



The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program

Purposes and Permissible Uses

- On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or [CARES Act](#), a \$2 trillion stimulus package meant to stabilize the national economy and respond to impacts from the COVID-19 virus.
- The Act provides \$850 million for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program formula to states and localities “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically and internationally...” in state and local justice systems.
- The DOJ, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) [grant solicitation](#) specifies that funds may be used for, but are not limited to, “overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses (particularly related to the distribution of resources to the most impacted areas), and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.”
- CESF allows recipients to take advantage of the flexibility of Byrne JAG to fund programs with a direct nexus to coronavirus and allows for the possibility to expand outside the traditional boundaries of a DOJ grant.

Who is Eligible for a CESF Grant?

- Every state, territory and locality that was eligible for a Byrne JAG grant in FY2019 is eligible to receive a CESF grant. Funding through the Byrne JAG formula is based on population and crime rate.
- Like Byrne JAG, CESF awards will reach communities in several ways:
 - Sixty percent of a state’s total allocation will be awarded to and administered by the State Administering Agency, or SAA. View the [state award amounts](#) and a [directory of SAAs](#).
 - The remaining 40 percent will be awarded directly by BJA to certain localities by formula. View the [direct awards to localities](#).
 - Any locality, whether or not eligible for a direct award, may be able to apply to the SAA for a grant.
 - Community-based service providers may be able to apply to the SAA or locality for a grant.

Key Differences Between Byrne JAG and CESF

- Although funding is distributed through the Byrne JAG formula, CESF differs in two respects. First, every city and county that received Byrne JAG funds in FY19 through the “disparate allocation” mechanism is eligible for a direct award. Second, unlike Byrne JAG, SAAs are not required under CESF to award a specified percentage in grants to localities.

For more information about the CESF and Byrne JAG programs, including a webinar about the CESF program, visit the National Criminal Justice Association [website](#) or contact Elizabeth Pyke at epyke@ncja.org.

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