



## Cornerstone for Justice:

# How Colorado 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 Colorado:

In 2018, the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Office of the Independent Monitor (OMI) Youth Outreach Parent Track Project. Project Parent Track has three primary goals: (1) to improve youth’s confidence and ability to have positive interactions with law enforcement by giving parents tools to support their children, including training on proper police practice, common laws related to youth and constitutional rights; (2) to increase parental trust of law enforcement; and (3) to increase Denver police officers’ understanding of community concerns through facilitated dialogue with parents. The Youth Outreach Project serves over 1,000 youth, community members, and officers per year.
- The It Takes a Library (ITAL) project is a partnership between Denver Human Services (DDHS), Denver Public Library (DPL), and Colorado Mental Wellness Network (CMWN). Through this collaboration, peer navigators support DPL’s social workers in outreach, assessments

and human services referrals for customers traditionally at risk of entering or re-entering the criminal/juvenile justice system either as victims or perpetrators, based on factors such as income level, homelessness and mental health. This program increases access to mental health/human services and supports the reduction of crime, delinquency and recidivism using evidence-based best practices of peer support and library social work models.

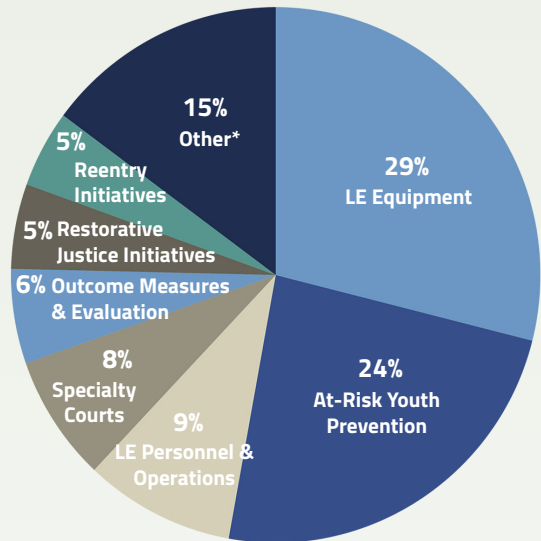
With Byrne JAG funds, state and local governments have made remarkable strides in advancing data-driven practices in criminal justice.

### Colorado’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,120,909



## Colorado's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



\* Other includes: Special Populations Programming, LE Training, Secure Treatment, Prosecution Initiatives, Crime Prevention & Education, Adult Victim Services, and DV/SA Prevention Programs.

- Byrne JAG funds support Project Wellness, a diversion opportunity offered by the 1st Judicial District Juvenile Mental Health Court. This program serves high-risk, high-need juveniles who are involved in justice system and have been diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness. Project Wellness works to reduce recidivism by using a multidisciplinary approach and allowing a designated coordinator to ensure adherence to evidence based practices.
- Byrne JAG funds support the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) technician backlog reduction effort. NIBIN allows spent cartridge cases to be searched through a database to associate shooting incidents to each other or a specific firearm to a shooting incident.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Aurora Police Department (APD) in implementing a gang prevention project under Aurora's Gang Reduction Impact Program. The project decreases the attractiveness of gangs by building positive relationships between target area youth/parents and the APD, reducing risk factors for gang members and increases protections.

- Byrne JAG is used to support the 10th Judicial District's Addict 2 Athlete (A2A) Program which utilizes an innovative approach to reducing recidivism. A2A is based on the core principles of pro-social services by active engagement of individuals in a structured eight-week exercise and learning program that includes substance abuse education, cognitive restructuring, life skills, and development of biological, sociological, and environmental strategies essential in helping individuals abstain from self-damaging behavior.

## 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

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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