



Cornerstone for Justice: How Hawaii 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 Hawaii:

In 2018, the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Honolulu Police Department active shooter training programs. Trainings are available to law enforcement and first responders throughout the state.
- A project to improve language access in the courts through the translation of key court documents into 14 different languages. The effort also helps to screen and test translators for proficiency and provides them with practice tools for improvement.
- The Honolulu Police Department's mentoring program for at-risk elementary, intermediate and high school students in the Pearl City and Waipahu districts.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Hawaii Narcotics multijurisdictional taskforce and the State Marijuana Eradication multijurisdictional taskforce.

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.

Hawaii's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$805,302

46%



Law Enforcement

35%



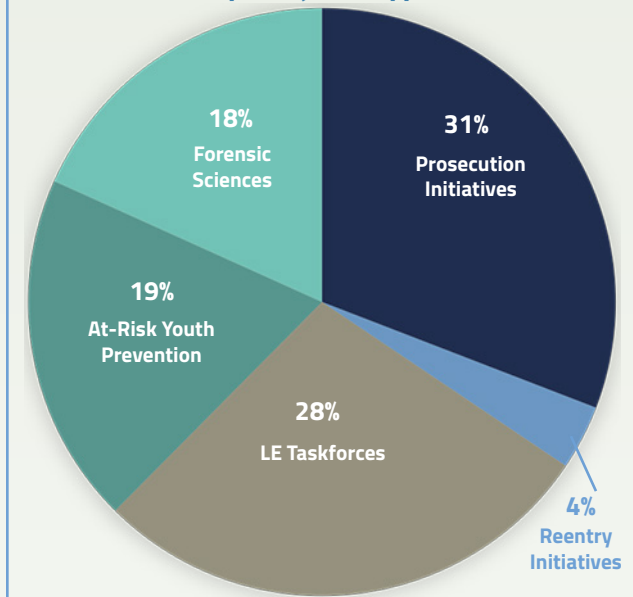
Prosecution & Courts

19%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

Hawaii's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- The purchase of DNA reagent kits and supplies to improve capacity at the police crime laboratory.
- Upgrades to the live scan fingerprint units that are used by law enforcement agencies statewide.
- Byrne JAG funds the Honolulu Police Department response to illegal gambling through interdiction efforts.
- Byrne JAG funds were used to purchase 73-body worn cameras for officers in the Maui Police Department.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office in developing a sexual assault prosecution unit.
- Byrne JAG funds are used to support cold case investigation of violent crimes in Kauai County through the Prosecutors Office.

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.

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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