



Cornerstone for Justice: How South Carolina 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 South Carolina:

In 2016, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

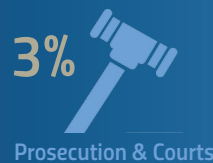
- Statewide court room technology enhancements. Ten magistrate and municipal courts across the state received computers, televisions, document cameras, software, scanners, surveillance camera systems, walk-through and handheld metal detectors, and digital recording equipment.
- Byrne JAG funds support scholarship awards to local law enforcement to attend in-and-out of state school and criminal domestic violence training.
- Byrne JAG funds support equipment purchases for regional drug analysis labs to increase the ability to rapidly analyze evidence and return accurate results to requesting state agencies. This program provides substantial reduction of drug analysis backlog.
- Support for three School Resource Officers (SROs) located in middle and high schools in Lexington County,

Richland County, and the Town of Ninety-Six. SROs maintain a safe and secure environment on the school campus to foster an educationally stimulating atmosphere and help prevent criminal activities and disturbances. Positive attitudes towards law enforcement are promoted and students are informed of their rights and responsibilities as lawful citizens.

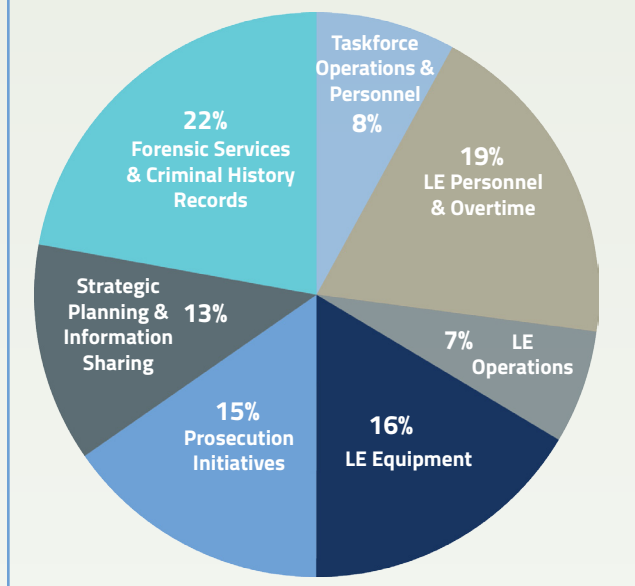
Byrne JAG keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives and not return to the criminal justice system.

South Carolina's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$4,402,635



How South Carolina Invests Byrne JAG Funds



Additional Examples:

- Byrne JAG funds support the purchase of two Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for local and county sheriff's departments.
- Equipment purchases for State Law Enforcement Division, including a Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer and a Video Spectral Comparator.
- Five Domestic Violence investigator positions within Aiken, Charleston, Lancaster, and York counties.
- Byrne JAG funds support a variety of equipment purchases to approximately 11 local agencies, including bullet proof vests, tasers, vehicles, computers, and digital in-car video cameras. These funds have also been used for radio upgrades.
- Support for one multi-agency, multijurisdictional gang task force through the Richland County Sheriff's Office, as well as a street gang unit through the Colleton County Sheriff's Office.
- Support for the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice to come into

compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards by establishing a zero-tolerance culture for sexual abuse through their Advocacy Project. This project allows inmates access to outside confidential support.

- Byrne JAG funds support targeted enforcement operations focusing on criminal domestic violence, financial crime investigation and prosecution, child and elder abuse, drug and violent crime, gangs and drug parcel interdiction.

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 Administrating 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. 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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