



Cornerstone for Justice: How Florida 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 Florida:

In 2018, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Approximately 5 multijurisdictional and drug task forces and targeted enforcement programs.
- Enhancement of technology equipment for local agencies through the purchase of computer-aided dispatch systems, mobile data terminals, and body-worn cameras.
- Byrne JAG funds are being used in Volusia County to support a program which provides both in-school and in-home behavioral health and crime prevention services to at-risk students and their parents.
- In Broward County, Byrne JAG funds are being used to help fund comprehensive diversionary program services targeted toward juvenile offenders or young people who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system. These services include counseling, supportive intervention and life skills training.

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

Byrne JAG dollar are awarded based on a strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state’s system stakeholders.

Florida’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$1,681,822



- Byrne JAG funds are used to enhance local agency public safety equipment for officers and law enforcement first responders for active-shooter incidents.
- Byrne JAG funds were used to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in recouping some of the extraordinary costs associated with large-scale response efforts following the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.
- Miami-Dade County used JAG funds to provide intensive substance abuse treatment services and transitional housing to a targeted at-risk population. Additional services include psychosocial assessments, individual counseling, and group counseling.

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.

States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system.

This funding touches hundreds of cities and towns across America through projects funded and investments made in state and local justice systems.

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.