



Cornerstone for Justice: How Virginia 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 Virginia:

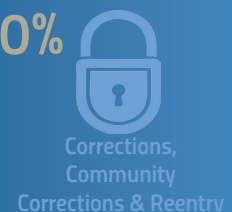
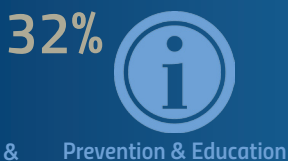
In 2016, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The purchase of body worn cameras in an effort to improve public safety and increase positive interactions between the police and the communities they serve. Virginia's SAA has developed a model policy on the use of body worn cameras and made it available for use by state and local law enforcement agencies.
- In response to the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic, Byrne JAG funds have supported the purchase of naloxone kits for local law enforcement agencies. Qualifying law enforcement agencies must ensure officers go through the REVIVE training course offered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services on the proper use and administration of naloxone.
- Byrne JAG funds support the continuation of Virginia's Juvenile Court Service Unit's Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) program. EPICS utilizes an

evidence-based model which trains probation and parole officers on the use of structured social and cognitive behavioral therapy during interactions with offenders in an effort to promote behavioral change.

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.

Virginia's Investment By Purpose Area



Total Investment = \$2,311,460

How Virginia Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: Victims Services and Supports; and Mental Health Diversion Programs

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.

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.

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