



Cornerstone for Justice:

How Georgia 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 Georgia:

In 2018, the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

- A state residential substance abuse treatment (RSAT) program at Coastal State Prison. Coastal's RSAT program diverts qualifying offenders sentenced to two years or less of prison time to three and six-month residential substance abuse treatment programs, followed by community supervision and aftercare.
- The Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC), one of 77 U.S. Department of Homeland Security-recognized fusion centers. The fusion center is the primary repository for criminal intelligence information, and staff is responsible for turning the flow of raw information into an actionable intelligence picture.
- Seventeen multi-jurisdictional drug task (MJTF) forces whose overarching goals are to 1) disrupt illicit drug markets by investigating drug distributors and/or drug trafficking organizations, 2) broaden awareness as to the trends, threats, myths and consequences associated with

illegal drug use, and 3) participate in the local drug enforcement strategy through law enforcement intervention with drug abusers. Each task force is overseen by a local control board comprised of law enforcement and prosecution representatives. MJTFs are committed to addressing and decreasing the current level of drug-related crime within Georgia.

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

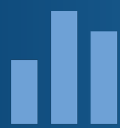
Georgia's Investment By Purpose Area

42%



Law Enforcement

21%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

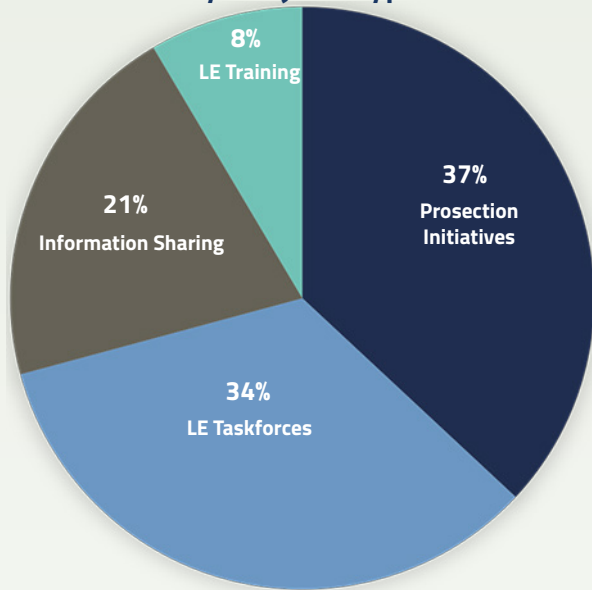
37%



Prosecution & Courts
(including indigent defense)

Total Investment = \$4,794,823

Georgia's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- Driver's license and identity theft investigation and prevention through the Georgia Department of Driver Services through support of investigative positions.
- Law enforcement training series held by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC). Their Drug Enforcement Training Program offers advanced specialized training in drug enforcement investigations, school resource officer, community oriented policing, and Spanish language. In addition, GPSTC provides a Georgia Clandestine Laboratory Investigation/Safety Certification program and Crisis Intervention Team Certification training, which are imperative trainings for all specialized investigators.
- Georgia Byrne Innovative Communities grant program that responds to local needs and provides three communities with the necessary resources to address complex criminal justice issues within their localities. Each community addresses a specific systemic criminal justice issue: 1) a local RSAT initiative that focuses on state prisoners who have a history of substance abuse and are slated to exit the correctional system in the Hall County area; 2) a DeKalb County Gang Reduction Intervention Program for the creation of a robust investigative files system

to enhance gang investigations and facilitate the sharing of intelligence with state and local law enforcement agencies; 3) support of the Clayton County Public School System in training school personnel on identifying juvenile trafficking victims and other at-risk juveniles.

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.

This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2016-DP-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions are those of the authors.