



Cornerstone for Justice:

How Alabama 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 Alabama:

In 2018, the Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs, Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Alabama Drug Enforcement Task Force (ADETF) was created through a partnership between Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and local law enforcement agencies. The ADETF began in October 2016. The seven-multijurisdictional regional drug task forces work to break down the barriers between interstate jurisdictions to combat narcotics related crimes and drug trafficking organizations.
- The partnership between the City of Montgomery and A Cut Above the Rest Training Facility (CARTF) expands the capacity to train ex-offenders and other hard-to-place workers for employment in construction industry jobs. This program is essential for helping reduce high recidivism rates among ex-offenders in Alabama, as well as removing barriers to successful reentry by providing education and vocational opportunities.

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

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

Alabama's Byrne JAG Investment By Purpose Area

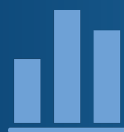
Total Investment = \$3,004,166

84%



Law Enforcement

15%



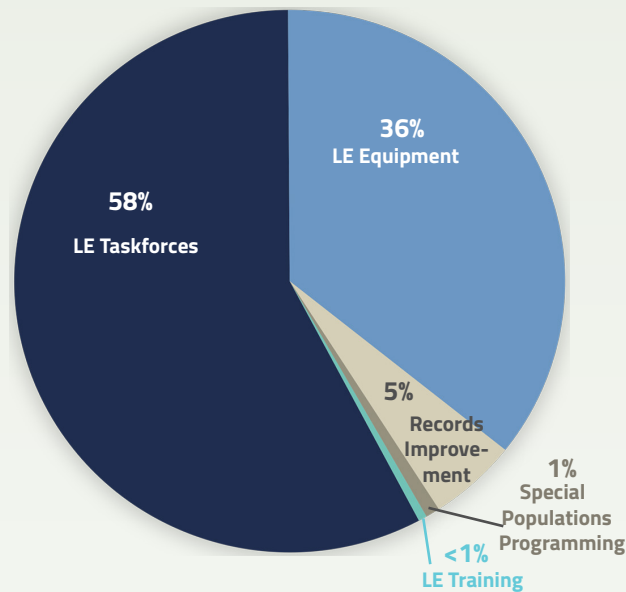
Planning, Evaluation & Technology

1%



Prevention & Education

Alabama's Byrne JAG Investment by Project Type



- Byrne JAG funds support a partnership with the Jacksonville State University Center for Applied Forensics (CFAF) to improve the effectiveness of local law enforcement and public safety entities regarding the processing of medicolegal death scenes by providing the training and tools necessary to properly assess, examine, and document death scenes. CFAF places special emphasis on targeting rural agencies to participate in the training.
- Byrne JAG funds support Law Enforcement Equipment Grants awarded to local law enforcement agencies for much needed equipment and technology upgrades.

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.

2018 Byrne JAG Spending Study:

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2018 Byrne JAG Spending Study conducted by the National Criminal Justice Association. Financial data was submitted by and qualitative interviews were conducted with all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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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