



Cornerstone for Justice: How North Dakota 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 North Dakota:

In 2018, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

- Support for a network of four multijurisdictional drug, gang and violent crime taskforces across the state. In an effort to maximize federal support, Byrne JAG funds are blended with a 45 percent set aside from the state lottery fund and matched with 35 percent of local funding along with non-cash resource contributions to provide statewide taskforce coverage. Non-cash contributions include personnel, overtime, vehicles, equipment and operational support.
- Byrne JAG funds support a network of 16 domestic violence programs across the state. Run by local non-profits, these service providers assist the victims of domestic violence with shelter support, counseling, education, accompaniment, and advocacy services and help with victim's compensation when appropriate.

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.

North Dakota's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$275,101

68%



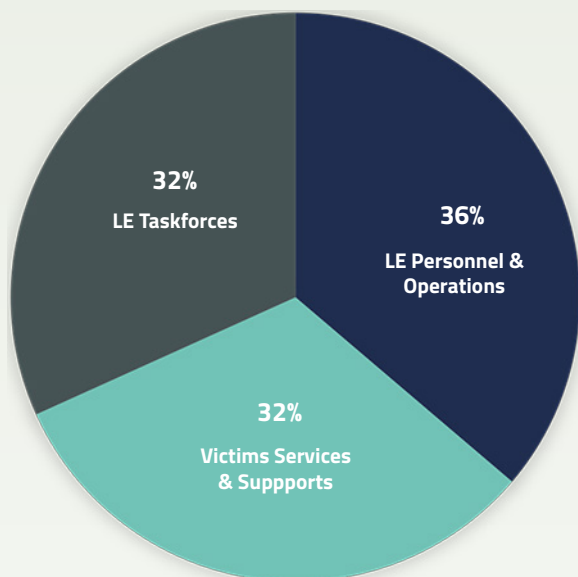
Law Enforcement

32%



Crime Victims & Witnesses

North Dakota's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- Byrne JAG funds are used to support the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in providing oversight and training to an additional six taskforces within the state. As part of the state's response to its oil boom, the taskforces have expanded the types of crime they investigate, with an increasing focus on gangs, violent crime and organized crime cases. Taskforces also address growing issues with human trafficking.
- Byrne JAG funding supports forensic interviewing and examination services through the Sanford Bismarck Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC). Funds support culturally competent and age appropriate forensic interviewing, examination and intervention services to children who are victims of, or witnesses to, crimes. The DCAC is a resource for law enforcement officers, parents and youth in the city of Bismarck and Burleigh County as well as the larger region including central and western North Dakota.

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.

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.