



Byrne JAG Funding: A Snapshot from the States

The Byrne JAG Program

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs.

Byrne JAG can be used broadly for law enforcement needs, as well as prosecution and courts, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation and technology, 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.

How Byrne JAG is Distributed

Sixty percent of Byrne JAG grant money is awarded by state criminal justice planning agencies (known as State Administering Agencies, or SAAs) to local governments and non-profit service providers; 40 percent goes directly from the U.S Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to local law enforcement based on FBI crime data. Funding is authorized at \$1.1 billion, but annual funding levels have historically hovered around \$500 million. In FY08, funding was cut by 67 percent to \$170 million. In FY09, Congress restored Byrne JAG to \$512 million and provided an additional \$2 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

BJA awarded the Byrne JAG Recovery Act grants quickly with many awards reaching the field as early as April 2009. The SAAs in turn, awarded grants to programs and projects in their communities quickly and efficiently. Recovery Act spending is reported quarterly on www.recovery.gov.

Byrne JAG Data Collection

In partnership with BJA, the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) surveyed SAAs in early 2010 seeking data on how states and local communities deployed their Byrne JAG funds.

Within each of the seven purpose areas, as described in the Byrne JAG statute, SAAs were asked to classify the grants using a standard list of 43 project types. SAAs were also asked to provide a few examples of innovative projects supported by the Byrne JAG program. For example, in Minnesota Byrne JAG Recovery Act monies are being used to employ 7.5 public defenders which is helping to offset a cut in state funding which eliminated 53 public defender positions. A master document containing hundreds of examples can be found on the NCJA website. Select examples are listed below.

The data provide a snapshot of how Byrne JAG funds are deployed in the field. Data are gathered from the Recovery Act and any other Byrne JAG funds spent in 2009 (which could include money from the FY07, FY08, and FY09 awards).

What the Data Show: How Byrne JAG is Used in the Field

The data illustrate the fact that Byrne JAG funds are used for a broad and diverse range of projects across the entire criminal justice system, from prevention to arrest, pre-trial services, courts improvement, technology, corrections, and reentry. In partnership with BJA, each element of the criminal justice system, from law enforcement agencies to the courts, correctional agencies, and non-profit service providers use Byrne JAG to support a wide variety of community needs across all regions of the country.

Law Enforcement Programs

★ **Alabama** supports 30 drug task force units with its Byrne JAG grant, and upgrades and enhances law enforcement equipment. The state also helps fund a crime prevention training center, which provides continuing education for Alabama's law enforcement free of charge.

★ With its Byrne JAG grant, **Alaska** will establish a new rural task force of five investigators, one civilian and a dedicated prosecutor for rural domestic violence and sexual assault cases, including juvenile assault and internet crimes against children.

★ **California** will establish a firearms' trafficking task force modeled on the Project Gunrunner program. The task force will be comprised of local, state, federal, and, when appropriate, Mexican law enforcement agencies and will target illegal firearms' purchases, transportation and smuggling operations, and firearms-related violence along California's Southwest Border.

★ **Florida's** 19 Byrne JAG-funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces seized more than 76,000 grams of illegal drugs and conducted 4,093 drug investigations in one year. One county provides disposal sites for unused prescription medication.

★ **Georgia** is using Byrne JAG funds to support 23 multi-jurisdictional task forces, including three canine teams.

★ Through Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds, **Indiana** is equipping its 92 counties with fingerprint technology using nationally-recognized standards.

★ In **Kentucky**, Byrne JAG will fund a cold case training course. The course utilizes evidence-based practices and is offered to law enforcement officers across the state.

★ **Maryland** helps law enforcement agencies reduce outstanding warrant backlogs for violent offenders.

★ Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds support the hiring and retention of crime analysts in over 14 law enforcement agencies in **Maryland**. The analysts support investigators which allows for the strategic deployment of resources to identified areas.

★ Byrne JAG Recovery Act grants have been awarded to 35 local law enforcement agencies in **Massachusetts** for the hiring of, and/or overtime for, police officers.

★ The Genesee County, **Michigan** prosecutor's office is using Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds to leverage and coordinate the resources of other state and local agencies, the faith community, the private sector and others to fight crime in a troubled community, create recreational opportunities, and revitalize the neighborhood. Results will be measured and evaluated through a central database.

★ **Nevada** is using Byrne JAG to fund a new statewide records management, jail management and computer aided dispatch system for the state and 30 rural law enforcement agencies.

★ **New Hampshire** is using Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds to support the creation of a cold case unit.

★ Byrne JAG enables coalitions of local and state police to enforce drug laws in rural **Vermont**.

