



## Cornerstone for Justice: How Utah 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 Utah:

In 2016, the Utah Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Utah Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) is a state-wide criminal justice reform effort intended to reduce recidivism, hold offenders accountable and control corrections spending. Byrne JAG funding, in combination with other state resources, is being used to fund evidence-based supervision/transition programs and practices implemented by the county jails to reduce recidivism and the number of offenders per capita. To qualify for this funding, county jail applicants must agree to use the statewide screening instruments with everyone charged with a class B misdemeanor offense or above. In the last 18 months, roughly 62,000 jail risk and needs screenings have been completed statewide.

Currently, Byrne JAG funding for JRI screenings and screening related projects has been applied to the following counties: Emery, Sanpete, Carbon, Uintah, Washington, Duchesne, Sevier and Salt Lake.

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.

### Utah's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,487,200

7%



Law Enforcement

11%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

21%



Prevention & Education

16%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

6%



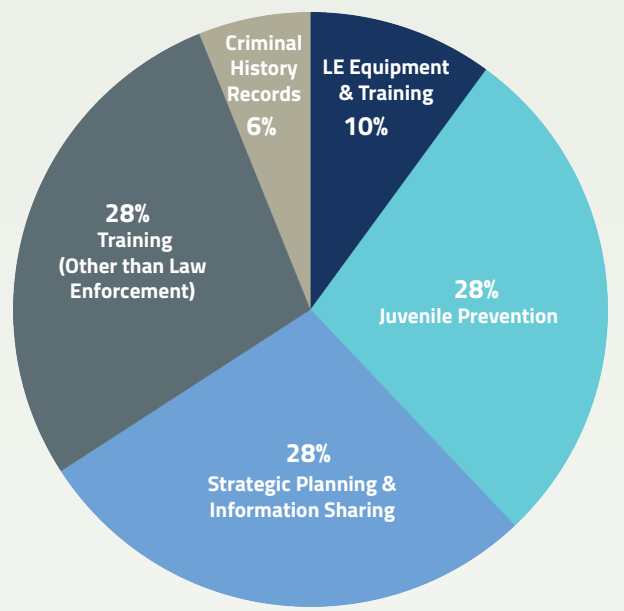
Prosecution & Courts

39%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

## How Utah Invests Byrne JAG Funds



## Additional Examples:

- Byrne JAG funds support the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice's Risk and Protective factor Indicator Tool (RAPIT). Through this website, users can view charts of indicators that will be useful for planning and evaluating substance abuse and delinquency prevention activities, as well as view specific risk and protective factors. Outcomes can be viewed by grade and gender or by race.
- Byrne JAG funds support equipment, training and technology purchases for 87 small and rural law enforcement agencies annually. Awards in 2016 paid for many things including: officer body-worn cameras, bullet proof vests, surveillance cameras, mobile data terminals, various training, drug test kits, Naloxone rescue kits, etc.
- Support for the Department of Public Safety's efforts to improve the Concealed Firearms Permit (CFP) screening process. Developers have written software capable of running nightly checks on CFP holders against the FBI's NICS query. This NICS search checks the NCIC Wanted Person, National Criminal History File (III), and the NICS Denied Person databases. Running nightly checks reduces the risk of issuing a CFP to individuals that have committed criminal offenses outside the State of Utah.

## 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.

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.