

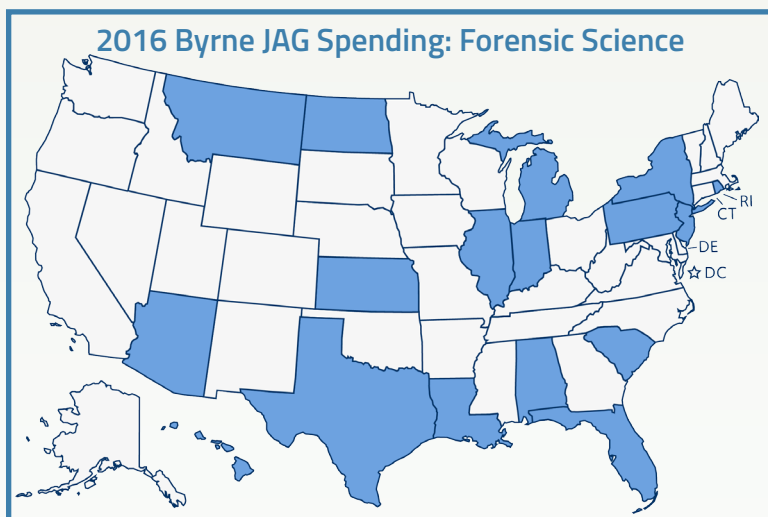
## How States Invest Byrne JAG in Forensic Science

### 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.



### Byrne JAG Support for Forensic Science

Byrne JAG funding supported forensic science initiatives in at least 17 states, highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$3 million in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These initiatives included backlog reduction efforts, crime lab and analyst personnel, training, forensic interviewing and examination services, information management systems and equipment purchases like mass spectrometers, gas chromatographs and Video Spectral Comparators.

### Examples of Forensic Science Projects

- In Alabama, Byrne JAG funds support a partnership with the Jacksonville State University Center for Applied Forensics (CFAF) to improve the effectiveness of local law enforcement and public safety entities regarding the 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.
- In Rhode Island, Byrne JAG funds support the establishment of a Laboratory Information Management System: a secure website used by police departments to submit evidence to the University of Rhode Island Crime Laboratory.

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 Indiana, Byrne JAG funds support DNA backlog reduction efforts within the Indiana State Police Laboratory Division and the Marion County Forensic Services Agency.
- In Michigan, funds support five Michigan State Police Crime Lab personnel who work on evidence processing and case backlog reduction. Additionally, Byrne JAG funds pay for three crime analysts who help ensure information sharing across taskforces, coordination across the state, and improve how and where enforcement resources are allocated. All of these efforts are focused on ensuring that investigations are targeting violent offenders.
- In Arizona, Byrne JAG funds helped support forensic projects, which analyzed 15,850 samples, providing court testimony 167 times and adjudication project efforts resulted in 2,940 probationers served, including 1,960 that received drug treatment, and legal services provided to over 924 indigent defendants.
- In Hawaii, funds support the purchase of DNA reagent kits and supplies to improve capacity at the police crime laboratory and upgrades to the live scan fingerprint units that are used by law enforcement agencies statewide.
- In Montana, funds support the purchase of a mass spectrometer, a gas chromatograph and other testing materials through the Montana Department of Justice Forensic Science Division (FSD). One of two forensic science labs in the state, the FSD provides services to law enforcement and court entities around the state.
- In South Carolina, funds support equipment purchases for the State Law Enforcement Division, including a

Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer, a Video Spectral Comparator and the purchase of two Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for local and county sheriff's departments.

- In Texas, Byrne JAG funding supports a pilot program, started in partnership with Texas A&M University, which provides essential forensic investigation training to peace officers. The project has developed a comprehensive, forensic science training certification program which provides science-based, application intensive training to effectively identify, document, collect, and process evidence found at crime scenes.

## 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 Administering 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.

States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution, indigent defense, corrections, crisis intervention and behavioral health services, victim assistance, and other community-based supports and services.

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