



Cornerstone for Justice: How Wyoming 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 Wyoming:

In 2018, the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, Office of the Attorney General invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation's (DCI) five Regional Enforcement Teams, have offices throughout the state. Each Enforcement Team is staffed by full-time agents, as well as officers and deputies, referred to as Task Force Officers (TFO's) from local law enforcement agencies. Agents and TFO's are supported by a combination of Byrne JAG funds, general state funds and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant.

Byrne JAG funds currently provide support for nine TFOs. The primary goal of Wyoming's DCI Regional Enforcement Teams is identification, disruption and dismantling of drug trafficking organizations and the apprehension of violent crime offenders.

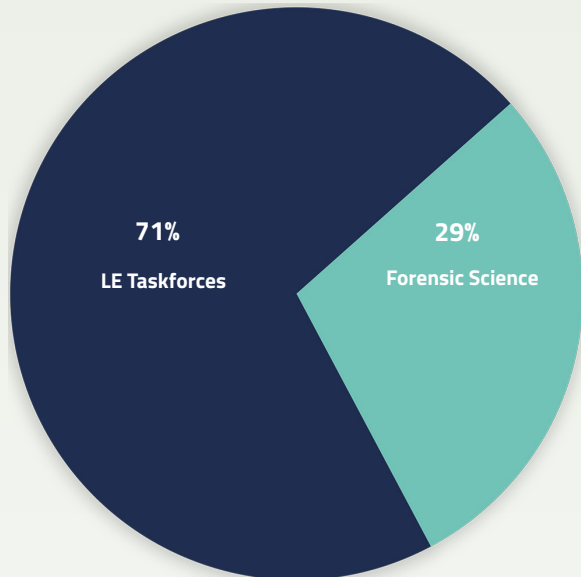
- Standardization of training, equipment, policy and procedures for law enforcement. The Wyoming Division of

Criminal Investigation coordinates, cooperates and communicates with local law enforcement agencies to ensure statewide enforcement efforts and facilitate the sharing, exchange and utilization of intelligence information and investigative resources.

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

Byrne JAG funding keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives.

Wyoming's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



Total Investment = \$506,103

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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