



## Cornerstone for Justice: How Connecticut 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 Connecticut:

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

In 2016, the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Connecticut’s Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, which uses FDA-approved medications in combination with evidence-based behavioral therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to treating substance use disorders. The MAT program is currently operating in two jail facilities, the New Haven Correctional and Bridgeport Correctional Centers, and targets pre-trial detainees and

Byrne JAG funding keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives.

inmates battling substance use disorders to reduce the risk of recidivism and help control spending within the criminal justice system.

- The Young Adult Offender Unit is a new housing unit within a state prison to service young adult offenders between the ages of 18 and 25. The mission of the Unit is to incorporate progressive correctional practices and re-entry

### Connecticut’s FY16 Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$1,503,427

20%



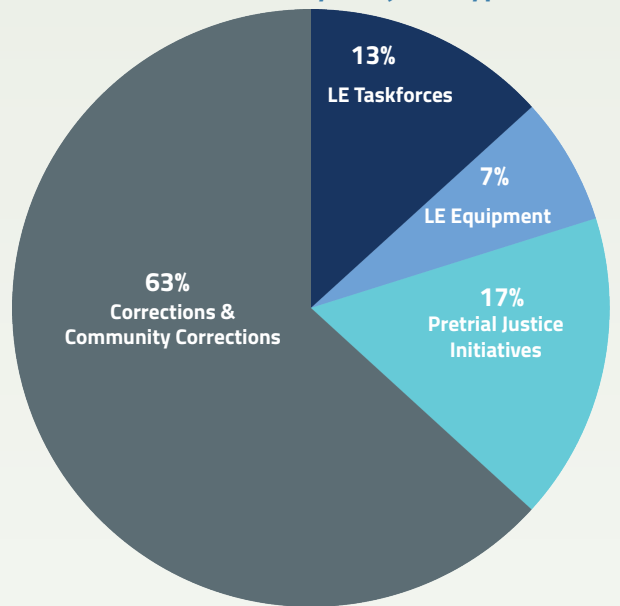
Law Enforcement

80%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

### Connecticut's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



strategies that help young adult offenders acquire and maintain the necessary skills to become successful and law-abiding members of society. Funds were used to support the development of a customized training curriculum targeted to corrections officers who are supervising and staffing the new unit. The curriculum is based on a new model for supervising young offenders with a greater focus on skills development and mental health issues and builds a team approach to the corrections process.

- Byrne JAG funds support the Connecticut Department of Corrections in the development of a new supervision model for the state women's prison, York Corrections Institution. Byrne JAG funding was used to develop training curricula, along with services to support a trauma informed and recovery oriented supervision and treatment model for female offenders.

Prior to the development of the Byrne JAG funded training, there was a waiting list for access to appropriate domestic violence programs which prevented some inmates from qualifying for early prison release or release at end-of-sentence. The new curricula developed with the

help of Byrne JAG funds resulted in reduction in length of stay and generated cost savings.

### 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.

Byrne JAG funding 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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