Cornerstone for Justice:
How Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania:

In 2018, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Pennsylvania Virtual Training Network (PAVTN) is a collaborative effort between the PA Chiefs of Police Association and the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. Byrne JAG funds were used to develop and provide online training for the criminal justice community. In 2017, PAVTN had over 18,000 registered users, 31 active courses and five areas of study including: Mandatory In-service, Investigations, Programs and Services, Sex Offender Registration and Notification, and Roll Call Trainings.

- The Lehigh Valley Regional Intelligence and Investigation Center Gang Intelligence System (GIS) provides investigative case support, strategic analysis and situational awareness to Lehigh County law enforcement, PA State Police and the Allentown FBI Office. Funds were used to develop the GIS. The GIS cross-references incidents, arrests and incarcerations and performs social network-ing analysis on gangs, their members and their structure. Funds are also being used to develop, the Illicit Drug Identification and Tracking System, that will help track illicit drugs, capturing information on identifiable markings such as heroin stamps, synthetic drug compounds, and investigative information and drug-related death data.

- Byrne JAG funds support an Automated Fingerprint Identification System Integra-ID Archive System that provides the State Police with a secure, centralized data storage and retrieval system.

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

Pennsylvania's Investment By Purpose Area
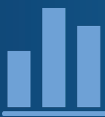
Total Investment = $5,898,748

25% Law Enforcement

24% Prevention & Education

19% Planning, Evaluation & Technology

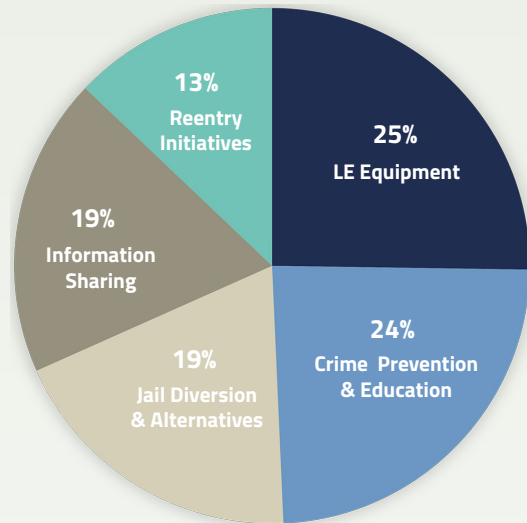**13%** Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

11% Mental & Behavioral Health

8% Drug Treatment & Enforcement

Pennsylvania's Byrne JAG Investments

- 13% Reentry Initiatives
- 25% LE Equipment
- 19% Information Sharing
- 19% Jail Diversion & Alternatives
- 24% Crime Prevention & Education

- The Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute is using Byrne JAG funds to develop and offer educational materials and resources to prosecutors statewide. The trainings focus on criminal law practice, procedure, and investigation. This project also provides technical assistance to prosecutors and other related professionals on legal issues relevant to adults and juveniles.

- The Public Defenders Association of Pennsylvania uses Byrne JAG funds to enhance defense capabilities by hosting large training programs that provide intensive training on Trial Advocacy Skills; Litigation Skills for New Public Defenders and a Capital Case Program and are attended by Assistant Public Defenders from throughout Pennsylvania.

- Support for the development and deployment of the Mobile ID Gateway System. Mobile ID facilitates Rapid Fingerprint Identification Search submissions and searches. The Mobile ID Gateway enables the State Police to digitize, store, and retrieve fingerprint records and case documents on-demand and provides law enforcement agencies with services to instantly assess threat levels. Funds support the State Police's procurement of approximately 100 Mobile IDdevices pre-loaded with the necessary software.

- Statewide implementation of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment (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. As of the end of 2017, LAP was implemented in 43 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties with 45 domestic violence agencies and 277 law enforcement agencies. Since 2012, LAP has provided access to domestic violence program services to 5,661 victims.

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.

Grants are awarded based on a strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state's system stakeholders.