



Cornerstone for Justice:

How Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts:

Beginning in FY17, the Trump Administration required all Byrne JAG grantees to certify compliance with certain immigration-related provisions in federal law in order to draw down their awards. A number of states and localities challenged the new conditions in court.

To date, eight states, including Massachusetts, have yet to accept their FY18 awards due to the ongoing litigation. The allocation figures and program examples below, therefore, summarize Massachusetts’ Byrne JAG investments in FY16.

In 2016, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- A network of victims’ advocates in 20 courts throughout the state. Byrne JAG funds, blended with those from the Massachusetts Office of Victims Assistance, support court advocate training in helping victims navigate the paperwork associated with obtaining restraining orders, protective orders and child support orders.

- The Buyer Diversion Treatment Alternative (BDTA) program, currently operating in four counties. Byrne JAG funds support partnerships between each county’s District Attorney and local police departments to provide funding for treatment beds.
- Delinquency prevention initiatives in Boston through the non-profit Center for Teen Empowerment. Funding supports programming which include afterschool life skills training, leadership curriculum and job development training for at-risk youth.
- Support for the state’s Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), and the creation of a statewide youth gang records management system. SAC efforts focus on ensuring accurate data collection and appropriate back-end features.
- Byrne JAG funds support four drug, gang and violent crime taskforces throughout the state.
- Byrne JAG funds support multiple crime prevention projects in the City of Malden, including a teen dating violence prevention

Massachusetts’ FY16 Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$4,473,354

27%



Law Enforcement

7%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

18%



Prevention & Education

40%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

3%



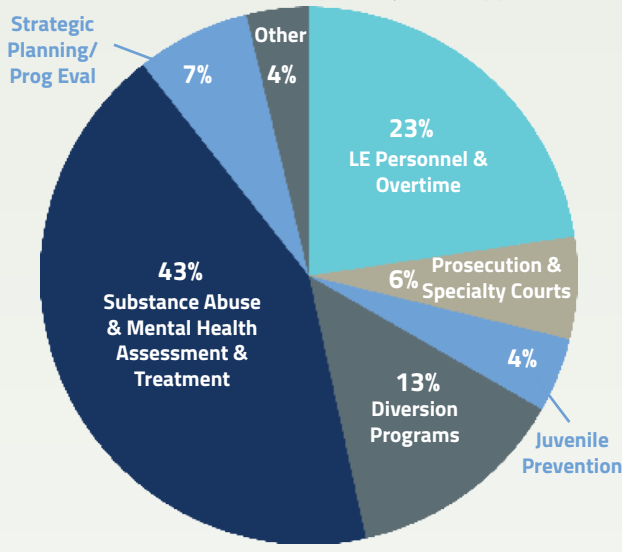
Prosecution & Courts (including indigent defense)

5%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

Massachusetts' FY16 Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



* Other includes: Crime Prevention programs; Law Enforcement Equipment; and Information Sharing

and awareness initiative through the YWCA and a teen violence reduction initiative through the YMCA.

- Byrne JAG funds support delinquency prevention initiatives through The Psychological Center in Lawrence and the Lawrence County Public School System. This initiative employs an evidence-based Second Step Curriculum, a classroom-based social-skills program that teaches social-emotional skills aimed at reducing impulsive and aggressive behavior, while increasing social competence.
- Byrne JAG funds help support residential drug treatment in correctional settings. A combination of Byrne JAG and RSAT dollars provide services in 10 local jails and in one Department of Corrections facility. The Massachusetts SAA has been using Byrne JAG funds to support residential substance abuse treatment services since 2009.
- The implementation and evaluation of the state funded Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative, which provides funding for localities to replicate the Office of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Prevention Model.
- Support for workforce development and reentry planning within the Barnstable House of Corrections' Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Specifically, funds

support staff within the Prison Industries Program (PIP) to provide vocational and educational work opportunities for offenders. The program provides inmates with skills that will increase their employment opportunities upon release while giving them the opportunity to partially support themselves and their families while incarcerated. As part of this effort, PIP staff work with businesses in Barnstable County to assist with job placement, retention and ongoing support for both the business and the offender.

- The Asian Taskforce Against Domestic Violence (ATASK), a teen dating violence prevention awareness campaign. Funds cover a portion of ATASK's teen dating violence curriculum for adult professionals working with youth. The curriculum addresses dating violence warnings signs, teen attitudes towards relationships, case scenarios, myths and facts, best practices and cultural competency.

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.

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