Promising Practices

How Byrne JAG Supports Law Enforcement Training and Forensic Science

Law enforcement, training and forensic science are three popular uses for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) dollars. In Alabama, the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), the state administering agency, has used Byrne JAG funds to support a program encompassing all three.

ADECA provides support to the Center for Applied Forensics (CFAF) at Jacksonville State University, continuing a partnership between the university and Alabama law enforcement agencies. As part of the program, CFAF faculty provide professional forensic investigation services at crime scenes in rural northeast Alabama seven days a week, 24 hours a day. CFAF also delivers tuition-free forensic science and crime scene investigation training to law enforcement officers statewide.

In CFAF's Crime Scene Professional Development class, officers are introduced to techniques for collecting and documenting uncontaminated biological samples in the field. The course is offered several times a year training up to 25 eligible personnel in each cohort. Upon completion, officers are issued a Crime Scene Kit containing the most common tools needed to process crime scenes. CFAF also replenishes these supplies as needed at no additional charge.

Additional workshops which are open to law enforcement officers as part of the partnership include Fingerprint Evidence Processing, Collection and Photography; Bloodstain Pattern Analysis; Alternate Light Source Workshops; and Metal Detector Operation. Between 2015 and 2021, CFAF held 29 classes serving 589 officers and distributed 531 Crime Scene Kits.

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your jurisdiction you want to share?
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