



Cornerstone for Justice: How Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin:

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

- Byrne JAG funds support the implementation and expansion of specialty courts throughout the state in coordination with the state’s Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program. In 2015 and 2016, Byrne JAG funds supported nine specialty court expansion grants and two initial implementation grants including Adult Drug Court, DUI Courts, a Mental Health Court and a Veterans Court.
- The implementation and expansion of pre-trial diversion programs throughout the state in coordination with the state’s Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program. In 2015 and 2016 Byrne JAG funds support six prosecutor-led pre-trial diversion programs in Milwaukee, Dane, Fond du Lac, St. Croix, Winnebago and Walworth counties.
- Statewide planning and criminal justice system improvement efforts through the Wisconsin Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for council projects and committees.

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 more productive lives.

- Funding for the Statewide Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator position within the Director of State Courts Office, to provide ongoing coordination and support for the expansion of specialty court programs funded through the Byrne JAG and TAD programs.

Wisconsin’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$3,218,365

33%



Law Enforcement

24%



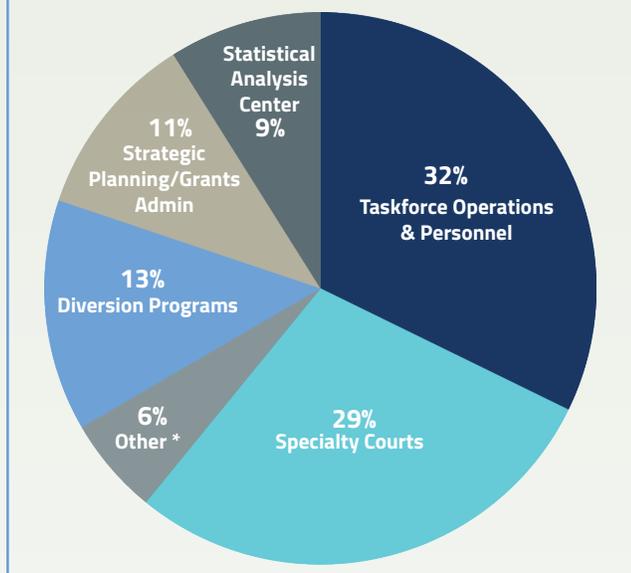
Planning, Evaluation & Technology

43%



Prosecution & Courts

How Wisconsin Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: Information sharing; crime prevention programs; and training (other than law enforcement)

Additional Examples:

- 18 local drug and violent crime taskforces. These multi-jurisdictional efforts cover 56 of the state's 72 counties. As part of this initiative, funds support an inter-tribal taskforce, which has representation from 10 of the state's 12 tribal nations.
- Scholarships for a 2016 Court Security Conference.
- Byrne JAG funds support the development of a web-based reporting system for specialty courts and pre-trial diversion programs funded through Byrne JAG and the state's Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program. This new data management will give researchers a unified data set upon which to build their evaluation efforts.
- The expansion of the state's Statistical Analysis Center. Funds are leveraged to enhance the state's ability to evaluate currently funded programs, analyze state-level crime data, submit data to UCR and support efforts driven by the state's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

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 Adminstrating 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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