



Cornerstone for Justice:

How Mississippi 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 Mississippi:

In 2018, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Byrne JAG funding supported the implementation of 12 adult and juvenile drug court dockets throughout the state and provided funding for implementation assistance that is available through The Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP). In addition to certification, MADCP will ensure that the juvenile and adult dockets are implemented with fidelity to the national drug court model.
- Hot spot policing in the state's mid-sized high crime cities. Byrne JAG funds go to the cities of Corinth, D'Iberville, Oxford, and Starkville. This funding is a continuation of an effort driven by the Department of Public Safety, the state's SAA, as part of a multi-year funding strategy aimed at helping local law enforcement implement evidence-based policies and improve their capacity to use data in addressing public safety challenges.

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

Grants are awarded based on a strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state's system stakeholders.

Mississippi's Investment By Purpose Area

44%



Law Enforcement

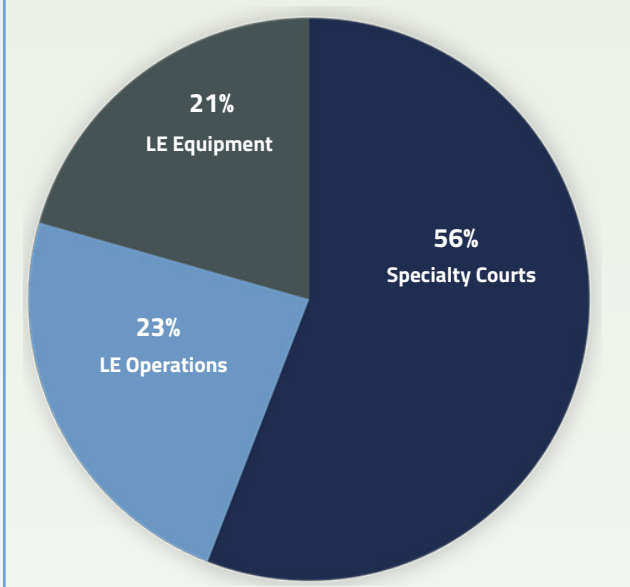
56%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

Total Investment = \$1,792,272

Mississippi's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- Equipment and technology purchases for 85 small to medium law enforcement agencies. Some of the most common purchases include, but are not limited to, bullet proof vests, tasers, body worn cameras, patrol cars, in-car computers, radios and repeaters.

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 funding 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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