



Cornerstone for Justice: How Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma:

In 2016, the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Support for a residential substance abuse treatment program at Elk City Community Work Center, through the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Treatment focuses on relapse prevention and reintegration using cognitive behavioral therapy and is operated within prison level correctional centers as well as community work centers.
- Byrne JAG funds support 13 multi-jurisdictional drug and violent crime taskforces that cover 37 of the state's 77 counties. These taskforces are run out of the local District Attorney's office and help taskforce personnel improve evidentiary chains, investigative protocols and collect actionable information.

Additionally, the District Attorneys Council works with the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center to evaluate the adoption of federally identified best practices for multi-jurisdictional taskforce operations.

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.

- Byrne JAG funds support prosecution programs in Tulsa and Oklahoma City that focus on gang related crime. Specialized prosecutors work with local law enforcement to investigate cases that have a gang nexus.

Oklahoma's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,297,914

83%



Law Enforcement

4%

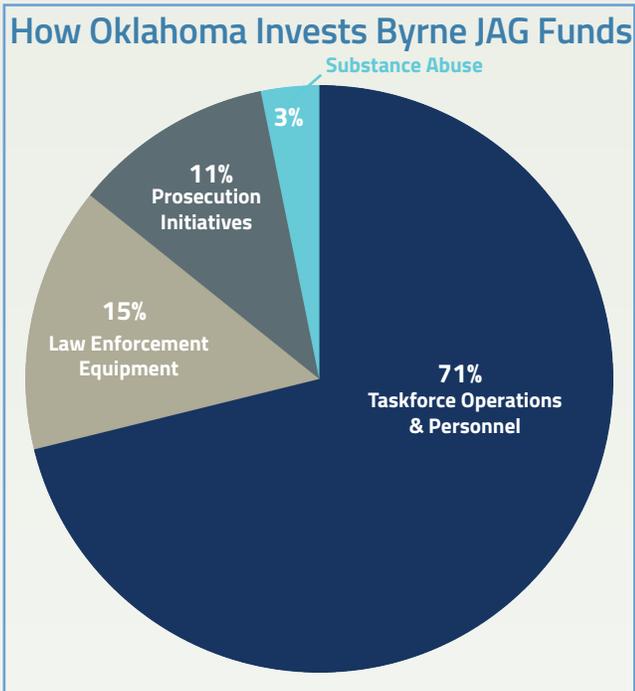


Drug Treatment & Enforcement

13%



Prosecution & Courts
(including indigent defense)



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.

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.

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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