★ An analyst position is funded by Byrne JAG at the **Vermont** Fusion Center.

★ **Virginia** is using Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds to offset pending reductions in state support for all 123 sheriffs' departments in the state, thus avoiding the loss of up to 685 sworn deputies statewide.

Corrections and Reentry

★ Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds have been awarded to Goodwill Industries to provide job retraining services for offenders reentering the community after incarceration in **Kentucky**. This program utilizes evidence-based curricula and operates in the state's two largest cities, Louisville and Lexington.

★ The **New Jersey** State Parole Board uses Byrne JAG to provide specialized reentry services for female offenders in the Newark area. As with all Byrne JAG funded grants, the state planning agency provides program development, coordination, and technical assistance to grantees to strengthen program outcomes, oversight and monitoring.

★ **Ohio** is using Byrne JAG funding to expand its reentry programs, which are required to demonstrate evidence-based approaches. The state provides training, statewide and free of charge, to learn how to incorporate these practices.

★ Using a 65 percent local match, Allegheny County, **Pennsylvania** provides education and other services for returning offenders through a day reporting center. Because of its success, a second center is planned.

★ Because of Byrne JAG Recovery Act funding, **Tennessee** has been able to expand its Nashville therapeutic transition center for female offenders to Knoxville and Chattanooga. The program is designed to prepare residents for living independently, establishing stable families, retaining meaningful employment, and contributing back to the community.

★ An electronic monitoring program for female inmates is supported by Byrne JAG funding in **Utah**.

Crime Victim and Witness Programs

★ In **West Virginia**, Byrne JAG supports Child Advocacy Centers to respond to allegations of child abuse.

★ Byrne JAG supports the **California** Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Recovery Act Program. The program involves six existing, and establishes three new, human trafficking task forces .

★ In **Colorado**, Byrne JAG helps pay for a specialized sexual assault prosecutor experienced in dealing with rural issues to prosecute cases, provide direct services to, and consistency for, victims.

★ **Colorado** funds a program with Byrne JAG designed to prevent the exploitation of seniors. Materials are distributed through seniors' organizations, and a fraud hotline operates within the district attorney's office.

★ In **Colorado**, the First Judicial District Attorney's office will fund a family violence response project employing a deputy DA and paralegal who will prosecute cases, train local law enforcement, and provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and their children in collaboration with community members.

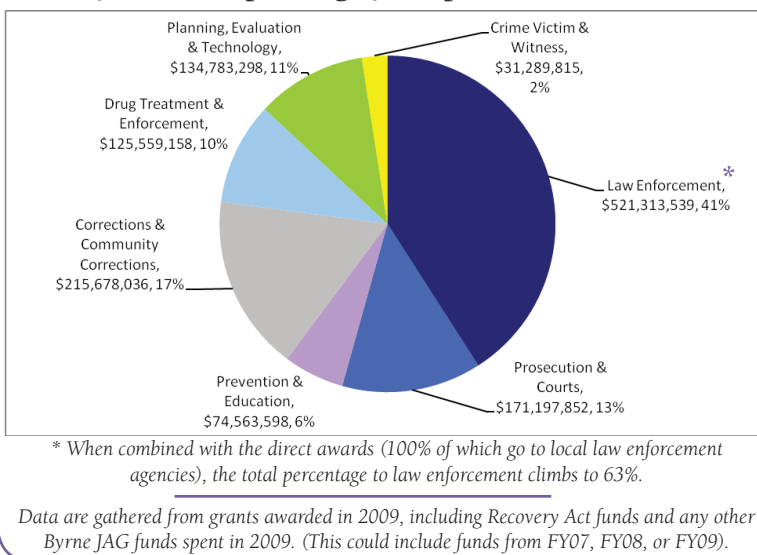
★ The **Kansas** Department of Corrections uses Byrne JAG to assist with victim notification services and risk management/safety planning.

★ **Maryland** uses Byrne JAG to fund numerous victim and prevention initiatives, including youth and family services, counseling, and advocacy.

★ Modeled after a successful local pilot program, **Maryland** uses Byrne JAG funds to identify and investigate mortgage fraud and improve coordination with local, state and federal agencies.

★ **Utah** has used Byrne JAG funds to hire a forensic interview specialist to conduct investigative interviews with child victims and witnesses of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Byrne JAG Spending by Purpose Areas in 2009



★ **Utah** uses Byrne JAG to fund implementation of CHOICES a psycho-educational domestic violence treatment and prevention program.

★ **Virginia** uses Byrne JAG funds to support crisis intervention teams that assist law enforcement agencies to respond to situations involving persons with mental health or substance abuse problems.

