



## How States Invest Byrne JAG in Victims Services

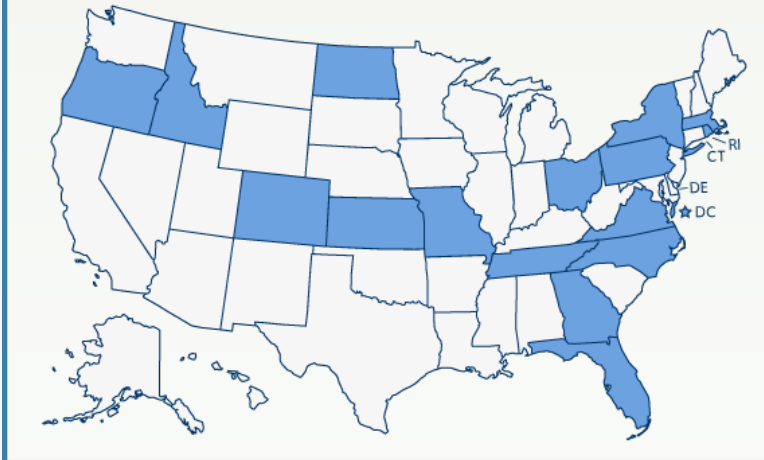
### The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program

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>.

### About the 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.

2016 Byrne JAG Spending: Victims Services



### Byrne JAG Support for Victims Services

Byrne JAG funding supported victims services initiatives in at least 17 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 restorative justice programs; victim advocates; domestic violence prevention initiatives; support for child advocacy centers; witness protection programs and other community victims service programs.

### Examples of Victims Service Projects

- In Delaware, Byrne JAG funds support the Victims Voices Heard Programs, which operates according to a restorative justice model. The program provides violent crime victims with the opportunity to communicate face-to-face with their perpetrator and allows perpetrators to take responsibility, giving survivors an active role in the justice process.
  
- In Idaho, Byrne JAG funds support the Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho (FSA). FSA offers comprehensive victim advocacy services and enhances community outreach to Caribou County victims by funding two part-time mental health counselors and three part-time victim advocates, increasing the number of survivors who access services. By providing key personnel, FSA can continue to meet the needs of children, youth, and adult victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in Caribou County as well as by expanding into rural areas of Bannock County.

Byrne JAG grants are a catalyst for collaboration within communities and across states. This cross-jurisdictional model is being replicated across the country to tackle cross-boundary crimes, like drug and human trafficking and cyber crime, while saving money and increasing efficiency.

- Byrne JAG funds in North Dakota 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.
- In Massachusetts, funds support a network of victims' advocates in 20 courts throughout the state. Byrne JAG funds, blended with those from the MA Office of Victims Assistance, support court advocate training helping victims navigate the paperwork associated with obtaining restraining orders, protective orders and child support orders.
- In Ohio Byrne JAG is blended with VAWA funds to support a variety of domestic violence prevention initiatives across the state including a cyber-stalking investigator position, domestic violence advocates, case management, crisis hot-lines, shelter services and child advocacy centers.
- In Pennsylvania, Byrne JAG support the statewide implementation of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). LAP partners law enforcement agencies with domestic violence programs. Police officers ask a series of screening questions to intimate partner domestic violence victims and ensure that victims receive access to domestic violence counseling services. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides oversight to the project. In 2017, LAP was implemented in 43 of 67 PA counties, with 45 domestic violence agencies partnering with 277 law enforcement agencies. Since 2012, LAP has provided access to domestic violence program services to more than 5,600 victims.

- Byrne JAG funds in Kansas support staff for the KS Department of Corrections (KDOC) Office of Victim Services, which provides confidential support and information to victims, survivors, and witnesses to crimes in which the offender was sentenced to the KDOC.
- In Missouri, Byrne JAG funds support the MO Office of Prosecution Services Witness Protection Program. The Witness Protection Program provides security to witnesses, potential witnesses and their immediate families in criminal proceedings or investigations pending against a person alleged to have violated a state law. Providing safety for witnesses may include provision of housing and for the health, safety and welfare of witnesses and their immediate families, if testimony by a witness might subject the witness or an immediate family member to danger of bodily injury, and may continue so long as such danger exists. Costs associated with this project can include, but are not limited to: housing costs, hotel nights, meals and/ or transportation or mileage. These costs are important to this program due to the need for witnesses to be relocated or receive temporary housing during the duration of a case that is working through the criminal justice system.

## 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.

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