



## Cornerstone for Justice: How Louisiana 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 Louisiana:

In 2018, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

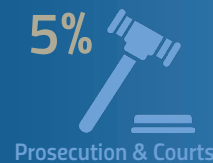
- Personnel, operations, and supplies within an adult drug court in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court and a juvenile drug court in the 16th Judicial District.
- Training and resources to law enforcement agencies to assist with transitioning crime data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This is a collaborative effort between the Louisiana Sheriff’s Association and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.
- Implementation of a highly visible campaign in the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area to reduce crime and provide a safer environment for our local populace and visitors. This Louisiana State Police project provides support to the New Orleans Police Department.
- Byrne JAG funds support 23 taskforces which serve the state’s 64 parishes.
- Byrne JAG funds support supplies and operating expenses to the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory. This project provides extraction and purification of DNA samples and other forensic needs to 10 parishes in the northwest corner of the state.

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

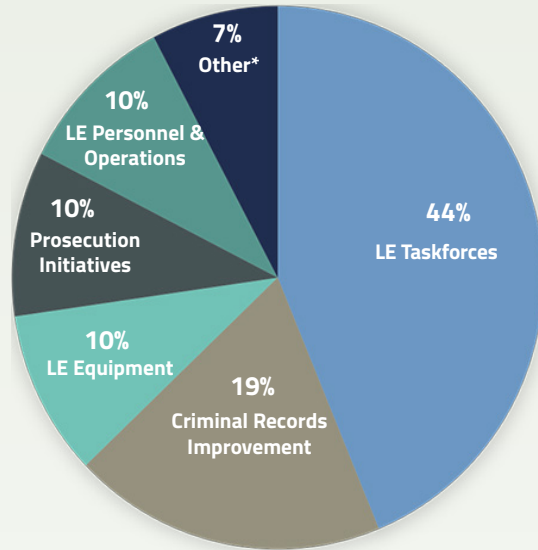
Grants are awarded based on a strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state’s system stakeholders.

### Louisiana’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,869,030



## Louisiana's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



\* Other includes: forensic services; indigent defense initiatives; information sharing; and specialty courts.

- Byrne JAG funds support prosecutor and support staff positions within the 22nd Judicial District's Attorney's Office focusing on drug trafficking investigations.
- Byrne JAG funds support the purchase of high tech digital recording equipment and related technology within the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.
- Byrne JAG funds support terrorist preparedness training for the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office Terrorist Response Team.
- Byrne JAG funds support a statewide training initiative conducted by the Louisiana District Attorney Association on racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations (RICO) and the prosecution of organized criminal networks.
- Byrne JAG funds support an external consultant position for the Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB) to complete a process evaluation and produce a comprehensive financial management handbook. The project intent is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the public defender system.

## 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.

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