**Insert Agency Logo & Name**

**An Overview of Our Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program**

**What is the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG)?**

The [Byrne Justice Assistance Grant](https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview) (Byrne JAG) is a federal criminal justice grant that helps states/territories, tribal nations and local governments meet identified needs and improve the administration of justice. The grant is provided to [insert agency name] through the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

**What are our Priorities for Byrne JAG Funding?**

In 2016, the Justice for All Reauthorization Act was signed into federal law, requiring all states/territories applying for Byrne JAG to complete a statewide strategic plan that addresses planned resource allocation, use of data and implementation of evidence informed practices. A *strategic plan* is a document used to communicate goals, actions needed to achieve those goals and all other critical elements developed during the planning process. Generally, strategic plans aim to address the following questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to go?
3. What specific policies, practices, programs, or other activities should we implement to get us there?
4. Are we following our designated road map and achieving our expected results?

Our Byrne JAG strategic plan, updated every five years, is developed in collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders, or criminal justice system partners (which can include community members and justice-involved individuals). Stakeholder input, along with data analysis, drive priorities and goals for this funding.

Our agency’s Byrne JAG priorities, as identified by our comprehensive strategic planning process, include the following:

**Suggestion 1**

List all the JAG priority program areas for which you intend to consider applications and list the related programming that would fall underneath that program area. For a complete idea of what this could look like, check out [this document](https://www.ncja.org/_files/ugd/cda224_5964b00033604849808b5de686abf0c6.pdf).

**Suggestion 2**

List all the types of projects or programs for which you intend to consider applications. For example:

* Law enforcement programming (excluding equipment)
* Community-based restorative justice programs
* Projects focused on forensic science or criminal record improvements
* Mobile crisis units
* Deflection and diversion programs

**Suggestion 3**

Outline the priorities as goals, so it is clear to applicants and stakeholders that funded projects will need to contribute to the state/territory’s overall progress toward one or multiple goals.

* Improve access to behavioral health services by supporting crisis intervention teams/services that include a co-response of both behavioral health professionals and law enforcement by increasing programs located within law enforcement agencies from 1 to 3 during the project period ending September 30, 2025.
* Reduce violent crime in communities with the highest crime rates by a 5% reduction from the baseline through supporting evidence-informed violent crime reduction initiatives that target the underlying drivers of violence and are tailored to the unique needs of the community.

**Who is Eligible to Apply?**

Outline who is eligible to apply. If you want to emphasize certain types of applications (programs that are evidence-informed, programs that build in evaluative components, programs that help individuals with justice involvement, etc.) this is a great section to do so.

**How are Award Decisions Made?**

Every [insert “year” or “two years”] around [insert approx. time of year solicitation is released], we release the Byrne JAG grant opportunity for applicants, which is called [insert name of opportunity, i.e., “Notice of Funding Opportunity” or “Request for Proposal”].

In this section, include information regarding how subgrant decisions are made. Specifically, make sure to include the following:

* Do you have a board/advisory council, and if so, who are they and how are they involved in the decision-making process?
* Are applications peer reviewed and if so, who are the peer reviewers? Do peer reviewers rotate?

If an organization is awarded a Byrne JAG subgrant, decisions are typically made around [insert approx. time of year when decisions are made.]

**Prohibited JAG Items**

Some types of items and equipment are either expressly prohibited under Byrne JAG or require certain requirements to be met in order for the item/piece of equipment to be purchased. As mentioned previously, Byrne JAG was created by law, and the statute itself prohibits the purchase of certain items and requires waivers and special permission for others. You can read the full guidance on items prohibited under this federal grant program [here.](https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/prohibited-and-controlled-equipment-guidance) [Insert name of your agency] often receives questions on whether an item can be funded under JAG; here are some of the most commonly asked-after items and whether they are prohibited entirely or require prior approval in order to be funded:

Prohibited Items

* Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Unmanned Aircrafts (UA) and/or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) i.e., drones.
* Firearms of .50 or greater caliber.
* Ammunition of .50 or greater caliber.

Items Requiring Prior Approval

* Motorcycles, vans, buses, sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pickup trucks require prior approval UNLESS the vehicle is considered to be a “police cruiser,” meaning the vehicle is used for routine police patrol.
* Command and/or control vehicles, wheeled armored vehicles, tactical vehicles and police helicopters.

**Questions?**

If you have any questions about this grant program and how we administer it, please reach out to [insert grant manager’s name, email and phone number.]