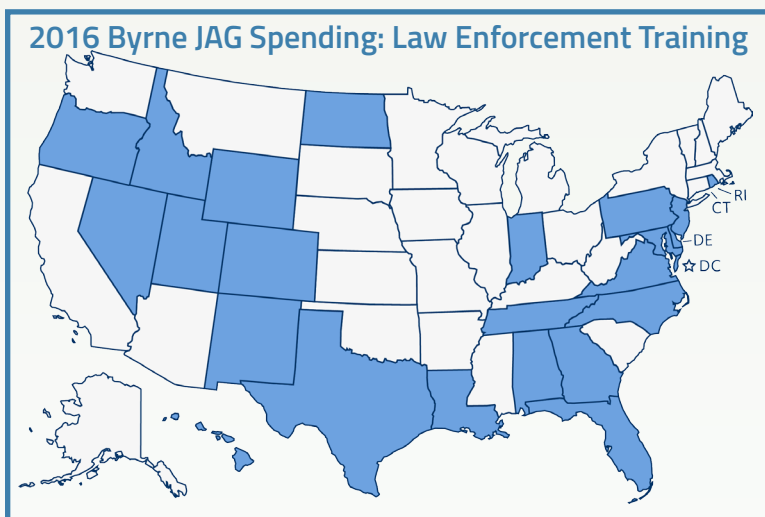# How States Invest Byrne JAG in Law Enforcement Training

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: Law Enforcement Training

Byrne JAG Support for Law Enforcement Training

Byrne JAG funding supported law enforcement training initiatives in at least 23 states, which are highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over $3.8 million in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These initiatives included the establishment of training centers of excellence that teach law enforcement about evidence-based practices and community supervision, online training networks, police academy training, and domestic violence, crisis intervention and drug crime training.

Examples of Law Enforcement Training Initiatives

- Byrne JAG funds in Maryland support 39 specialized training scholarships which were awarded to local law enforcement agencies between 2015 and 2016. Trainings included school resource officer training, cell phone technology and forensics recovery, violent crimes and terrorism trends, latent print examination, courtroom security, drug recognition training, domestic violence training and crime scene investigator training.

- In Hawaii funds support the Honolulu Police Department's active shooter training programs which are available to law enforcement and first responders throughout the state.

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.

- In Texas, funds support training for law enforcement officers who are assigned the responsibility of processing crime scenes. Funding helps to support a pilot program, started in partnership with Texas A&M University, which provides essential forensic investigation training. The project has developed a comprehensive, forensic science training certification program which provides science-based, application intensive training to identify, document, collect, and process evidence found at crime scenes.

- Byrne JAG funds in North Dakota support the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in providing training to six task-forces. As part of the state's response to its oil boom, the taskforces have expanded the types of crime they investigate, with an increasing focus on gangs, violent crime, organized crime and human trafficking cases.

- In Oregon, Byrne JAG funding supports the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training's establishment of the Center for Policing Excellence within the Public Safety Academy. This training center develops and delivers training and technical assistance to local law enforcement on evidence-based policing and community supervision practices. The Center for Policing Excellence will help state law enforcement officers enhance the use of evidence based deterrence, enforcement and interdiction strategies.

- Byrne JAG supports the Pennsylvania Virtual Training Network (PAVTN) a collaborative effort between the PA Chiefs of Police Association and the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. Funds were used to develop and provide online training. 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.

- Funds in Tennessee support statewide trainings to improve the response to violent crime. Trainings include: forensic training in death investigation for sworn investigators and state medical examiner personnel; executive leadership training for local law enforcement agencies and professional development of state investigators; correctional staff training to properly identify gang members; and training for judicial staff and law enforcement entities on topics including body cameras, IT system constraints and bystander privacy.

- In Alabama, funds support a partnership with the Jacksonville State University Center for Applied Forensics (CFAF) to improve the effectiveness of processing of medicolegal death scenes by providing the training and tools necessary to properly assess, examine, and document death scenes. CFAF places special emphasis on targeting rural agencies to participate in the training.

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 Administrating 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.

NCJA National Criminal Justice Association   720 Seventh Street, NW, Third Floor, Washington DC, 20001