



Cornerstone for Justice: How Maryland 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 Maryland:

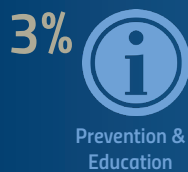
In 2018, the Maryland Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Byrne JAG funds are used to support numerous diversion initiatives for non-violent felonies, which work to reduce recidivism and provide alternatives to incarceration by offering drug treatment, mental health treatment, and employment training.
- Byrne JAG funds supported forty-eight specialized training scholarships awarded to local law enforcement agencies between 2017 and 2018. Trainings included school resource officer training, cell phone technology and forensics recovery, violent crimes and terrorism trends, latent print examination, courtroom security, drug recognition training, domestic violence training and crime scene investigator training.
- The Washington County Juvenile Diversion Program utilizes evidence-based practices of Trauma-Informed Care, Family Engagement, and screening for adverse childhood experiences to understand the role that trauma plays in the lives of youth offenders and their families.
- The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Training & Education Outreach Program provides various training to law enforcement executives, focusing on professional development and leadership.
- Lead4Life, Inc’s Juvenile Entry Diversion Initiative is a police diversion program for first-time youthful misdemeanor offenses which reduces youth involvement in the juvenile justice system and increase accountability and behavioral intervention.

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

Maryland’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,680,184



- The St. Mary's County Community Awareness Campaign activities include managing the ACES Liaison to develop and facilitate a monthly ACES Steering Committee, organizing and scheduling ongoing community educational events and creating awareness to assist the community in understanding the long-term effects of ACES to build a trauma-informed community.
- The Maryland State Police's HEMP testing program allows for the testing of criminal drug cases within Maryland by funding the instrumentation required to confirm the presence of marijuana in samples collected for criminal proceedings.
- Heartly House's Partnership for Thriving Communities & Families offers prevention and intervention services to public housing residents experiencing substance use disorders and/or domestic violence. The program uses a two-generational approach to reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACES) by providing on-site prevention education activities, crisis intervention, assessment, and fast track connection to evidenced-based and alternative treatments for the impacts of these traumas.
- University of Maryland's School of Law Levitas Sexual Assault Prevention program develops research protocols, evaluation tools, and formal applications for the University of Maryland Baltimore's Institutional Review Board for approval to conduct evaluation of the effectiveness of the Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention's program in Baltimore City's City Springs Elementary/Middle School.

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.

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