



Cornerstone for Justice: How Ohio 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 Ohio:

In 2016, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

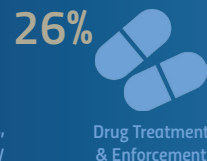
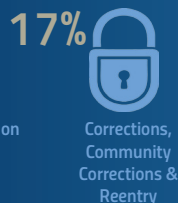
- Prevention, education and enforcement efforts aimed at reducing prescription drug abuse. Ohio counties collaborate with health care professionals in an effort increase awareness and preparedness when dealing with front line encounters involving pharmaceutical drug seekers, abusers and traffickers. Enforcement efforts are dedicated to identifying and prosecuting offenders.
- 29 multijurisdictional drug task forces, serving more than half of Ohio's 88 counties. These task forces focus on a variety of drug threats based on local drug trends.
- Five specialty courts throughout the state including a veteran's treatment, drug, mental health, juvenile and domestic violence courts. Each court receives certification through the specialized docket section of the Ohio Supreme Court to ensure they utilize established best practices.

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.

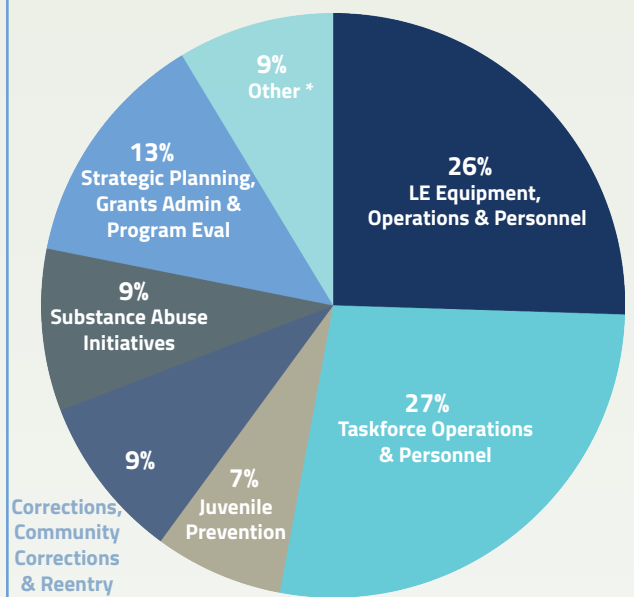
- Byrne JAG funds support training for community corrections staff agencies through the Ohio Community Corrections Association and the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections. Funding supports outreach, scholarships and training for state and local community corrections agencies and related fields like courts, substance abuse providers, case managers, and behavioral health social workers.

Ohio's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$5,740,424



How Ohio Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: Indigent Defense, Drug and Other Specialty Court programs; Crime Prevention programs; Training (other than law enforcement); Mental Health Diversion; and Victims Services and Supports

Additional Examples:

- Support for the Ross County Heroin Partnership Program, a collaborative effort of federal, state, and local partners which brings together traditional and nontraditional criminal justice entities from courts, corrections, treatment, enforcement, and education using proven criminal justice intervention tools to combat the heroin epidemic and replicate these initiatives throughout the state.
- Specialized prosecutor initiatives throughout the state. Funding supports initiatives in drug and gang interdiction and domestic violence prosecution.
- Equipment purchases including radios, cruisers, mobile data terminals and tasers as well as personnel hours for small to mid-sized agencies whose counties do not receive direct Byrne JAG awards.
- Big Brother Big Sister programs in 11 counties throughout the state. Programs use an evidence-based approach to provide mentoring within communities and schools.
- Court ordered post-release behavioral health treatment in Vinton, Hocking, Athens, Gallia, Jackson and Meigs counties.

- An Anti-Human Trafficking Prevalence Study. This research project supports and informs state agencies and victim service providers in responding to the challenges that human trafficking poses throughout Ohio.
- Juvenile court dockets for diversion and community integration programming. Through organizations like Lighthouse Youth Services, funds support wrap around services to prevent youth from further involvement with the criminal justice system.
- An alternative sentencing social worker position in the Athens branch of the state public defender's office. The social worker works with individuals awaiting adjudication and individuals currently on community supervision. Funds support mental health and substance abuse assessment, targeted case management and referral services.
- Byrne JAG funds are blended with VAWA funds to support a variety of domestic violence prevention initiatives across the state including a cyber-stalking investigator position, domestic violence advocates, case management, crisis hotlines, shelter services and child advocacy centers.

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.

This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2016-DP-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions are those of the authors.