

## Byrne JAG: Cornerstone for Justice

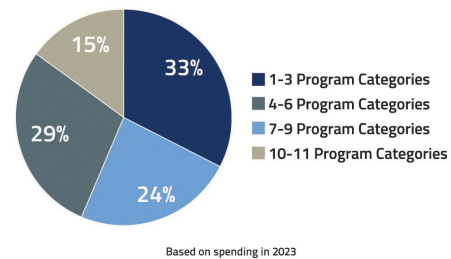
### How the State Formula Program Improves State and Local Justice Systems

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is the nation’s cornerstone justice assistance grant program, supporting the federal government’s crucial role in spurring innovation and testing and replicating evidence-based practices in crime control and prevention nationwide. States and local communities invest Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the justice system. In this way, Byrne JAG reaches counties, cities and townships across rural and urban America. With Byrne JAG funds, state and local governments have made remarkable strides in advancing data-driven practice in criminal justice.

#### Flexibility is Key

Byrne JAG’s hallmark is its flexibility. States and localities can deploy the funds to address their most pressing public safety challenges. It allows communities to design complete programs or fill gaps, leverage other resources, break down silos and work across jurisdictional lines. The statute describes the justice system, and authorizes spending, in any or all of nine program areas. When disaggregated into 11 program categories – law enforcement, community corrections/reentry, prosecution, public defense, behavioral health/crisis response, juveniles/crime prevention, courts, crime labs/forensics, victim services, corrections, planning/assessment/evaluation.

Percent of States Spending in Multiple Program Categories



#### The Role of the SAA

The State Administering Agency (SAA) is the entity designated by each governor to oversee Byrne JAG. The SAAs conduct cross-system strategic planning, design and implement programs, award sub-grants to local governments and non-profit service providers, evaluate program effectiveness and ensure the full accountability of all federal funds. With a structure and process that varies by state, their strategic planning analyzes crime trends, elicits the policy priorities of the various sectors of the justice system and establishes a plan for the use of the grant funds.

#### Byrne JAG Formula

Byrne JAG funds flow by formula to all states, territories and the District of Columbia. Sixty percent of each state’s award is distributed by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to the SAA, which in turn subgrants the majority to, or through, local governments and to non-profit service providers. The remaining 40 percent goes directly by formula from BJA to over 1,000 cities and counties. State allocations are based on population and crime rate; local allocations are based on crime rate. Read more about the [Byrne JAG formula](#).

#### Strong Stakeholder Support

Throughout the program’s history, a large and broad coalition representing all segments of the criminal justice system has consistently supported robust and steady funding for the Byrne JAG program.

#### Learn More

For more information about how states allocate Byrne JAG funds visit [NCJA’s website](#) and download [Byrne JAG Leading Change in State and Local Justice Systems](#) or contact [Elizabeth Pyke](#), NCJA Director of Government Affairs.