



Cornerstone for Justice: How Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island:

In 2016, the Rhode Island Public Safety Grant Administration Office invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Defender Advocacy Project, through the RI Public Defender’s Office, provides representation to indigent individuals being held on bail or facing imminent incarceration. The program serves individuals facing incarceration for reasons that do not constitute direct criminal prosecution, (i.e. warrants, failure to provide restitution, violation of probation, etc.).
- The RI Department of Corrections’ Recidivism Reduction Project, proactively addresses the treatment needs of individuals battling mental illness who are at risk of re-offending. Using a multidisciplinary approach, behavioral health staff from the DOC work in coordination with probation and parole officers to deliver continued effective treatment intervention.
- The RI Family Reunification program through the Department of Corrections. This evidence-based program works

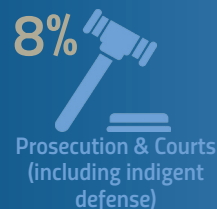
Byrne JAG keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives.

to increase the ability of incarcerated parents to engage with their children and provides them with the skills necessary to deal with challenges upon release.

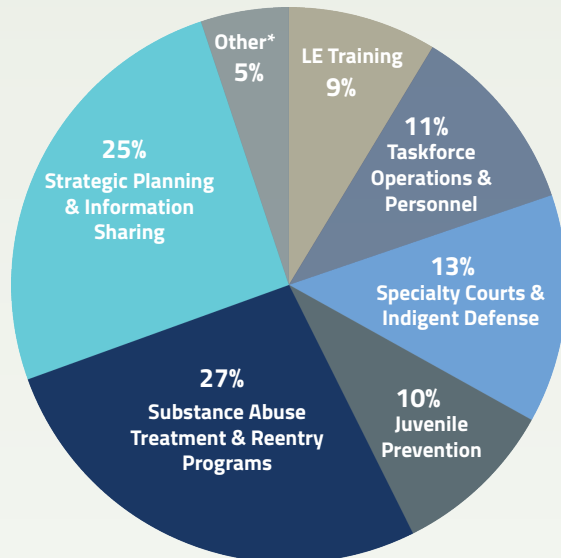
- Byrne JAG funds support the establishment of a Laboratory Information Management System: a secure website used by police departments to submit evidence to the University of Rhode Island Crime Laboratory.

Rhode Island’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$793,549



How Rhode Island Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: Forensic Services and Law Enforcement Personnel and Overtime.

Additional Examples:

- In conjunction with other federal and state funding, Byrne JAG funds support the Domestic Violence Unit in the data collection and entry of police arrest forms and the preparation and dissemination various domestic violence, sexual assault and child molestation reports to state, municipal and private victim service agencies.
- Byrne JAG funds support the RI Attorney Generals Drug Court Project. Funding is used to support a prosecutor for new and existing clients who are accepted into the Drug Court Program.
- Byrne JAG funds support the RI Family Court, Mental Health Clinic. The clinic provides juveniles with routine evaluations following referral and emergency same-day evaluations by an on-call clinician.
- Byrne JAG funds support the State Police Neighborhood Response Team. State police work in collaboration with the cities of Providence and Central Falls to patrol high crime areas and reduce the rate of gang activity, gun violence and drug trafficking.

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.

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.