Prosecution and Courts

★ **Arkansas** uses Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds to increase capacity and improve efficiency of processing forensic cases in the crime lab.

★ **California** is using Byrne JAG to provide evidence-based supervision services to adult felon probationers in an effort to reduce recidivism and prison costs. Outcomes will be measured to evaluate the program.

★ **California** is establishing and enhancing existing parolee reentry courts throughout the state with its Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds to divert parole violators from prison and help them successfully transition back into the community. Outcomes will be measured to evaluate the program.

★ **Hawaii** is expanding its HOPE program, a high-intensity adult probation program targeting high-risk offenders by imposing immediate intermediate sanctions. Independent evaluation of this program has shown its effectiveness in reducing recidivism.

★ Byrne JAG funds in **Illinois** are used to strengthen and integrate the mental health and drug courts operating within Cook County by ensuring the implementation of best practices and standardization.

★ **Indiana** has used Byrne JAG to support its problem-solving courts. Currently, the state funds 12 drug, two reentry, and one community courts programs.

Byrne JAG Spending by Project Type

Within the 7 Purpose Areas established in the statute, SAAs were asked to classify each grant using a standard list of 43 topics. For instance, Byrne JAG grants classified under the Law Enforcement purpose area typically are awarded by the SAA to local police and sheriffs' departments. SAAs used the list of 43 project types to describe how those law enforcement funds would be used in the field. Below are the totals across all purpose areas. To see the project types broken down by purpose area, go to the NCJA website at <http://www.ncja.org>.

PROJECT TYPE	TOTAL
Administration and Management	\$20,119,574
Community corrections/alternatives to incarceration	\$44,952,042
Corrections - general	\$44,066,871
Courts improvement	\$16,610,892
Courts - specialty/problem-solving	\$60,003,228
Crime Prevention	\$22,392,300
Criminal records	\$17,274,882
Cyber Crime	\$12,479,578
Drug and substance abuse - prevention	\$8,825,330
Drug and substance abuse - treatment	\$88,641,143
Forensic science, crime lab, DNA analysis, cold case	\$21,887,484
Fusion centers	\$1,432,704
Identity Theft	\$826,715
Immigration, border control, human trafficking	\$5,574,978
Information sharing - equipment or technology purchases	\$56,195,157
Information sharing - general	\$33,395,315
Internet crime	\$1,827,673
Jails	\$1,748,011
Juvenile delinquency - gang prevention or suppression	\$22,738,116
Juvenile delinquency prevention - other than gangs	\$45,539,640
Law enforcement - drug or gang task forces	\$170,889,650
Law enforcement - equipment or technology purchases	\$117,441,037
Law enforcement - operations	\$48,456,005
Mental health services	\$16,272,651
Mortgage fraud	\$746,320
Other	\$10,421,728
Personnel - hiring or retention	\$125,237,134
Prescription drug monitoring	\$1,836,480
Pre-trial services	\$3,634,558
Probation and parole	\$57,494,576
Program evaluation and research	\$8,596,381
Program management and administration	\$2,970,818
Prosecution	\$22,619,421
Public defense	\$3,208,686
Reentry	\$44,000,443
School violence	\$2,878,708
Sex offender management	\$2,811,383
Terrorism preparedness	\$1,157,609
Victims services - domestic violence	\$10,930,283
Victims services - VAWA	\$373,422
Victims services - witness support and protection	\$3,443,371
Victims services - juvenile	\$10,342,403
Victims services - other	\$11,243,515
TOTAL	\$1,203,538,214

★ Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds in **Iowa** support a mental health court, which provides judicial oversight, correctional supervision, and coordinated treatment services for mentally ill offenders.

★ **Minnesota** is using Byrne JAG Recovery Act monies to employ 7.5 public defenders; helping to offset a cut in state funding which eliminated 53 public defender positions.

★ Byrne JAG funds are being used to expand the **Montana** Judicial Video Network to nine rural county courthouses and one hospital. The network is used for arraignments, hearings, depositions, education, administration, and other purposes, saving time and travel costs and enhancing public safety.

★ **Oklahoma** is using Byrne JAG Recovery Act monies to fund a capital litigation and homicide prosecution initiative focused on rural areas of the state. A prosecutor will be hired to develop centralized resources for the state to aid rural prosecutors in the handling of capital murder cases.

★ The Anderson, **South Carolina** Police Department has used Byrne JAG funds to hire a white-collar crime investigator. In addition to investigating and arresting white collar criminals, the investigator has helped develop a joint white collar crime task force and has participated in a task force on senior fraud.

