

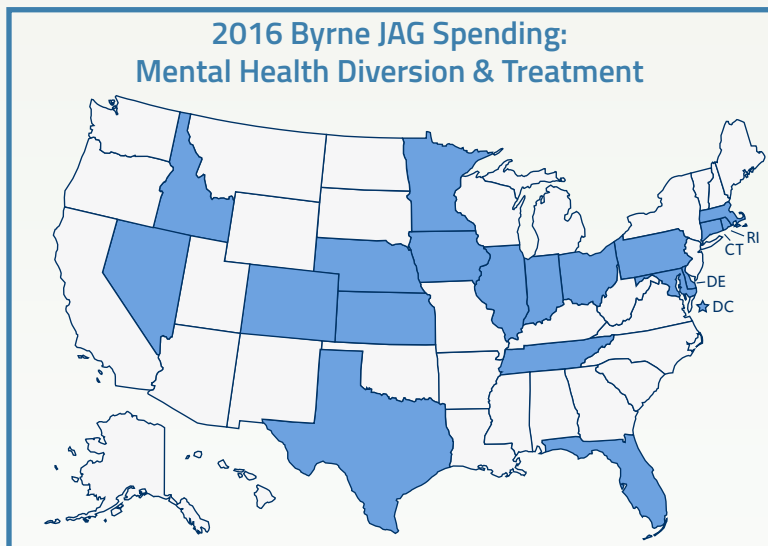
How States Invest Byrne JAG in Mental Health Diversion and Treatment Programs

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program

The cornerstone of federal support for state and local justice systems, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is a federal-state-local partnership enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs. Byrne JAG is used broadly for law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning evaluation and technology, mental health services, and crime victim and witness programs. This breadth and flexibility means states and local communities can use Byrne JAG to balance resources and address problems across the entire criminal justice system, and to react quickly to urgent challenges and changing circumstances. The Byrne JAG program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, provides grant funding to thousands of justice and public safety agencies and initiatives each year. To learn more about Byrne JAG visit: <http://www.ncja.org/ncja/policy/about-byrne-jag>.

2016 Byrne JAG Spending Study

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2016 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. This information was self-reported and additional states may also use Byrne JAG funds for a specific project type.



Support for Mental Health Diversion and Treatment

Byrne JAG funding supported mental health diversion and treatment programs in at least 20 states, highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$2 million in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These initiatives included public/private partnerships to identify people in need of services; telemedicine programs; assessment, evaluation, treatment and case management initiatives; jail-based reentry programs; law enforcement led diversion programs; and counseling for law enforcement.

Examples of Mental Health Diversion and Treatment Programs

- In Colorado, Byrne JAG funds support the It Takes a Library project, a partnership between Denver Human Services, Denver Public Library (DPL), and Colorado Mental Wellness Network. Through this collaboration, peer navigators support DPL's social workers in outreach, assessments and human services referrals for customers traditionally at risk of entering or re-entering the criminal/juvenile justice system as victims or perpetrators, based on factors such as income level, homelessness and mental health. This program increases access to mental health/human services and supports the reduction of crime, delinquency and recidivism using evidence-based best practices of peer support and library social work models.

- In Iowa, Byrne JAG funds were used to set up telemedicine services for the state's rural prisons in order to assist offenders who are battling mental illness by providing access to psychiatrists and other licensed medical professionals and mental health staff.
- In Nebraska, funding supports the Sarpy County Mental Health Program which offers intensive case management to clients with mental health problems modelled after problem solving courts. The program helps individuals improve their living skills, manage mental health needs and reduce contacts with the criminal justice system.
- Byrne JAG funds in Connecticut support the Department of Corrections in the development of a new supervision model for the state women's prison, York Corrections Institution. Funding was used to develop training curricula, along with services to support a trauma informed and recovery oriented supervision and treatment model for female offenders
- In Rhode Island, Byrne JAG funds support the Department of Corrections' Recidivism Reduction Project, which proactively addresses the treatment needs of individuals battling mental illness who are at risk of re-offending. Using a multidisciplinary approach, behavioral health staff from the DOC work in coordination with probation and parole officers to deliver continued effective treatment intervention. Byrne JAG funds also support the Family Court, Mental Health Clinic. The clinic provides juveniles with routine evaluations following referral and emergency same-day evaluations by an on-call clinician.
- Byrne JAG funds in Tennessee support the TN Bureau of Investigation, in collaboration with the TN Association of Chiefs of Police and the TN Sheriffs' Association, and the Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services of Tennessee to provide officers involved in a shooting with trauma debriefing and counseling to help them work through residual trauma or post-traumatic stress.
- In Idaho, Byrne JAG funds support The Terry Reilly Health Services Mentally Ill Offender Community Transition Program which provides comprehensive, wrap around medical and behavioral health services to moderate and/or high-risk offenders from state correction facilities who are re-entering the Boise/Ada County area. Pre-release services include assessments and treatment planning. Post-release services include a mental health case manager, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, mental health/chemical dependency counselor, a medical provider, and probation and parole officers.
- In Kansas, Four County Mental Health (FCMHC) uses Byrne JAG funds to provide comprehensive mental health services to the citizens of Chautauqua, Cowley, Elk, Montgomery, and Wilson counties. The program targets approximately 200 members of the correctional population or at-risk individuals and uses evidenced-based practices provided at FCMHC to reduce recidivism or prevent first time offenses.

How Byrne JAG Funding is Awarded:

Sixty percent of the overall Byrne JAG grant is awarded to the state criminal justice planning agency (known as the State Administering Agency or SAA), which, in turn, awards the funding, to local governments and non-profit service providers; the remaining 40 percent goes directly from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to local communities based on population and crime data.

Funding is authorized at \$1.1 billion annually. At its peak in FY02, Congress appropriated \$830 million. In subsequent years, funding held steady at about \$500 million. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in FY09 provided a one-time boost of \$2 billion. Since FY10, funding has dropped by about one-third. In FY17 the program was funded at \$335 million.

States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution, indigent defense, corrections, crisis intervention and behavioral health services, victim assistance, and other community-based supports and services.

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