



Cornerstone for Justice: How Ohio 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.

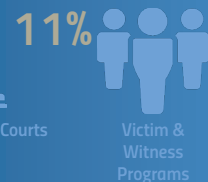
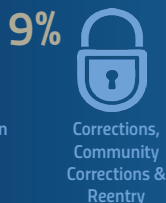
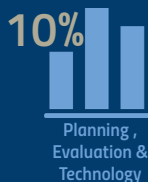
Byrne JAG in Ohio:

In 2018, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Prevention, education and enforcement efforts aimed at reducing prescription drug abuse. Ohio counties collaborate with health care professionals in an effort increase awareness and preparedness when dealing with front line encounters involving pharmaceutical drug seekers, abusers and traffickers. Enforcement efforts are dedicated to identifying and prosecuting offenders.
- 32 multijurisdictional drug task forces, serving more than half of Ohio’s 88 counties. These task forces focus on a variety of drug threats based on local drug trends.
- Five specialty courts throughout the state, including a veteran’s treatment, drug, mental health, juvenile and domestic violence courts. Each court receives certification through the specialized docket section of the Ohio Supreme Court to ensure they utilize established current best practices.
- Byrne JAG funds support training for community corrections staff agencies through the Ohio Community Corrections Association and the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections. Funding supports outreach, scholarships and training for state and local community corrections agencies and related fields like courts, substance abuse providers, case managers, and behavioral health social workers.
- Support for the Ross County Heroin Partnership Program, a collaborative effort of federal, state, and local partners which brings together traditional and nontraditional criminal justice entities from courts, corrections, treatment, enforcement, and education using proven criminal justice intervention tools to combat the heroin epidemic and replicate these initiatives throughout the state.
- Funding supports specialized prosecutor initiatives throughout the state, focused on drug and gang interdiction and domestic violence prosecution and other areas.

Ohio’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$4,761,348



- Equipment purchases including radios, cruisers, mobile data terminals and tasers as well as personnel hours for small to mid-sized agencies whose counties do not receive direct Byrne JAG awards.
- Big Brother Big Sister programs in 11 counties throughout the state. Programs use an evidence-based approach to provide mentoring within communities and schools.
- A FOCUS on Runaways Project is being funded through the University of Toledo. The project seeks to combat human trafficking through a team of professionals - including law enforcement, outreach specialists, advocates, treatment providers working with juveniles. The University of Toledo will do an evaluation of the project upon completion.
- Juvenile court dockets for diversion and community integration programming. Through organizations like Lighthouse Youth Services, funds support wrap around services to prevent youth from further involvement with the criminal justice system.
- An alternative sentencing social worker position in the Athens branch of the state public defender's office. The social worker works with individuals awaiting adjudication and individuals currently on community supervision. Funds support mental health and substance abuse assessment, targeted case management and referral services.
- Byrne JAG funds are blended with VAWA funds to support a variety of domestic violence prevention initiatives across the state including a cyber-stalking investigator position, domestic violence advocates, case management, crisis hotlines, shelter services and child advocacy centers. VAWA funds are also being supplemented with 2018 JAG funding to perform a state-wide needs assessment by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

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.

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

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