★ **Wisconsin** uses risk and needs assessments to screen and divert defendants into treatment (in lieu of jail time) and to mandate weekly supervision, random drug testing, and

completion of treatment programs. The program has served over 700 defendants in the past two years.

Innovations in Planning and Process

★ **Colorado** is using its Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds to establish a multi-agency training center on evidence-based practices. The goal of the training will be to enhance practitioners' under-

standing of evidence-based approaches to improve outcomes and enhance public safety.

★ **Georgia** is using Byrne JAG Recovery Act monies to fund critical projects in local criminal justice systems through collaborative planning and discussion.

★ **Pennsylvania** has established countywide justice planning boards in 63 of its 67 counties. The boards are comprised of key policymakers in criminal justice and behavioral health. Grant funds are targeted to their communities' most pressing problems. Program performance is measured and reported to the state planning agency to justify future federal funding.

★ **Virginia's** criminal justice planning agency prioritizes needs and solicits short concept papers, based on those priorities, from potential applicants for Byrne JAG funds. Those proposing evidence-based solutions to clearly defined needs, or approaches with proven track records, are invited to submit full applications.

Drug Treatment and Enforcement

★ In **Colorado**, Byrne JAG will fund a statewide network of community-based, criminal justice clinical specialists who coordinate, manage, and provide clinical services to adult offenders.

★ **West Virginia** distributes Byrne JAG funds for substance abuse support and recovery services for women in transitional living facilities.

★ **Iowa** uses Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds for the Alliance of Coalitions 4 Change to help coordinate, leverage, and empower the efforts of over 50 local groups of citizen volunteers to reduce substance abuse in their communities. The grant has allowed them to share information and strategies, organize town hall meetings, and develop social media campaigns and a standard protocol for alcohol compliance checks.

★ With Byrne JAG, **Kansas** funds a four-county regional mental health center to support its intensive outpatient treatment program for non-violent persons at risk of, or involved with, the criminal justice system. Participants have at least one mental and an alcohol or drug use disorder.

★ **Maine** is using Byrne JAG Recovery funds to target prescription drug abuse in three rural counties.

★ Byrne JAG funds will be used to implement a prescription drug abuse awareness campaign in **Montana**.

★ The Bucks County, **Pennsylvania** pretrial diversion program, funded by Byrne JAG, is a collaborative effort among criminal justice and treatment partners. Of the 223 pretrial offenders served, 89 percent of cases submitted for bail were approved and 78 percent of cases were successfully closed.

★ **Utah** is using Byrne JAG funding for a prescription drug abuse awareness campaign based on the state's successful methamphetamine campaign.

Juvenile Justice and Prevention

★ **Alabama** helps fund a crime prevention training center with its Byrne JAG grant, which provides prevention training, and assists localities in reducing crime. The center is able to provide continuing education for Alabama's law enforcement free of charge.

★ **Colorado** will fund a truancy reduction program with its Byrne JAG Recovery Act grant.

★ **Illinois** is using Byrne JAG to develop a youth court in conjunction with the Chicago Housing Authority, Park District, and the Chicago Police Department.

★ **Maryland** uses Byrne JAG to fund numerous juvenile-focused initiatives, including youth and family services, youth mentoring, juvenile diversion and intervention programs, and a juvenile drug court.

★ Funded by the Byrne JAG Recovery Act, crime prevention organizers employed by 13 neighborhood associations will work in partnership with the Grand Rapids, **Michigan** Police Department to prevent crime and improve neighborhoods. Results will be measured by quantifiable reductions in police calls for service, crime, and the resolution of 500 public safety concerns within the targeted neighborhoods.

★ **Missouri** is using Byrne JAG Recovery Act funds to support 13 multi-jurisdictional cyber crime task forces focusing on crimes against children.

★ In **New Jersey**, Byrne JAG-funded community justice coordinators assist communities in analyzing crime data, establishing partnerships to identify existing resources, and working with community organizations to address gaps in services.

★ **North Dakota** uses Byrne JAG to fund the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center which coordinates a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach to the prevention, investigation, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse, including providing forensic interviews and medical examinations, education, prevention, advocacy, and counseling services to children and their families.

★ Byrne JAG funds support a family safety center in Bismarck, **North Dakota**, which provides a safe and neutral environment for supervised visitations and custodial exchanges of children.

★ **Tennessee** uses Byrne JAG Recovery Act funding to support a therapeutic foster care program for adolescent sex offenders. The program assists adolescents transitioning from a residential program into the community where they are placed within a family home and continue to receive treatment.

★ **West Virginia** uses Byrne JAG to support 66 Prevention Retention Officers in 36 counties who provide mentoring, prevention programs, substance abuse education and identification and safety programs in middle and high schools.

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