



Cornerstone for Justice: How Minnesota Uses Byrne JAG Funding to Protect Public Safety, Prevent Crime and Reduce Recidivism

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is the nation's cornerstone justice assistance grant program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in improving state and local justice systems by spurring innovation and by testing and replicating evidence-based practices in crime control and prevention. States, localities and tribal nations are able to deploy Byrne JAG funding against their most pressing public safety challenges, to design complete programs or fill gaps, to leverage other resources and to work across city, county and state lines.

Byrne JAG funds may be invested across the criminal justice system for prevention, diversion, enforcement, courts, prosecution and defense, corrections, victim assistance, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and other community-based support. Byrne JAG improves the administration of justice, reduces incarceration, enhances fairness, improves outcomes for the justice-involved and saves taxpayer money.

Byrne JAG in Minnesota:

In 2018, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Two multi-jurisdictional Violent Crime Enforcement Teams (VCET) that target drug distribution networks, firearm crimes, violent gang activity and other serious criminal activity. These teams cover 11 cities, five counties and three reservations.
- Four jail-based reentry programs that provide pre-release and reentry integrated mental health and substance abuse assessment, referral, case management, and/or services. One of these jail-based program, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, implements a Release Advance Planning (RAP) program using case planners to provide pre-release and reentry services. Success is measured, in part, by a reduction in jail bed days. Preliminary results showed an 80 percent reduction in jail bed days for those that had been out of the program one year.

With Byrne JAG funds, state and local governments have made remarkable strides in advancing data-driven practices in criminal justice.

Grants are awarded based on a strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state's system stakeholders.

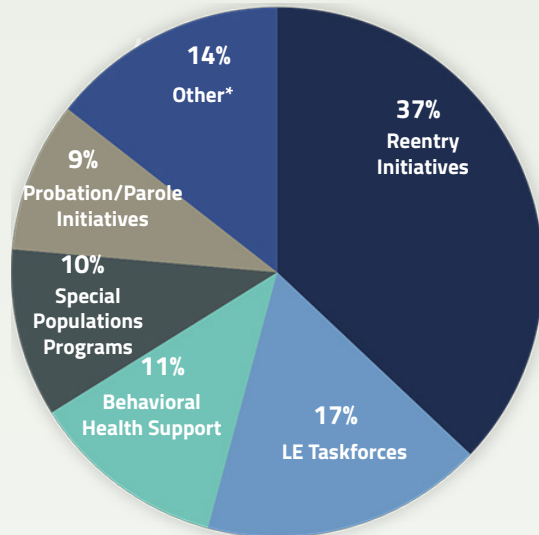
Minnesota's Investment By Purpose Area

20% 
Law Enforcement

Total Investment = \$3,340,291

80% 
Corrections, Community
Corrections & Reentry

Minnesota's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



*"Other" includes, Housing Support, Restorative Justice Initiatives, Information Sharing, Community-Based Treatment.

- A Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Analyst with the Drug Monitoring Initiative who assists in securing access to key data sets and disseminating reports to help address the crisis caused by opioids and other drugs in Minnesota.
- Investigative software and equipment used by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in the Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigative Task Force.
- Eight recidivism reduction programs that provide pre-and post-release services to a variety of populations including men, women, and juveniles around the state. Programming is based on evidence-based practices and includes wrap around services, cognitive peer coaching, case management to address stable housing, mental health, substance abuse, employment, etc. One program, the Domestic Violence Restorative Circles (DVRC) program with Men As Peacemakers addresses offenders' issues and helps them transition back to the community through restorative justice circles, making victims and the community safer. System partners express a high degree of satisfaction with the program, feel that DVRC increases offender accountability, is responsive to the needs of victims, provides valuable information to systems partners,

and seems the most impactful option available to change offender thinking and behavior. The program has been highly successful in community engagement, with 96 active volunteers. To date, no one has recidivated with a violent domestic violence offense; and only one participant violated a no contact order while in the program.

How Byrne JAG Funding is Awarded:

Byrne JAG funds are awarded by a formula based on each state's population and crime rate. Sixty percent of a state's allocation is awarded to the state criminal justice planning agency (known as the State Administering Agency, or SAA) which, in turn, makes the funding available to local governments and non-profit service providers. The remaining 40 percent of the state's allocation is awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) directly to a number of local communities based on crime data.

Funding is authorized by Congress at \$1.1 billion, though annual funding has never reached that level. At its peak in FY02, Congress appropriated \$830 million. Until FY10 funding held steady at about \$500 million annually but has since dropped by about one-third. In FY18, the program was funded at \$340 million.

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.

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