



Cornerstone for Justice: How Tennessee 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 Tennessee:

In 2016, the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

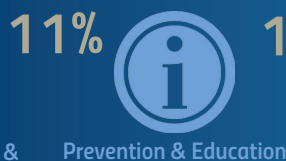
- Statewide trainings to improve the criminal justice response to violent crime. Trainings have included: forensic training in death investigation for both sworn investigators and state medical examiner personnel; executive leadership training for local law enforcement agencies and professional development of state investigators; correctional staff training to properly identify gang members; and training for judicial staff and law enforcement entities on topics including body cameras, IT system constraints and bystander privacy.
- The Targeted Community Crime Reduction Projects (TCCRPs) focus targeted resources to develop evidence-based crime reduction strategies in cities with high rates of violent and drug-related crime. Using a three-pronged strategy of pre-enforcement, enforcement, and offender intervention. Johnson City, Jackson, and Knoxville utilize crime-data to identify portion(s) of the city for intervention and gauge the result bringing successful techniques into other areas of the jurisdiction.

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.

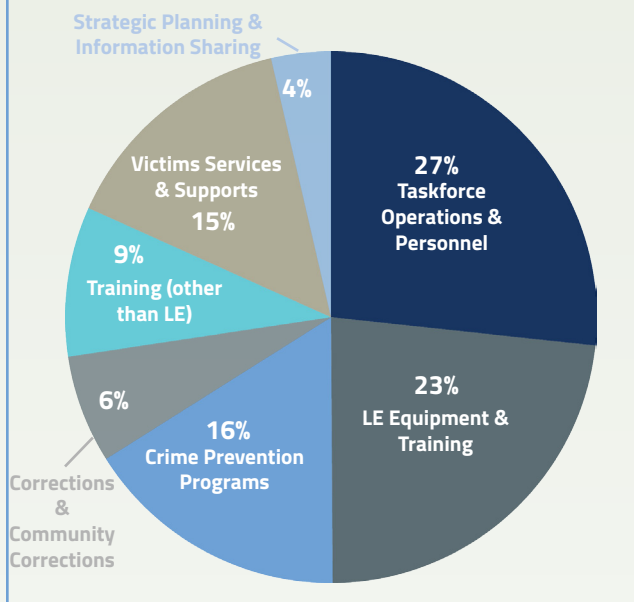
- The TN Bureau of Investigation, in collaboration with the TN Association of Chiefs of Police and the TN Sheriffs' Association, and the Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services of Tennessee provides officers involved in a shooting with trauma debriefing and counseling to help them work through any residual trauma or post-traumatic stress associated with the shooting.
- 18 Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces that target gangs, drugs and violent crime in 70 counties. The Task Forces bolster methamphetamine and prescription

Tennessee's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$3,750,947



How Tennessee Invests Byrne JAG Funds



drug enforcement efforts and support community collaboration by bringing together local resources.

- Equipment purchases for local and state agencies, including the TN Bureau of Investigation's Forensic Science Division, the City of Memphis Internet Crimes Against Children Division, enhancing the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system to notify victims of offender status changes via text, the development of a web application that allows local law enforcement and victim service agencies to better share information and coordinate a response to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and facility audio-visual updates to improve the TN Law Enforcement Training Academy's ability to deliver training to thousands of law enforcement personnel per year.
- The TN Department of Corrections project to provide temporary transportation services to assist with access to critical reentry services for probationers and parolees with revoked licenses for up to 30 days. Services are intended to reduce recidivism by assisting individuals travel to meetings, work or treatment services that are required as a condition of their release.
- In the City of Jackson, Byrne JAG funds supported the implementation of the gang resistance and prevention Phoenix Curriculum for students in school, after school,

and during the summer in order to teach them alternatives to gang membership and violence in a social learning atmosphere that stresses non-violent coping skills. This program includes parental involvement and is utilized by Juvenile Court when individuals are assessed as needing gang intervention and education.

- Planning and implementation to expand Family Justice Centers (FJCs) in 5 new communities (Nashville, Chattanooga, Cookeville, Johnson City, and the City of Jackson). FJCs serve as a comprehensive support center by co-locating services for victims of crime. Typical services include those provided by law enforcement, prosecutors, court, civil legal services and social service professionals. These sites were further supported through a training and technical assistance Byrne JAG grant to the Knoxville FJC.
- Tennessee has implemented a pilot pre-trial assessment project in Nashville and Knoxville. The project seeks to enhance public safety and improve criminal justice efficiency and effectiveness by eliminating the unnecessary use of pre-trial detention. The pilot sites will determine which charges will qualify for consideration in this project, and then an assessment will be chosen and tested.

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 Administrative 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.

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