



Cornerstone for Justice: How New York 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 New York:

Beginning in FY17, the Trump Administration required all Byrne JAG grantees to certify compliance with certain immigration-related provisions in federal law in order to draw down their awards. A number of states and localities challenged the new conditions in court.

To date, eight states, including New York, have yet to accept their FY18 awards due to the ongoing litigation. The allocation figures and program examples below, therefore, summarize New York’s Byrne JAG investments in FY16.

In 2016, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Technical assistance and an ongoing evaluation of the state-funded Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative. The GIVE initiative builds upon the information sharing and partnerships developed under a predecessor program, Operation IMPACT, expanding the use of crime analysis, evidence-based practices and community partnerships to assist in the reduction of firearm-related homicides and shootings.

Crime-fighting strategies developed under GIVE vary by jurisdiction and include, but are not limited to: enhanced patrols in hot spots prone to gun violence, focused deterrence against violent gangs and groups considered responsible for the most gun violence in communities, increased supervision of individuals on parole and probation, and the deployment of street outreach workers to interrupt cycles of violence and prevent retaliation.

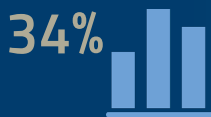
- New York State SNUG program. An evidence-based, street outreach program based on the Cure Violence Model in Chicago, the New York State SNUG program utilizes a public health approach to gun violence, treating it like a disease by identifying its causes and interrupting its transmission. DCJS administers state funding for 11 local SNUG programs across the state, and also provides training, technical assistance and general program oversight. Byrne funding was utilized to employ a statewide SNUG program coordinator and a statewide training director.

New York’s FY16 Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$6,262,117



Law Enforcement



Planning, Evaluation & Technology



Prevention & Education



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

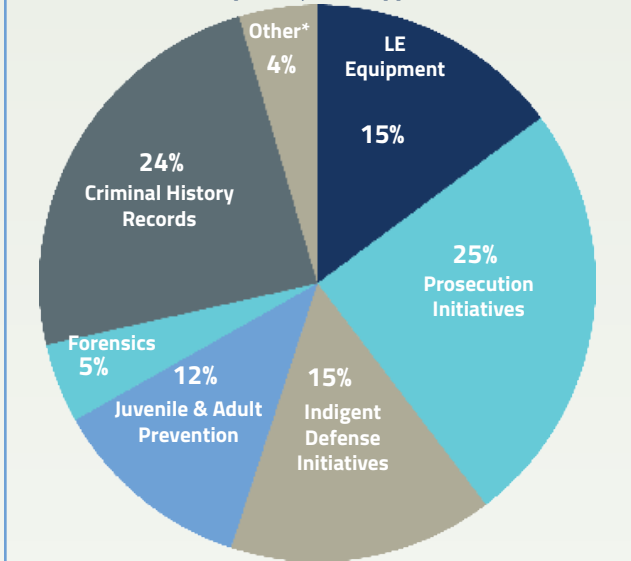


Prosecution & Courts (including indigent defense)



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

New York's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



* Other includes: Victims Services and Supports; Training (other than law enforcement); Reentry initiatives; Substance Abuse programs; and Taskforce Operations & Personnel

- Support for Crime Analysis Centers (CACs) in Albany, Erie, Monroe, and Onondaga counties. DCJS provides staff, equipment, software, training, and program management to develop effective intelligence-led crime reduction strategies and improve local crime analysis capabilities. CACs are comprised of law enforcement and crime analysts from federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies. A primary goal of the CACs is to facilitate information sharing and provide timely and accurate data that law enforcement agencies can use to identify patterns, deploy resources, and reduce crime both within their own multi-jurisdictional regions and throughout the state.
- Non-fatal shooting incident demonstration project. Byrne JAG funding was used to support demonstration projects in two jurisdictions, with specific investigative and prosecution resources being devoted to non-fatal shooting cases, utilizing an "evidence-based" investigation and prosecution approach that is often used in domestic violence cases. The focus of the projects are bullet-to-body shootings, however other confirmed shooting cases where intended victims were not actually shot were included on a case by case basis.
- Enhanced prosecution projects in all five New York City counties district attorneys' offices as well as the NYC

Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. Funds are used to enhance the investigation and prosecution of drug and firearms trafficking, gangs, and drug/gang related violent crimes throughout New York City with a focus on multi-agency cooperation targeting large-scale drug and gun trafficking organizations and associated violent crime.

- Public defense projects in New York City and Erie, Onondaga, Monroe, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. Funding supports public defense services, including: expanded indigent defense services, legal and case management services to reduce pre-trial incarceration, representation and advocacy for treatment alternatives for non-violent offenders, parole revocation defense services, sex crimes representation in a specialized Sex Offender court, and domestic violence, veterans, and mental health courts.
- Support for specialized law enforcement equipment purchases, including Livescan fingerprint and video recording of statements equipment, body cameras, marked patrol cars, and interoperable communications equipment.

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.

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