



# Cornerstone for Justice: How Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania:

In 2016, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Pennsylvania Virtual Training Network (PAVTN) is a collaborative effort between the PA Chiefs of Police Association and the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. Byrne JAG funds were used to develop and provide online training for the criminal justice community. In 2017, PAVTN had over 18,000 registered users, 31 active courses and five areas of study including: Mandatory In-service, Investigations, Programs and Services, Sex Offender Registration and Notification, and Roll Call Trainings.
- The Lehigh Valley Regional Intelligence and Investigation Center Gang Intelligence System (GIS) provides investigative case support, strategic analysis and situational awareness to Lehigh County law enforcement, PA State Police and the Allentown FBI Office. Funds were used to develop the GIS. The GIS cross-references incidents, arrests and incarcerations and performs social network-

ing analysis on gangs, their members and their structure. Funds are also being used to develop the Illicit Drug Identification and Tracking System, that will help track illicit drugs, capturing information on identifiable markings such as heroin stamps, synthetic drug compounds, and investigative information and drug-related death data.

- Byrne JAG funds support an Automated Fingerprint Identification System Integra-ID Archive System that provides the State Police with a secure, centralized data storage and retrieval system.

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.

### Pennsylvania's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$7,407,996

4%



Law Enforcement

73%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

7%



Prevention & Education

2%



Crime Victim & Witness Programs

2%



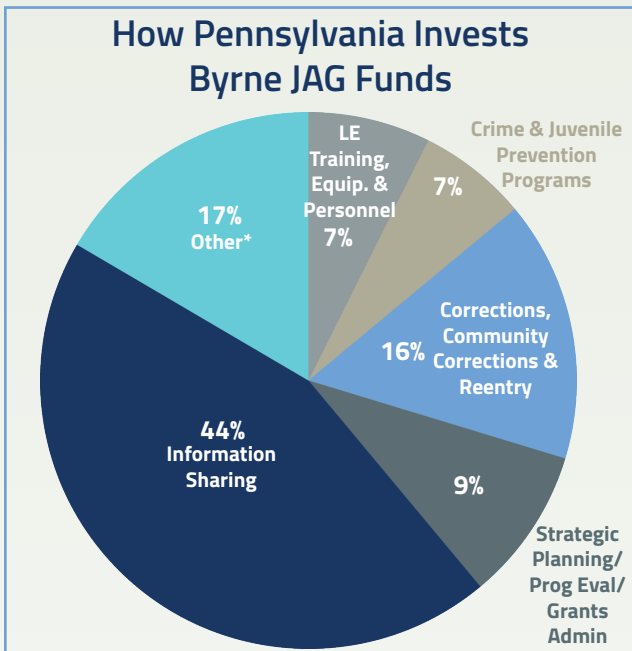
Prosecution & Courts (including indigent defense)

12%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

## How Pennsylvania Invests Byrne JAG Funds



\* Other includes: Forensic Services; Victims Services and Supports; Specialty Courts; Indigent Defense initiatives; and Mental Health screening, treatment and assessment.

### Additional Examples:

- The Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute is using Byrne JAG funds to develop and offer educational materials and resources to prosecutors statewide. The trainings focus on criminal law practice, procedure, and investigation. This project also provides technical assistance to prosecutors and other related professionals on legal issues relevant to adults and juveniles.
- The Public Defenders Association of Pennsylvania uses Byrne JAG funds to enhance defense capabilities by hosting large training programs that provide intensive training on Trial Advocacy Skills; Litigation Skills for New Public Defenders and a Capital Case Program and are attended by Assistant Public Defenders from throughout Pennsylvania.
- Support for the development and deployment of the Mobile ID Gateway System. Mobile ID facilitates Rapid Fingerprint Identification Search submissions and searches. The Mobile ID Gateway enables the State Police to digitize, store, and retrieve fingerprint records and case documents on-demand and provides law enforcement agencies with services to instantly assess threat levels. Funds support the State Police's procurement of approximately 100 Mobile ID devices pre-loaded with the necessary software.

- Statewide implementation of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment (LAP). LAP partners law enforcement agencies with domestic violence programs. Police officers ask a series of screening questions to intimate partner domestic violence victims and ensure that victims receive access to domestic violence counseling services. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides oversight to the project. As of the end of 2017, LAP was implemented in 43 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties with 45 domestic violence agencies and 277 law enforcement agencies. Since 2012, LAP has provided access to domestic violence program services to 5,661 victims.

### 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.

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.

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