

## Byrne JAG and COPS as a Percentage of Local and State Criminal Justice Budgets

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) is an important source of funds for testing and replicating promising practices across state and local justice systems. Byrne JAG allows states and local communities to address needs and fill gaps in prevention, diversion, enforcement, courts, prosecution, defense, corrections, victim assistance, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and other community-based supports. Yet, together with the COPS Hiring program, these grants contribute only a very small percentage of state and local governments’ own spending on justice system services. States and localities spent \$226.2 billion for justice system services in FY15. Of that amount, \$105.2 billion was for policing services.

**Byrne JAG and COPS contribute just over one-quarter of one percent to state and local justice system budgets. For policing only, Byrne JAG and COPS contribute less than one-half of one percent to state and local budgets.**

Table 1: 2015 Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring as % of local and state justice system spending. Data on expenditures is from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and is compared to the annual appropriation for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring programs (after carve-outs).

2015	Direct Expenditures <sup>iii</sup> (in millions)	Byrne JAG appropriated (in millions)	Byrne JAG % of total	COPS Hiring appropriated (in millions)	COPS % of total	Byrne JAG and COPS appropriated (in millions)	Byrne JAG and COPS % of total
State and Local Spending - All Justice Services	\$226,181.1	\$319	0.14%	\$274	0.12%	\$593	0.26%
State and Local Spending - Policing Services	\$105,164.3	\$240 <sup>iii</sup>	0.22%	\$274	0.26%	\$514	0.48%

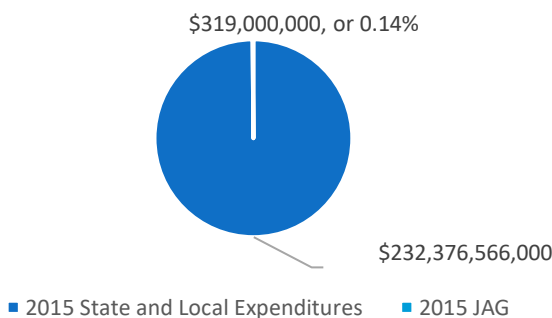
**NOTE:** The latest BJS data is from 2015. The FY20 Byrne JAG and COPS data and the 2015 BJS expenditure data used in table 2 below are *for comparison purposes only*. It is not an accurate depiction of 2020 expenditure percentages.

Table 2: FY20 Byrne JAG and COPS as Percent of 2015 State and Local Budgets

Byrne JAG FY20 (in millions)	Byrne JAG FY20 as Percent of 2015 Total State and Local Expenditures	COPS FY20 (in millions)	COPS FY20 as Percent of 2015 Total State and Local Expenditures
\$349	0.15% <sup>iv</sup>	\$156	0.07% <sup>v</sup>

Figure 1: 2015 Byrne JAG as Percent of 2015 State and Local Expenditures

### Byrne JAG as a Percentage of Total Expenditures



**Byrne JAG makes up less than one quarter of 1% for local and state criminal justice expenditures**

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<sup>i</sup> To view and download the Bureau of Justice Statistics data, visit <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6727>. Click on Data Tables and view worksheet 1, jeee15t01.csv.

<sup>ii</sup> To better understand Direct Expenditures in this context, view the Bureau of Justice Statistics User Guide at <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/jeeeguide.pdf>. Relevant paragraphs are copied here:

*Intergovernmental expenditure is defined as amounts paid to other governments for performance of specific functions or for general financial support. It includes grants, shared taxes, contingent loans and advances, and any significant and identifiable amounts or reimbursement paid to other governments for performance of general government services or activities (e.g., payments by one government to another for boarding prisoners). By definition, it excludes amounts paid to other governments for purchase of commodities, property, or utility services and for any tax levied as such on facilities of the government (e.g., local government payments to state-operated retirement systems on behalf of their employees and contributions to the federal government for old age, survivors, disability, and health insurance).*

*Total expenditure includes direct and intergovernmental expenditure of a government. In the expenditure tables, certain totals have been adjusted to exclude duplicative intergovernmental expenditure amounts. For example, money paid by a state government to a county government within that state is reported by the state government as an intergovernmental expenditure and the county government as a direct expenditure when the money is spent (e.g., salaries, wages, and equipment). Therefore, to arrive at a combined state-local government total that does not duplicate these transactions, intergovernmental expenditure amounts are deducted from the state-local total. Those amounts also are reflected in the direct expenditure of the recipient government. The same treatment is used for intergovernmental payments between counties and municipalities in the same state when computing local totals. Totals reported for all governments also are adjusted to exclude duplicative intergovernmental expenditure involving the federal government.*

<sup>iii</sup> This is approximate. An exact figure on Byrne JAG grants spent on policing services in FY20 is not available. This figure assumes all local direct awards support local law enforcement agencies and that about half of state formula spending is in the Law Enforcement purpose area that includes programs as well as operations, equipment and technology spending.

<sup>iv</sup> The latest BJS local and state criminal justice expenditure data is from 2015. The latest Byrne JAG and COPS data is from 2020.

<sup>v</sup> The latest BJS local and state criminal justice expenditure data is from 2015. The latest Byrne JAG and COPS data is from 2020.