



## Cornerstone for Justice: How Virginia 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 Virginia:

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 Virginia, have yet to accept their FY18 awards due to the ongoing litigation. The allocation figures and program examples below, therefore, summarize Virginia’s Byrne JAG investments in FY16.

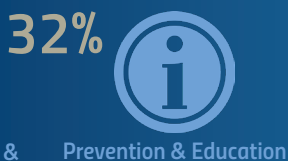
- In response to the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic, Byrne JAG funds have supported the purchase of naloxone kits for local law enforcement agencies. Qualifying law enforcement agencies must ensure officers go through the REVIVE training course offered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services on the proper use and administration of naloxone.

In 2016, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

- The purchase of body worn cameras in an effort to improve public safety and increase positive interactions between the police and the communities they serve. Virginia’s SAA has developed a model policy on the use of body worn cameras and made it available for use by state and local law enforcement agencies.

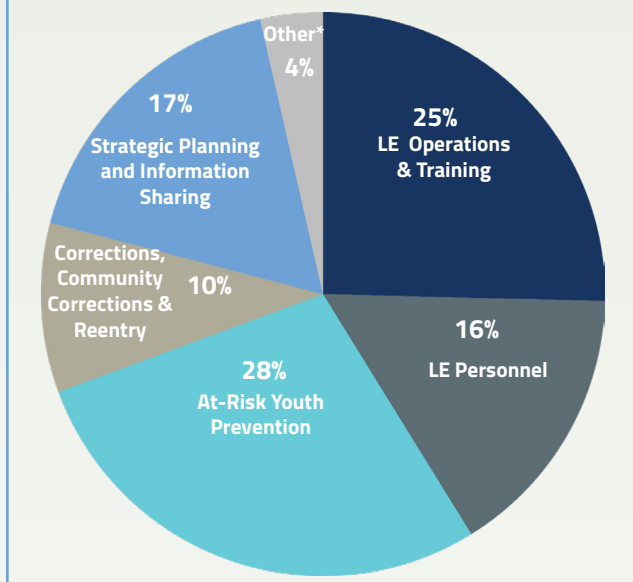
With Byrne JAG funds, state and local governments have made remarkable strides in advancing data-driven practices in criminal justice criminal justice system.

### Virginia’s FY16 Investment By Purpose Area



Total Investment = \$2,311,460

## Virginia's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



\* Other includes: Victims Services and Supports; and Mental Health Diversion Programs

- Byrne JAG funds support the continuation of Virginia's Juvenile Court Service Unit's Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) program. EPICS utilizes an evidence-based model which trains probation and parole officers on the use of structured social and cognitive behavioral therapy during interactions with offenders in an effort to promote behavioral change.

### 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.

### 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.

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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