



Cornerstone for Justice: How Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma:

In 2018, the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Support for a residential substance abuse treatment program at Elk City Community Work Center, through the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Treatment focuses on relapse prevention and reintegration using cognitive behavioral therapy and is operated within prison level correctional centers as well as community work centers.
- Byrne JAG funds support 13 multi-jurisdictional drug and violent crime taskforces that cover 37 of the state's 77 counties. These taskforces are run out of the local District Attorney's office and help taskforce personnel improve evidentiary chains, investigative protocols and collect actionable information.
- Byrne JAG funds support prosecution programs in Tulsa and Oklahoma City that focus on gang related crime. Specialized prosecutors work with local law enforcement to investigate cases that have a gang nexus.

Additionally, the District Attorneys Council works with the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center to evaluate the adoption of federally identified best practices for multi-jurisdictional taskforce operations.

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

Oklahoma's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$1,838,328

85%



Law Enforcement

3%



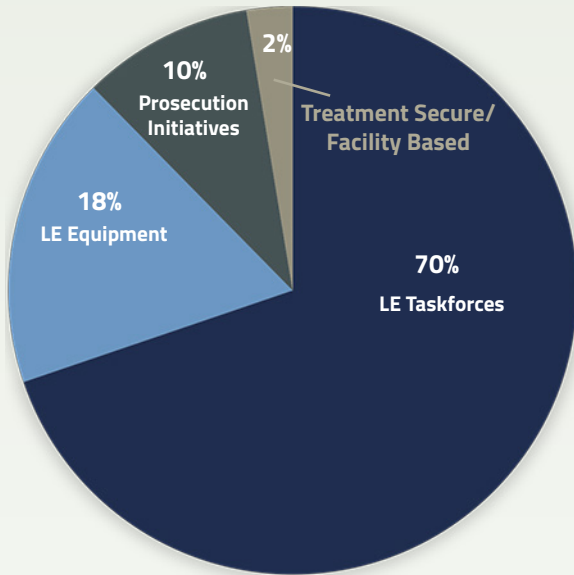
Corrections, Community Corrections and Reentry

12%



Prosecution & Courts (including indigent defense)

Oklahoma's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



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 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.

This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2016-DP-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions are those of the authors.