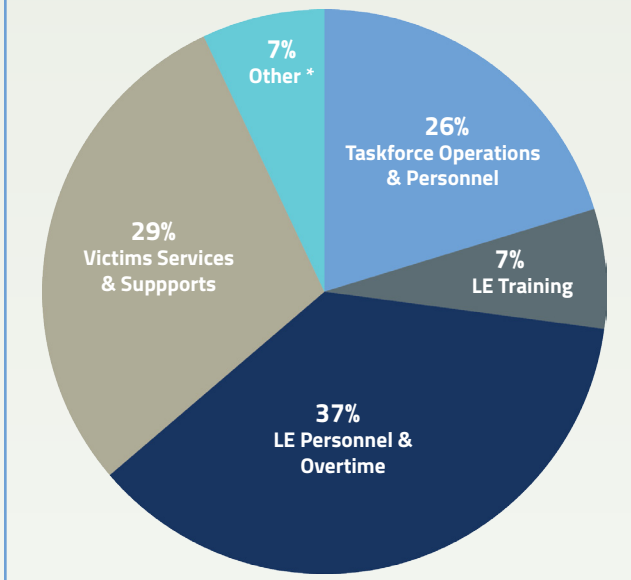
Law Enforcement

29%



Crime Victim &  
Witness Programs

## How North Dakota Invests Byrne JAG Funds



\* Other includes: Law Enforcement Operations and Admin funding

## Additional Examples:

- Byrne JAG funds are used to support the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in providing oversight and training to an additional six taskforces within the state. As part of the state's response to its oil boom, the taskforces have expanded the types of crime they investigate, with an increasing focus on gangs, violent crime and organized crime cases. Taskforces also address growing issues with human trafficking.
- Byrne JAG funding supports forensic interviewing and examination services through the Sanford Bismarck Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC). Funds support culturally competent and age appropriate forensic interviewing, examination and intervention services to children who are victims of, or witnesses to, crimes. The DCAC is a resource for law enforcement officers, parents and youth in the city of Bismarck and Burleigh County as well as the larger region including central and western North Dakota.

## 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.

## 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 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.

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