



Cornerstone for Justice: How Arizona 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 Arizona:

In 2018, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Multijurisdictional task forces (MJTFs) and drug-related projects. Arizona's implementation of MJTFs includes a tandem prosecutor component, forensic drug analysis support, and adjudication projects. Arizona's approach to funding and monitoring the performance of MJTFs and other drug control projects is consistent with a research-based framework that evaluates performance and effectiveness. As a result of these efforts, 4,786 drug-related arrests were made, seizing illicit drugs in excess of \$154 million and 479 weapons. Drug prosecutors secured over 20,200 convictions, with 58 percent sentenced to probation and 24 percent to a term of incarceration.
- Byrne JAG funds support prosecution and court services and forensic drug analysis for the state's multi-jurisdictional drug task forces. This focus on enhanced enforcement has led to funding probation-based drug monitoring programs and other probation-related services, drug

courts, and indigent defense services for drug offenders. The state monitors the performance and effectiveness of this strategy and collects data on a variety of measures and drug-related outcomes, including drug-related convictions and sentencing, drug-related mortality rates, drug treatment admissions and emergency department admissions.

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

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

Arizona's Investment By Purpose Area



46%

Law Enforcement

1%



Corrections, Community
Corrections & Reentry

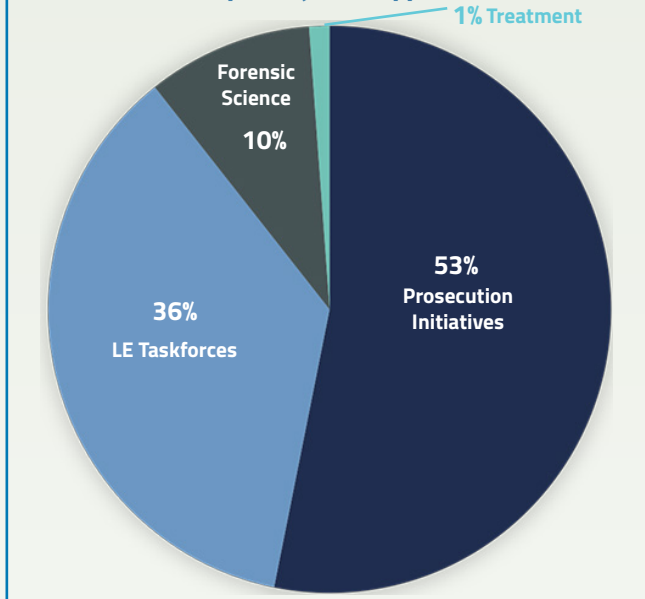
53%



Prosecution & Court
Programs

Total Investment = \$2,997,250

Arizona's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- Byrne JAG funds helped support forensic projects, which analyzed 15,850 samples, providing court testimony 167 times and adjudication project efforts resulted in 2,940 probationers served, including 1,960 that received drug treatment, and legal services provided to over 924 indigent defendants.
- The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission set aside 5 percent of its Byrne JAG funding for criminal justice records improvement projects. These projects support criminal history records improvement and information sharing under an approved strategic plan.
- In FY 2016, funding was provided to support an assessment of using biometric fingerprint technology to capture fingerprints in courtrooms, and to begin implementation of mobile fingerprint technology for all criminal courtrooms in the state.

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 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.

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