



## Cornerstone for Justice: How South Carolina 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 South Carolina:

In 2018, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Byrne JAG funds supported the development of the 15th Circuit Drug Enforcement Unit (now funded by the local government) and recently awarded the unit a Drug Enforcement Technology Specialist position.
- The Midlands Gang Task Force was funded from FFY 2015-FFY2019 through the Richland County Sheriff's Department, and supported personnel from three different agencies. Each agency has committed to sustaining the positions through local funding.
- Byrne JAG funds support equipment purchases for regional drug analysis labs to increase the ability to rapidly analyze evidence and return accurate results to requesting agencies. This program provides substantial reduction of drug analysis backlog.
- Domestic violence initiatives include funding for Domestic Violence Investigator positions in the City of Aiken, Berkeley County, Charleston County, Lancaster County, City of Rock Hill, and Horry County. Funding for one Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit in the 16th Circuit and one Special Victim's Prosecution Unit in the 6th Circuit.
- Byrne JAG funds are used to support the purchase of two Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for local and county sheriff's departments.

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

South Carolina's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,323,781

79%



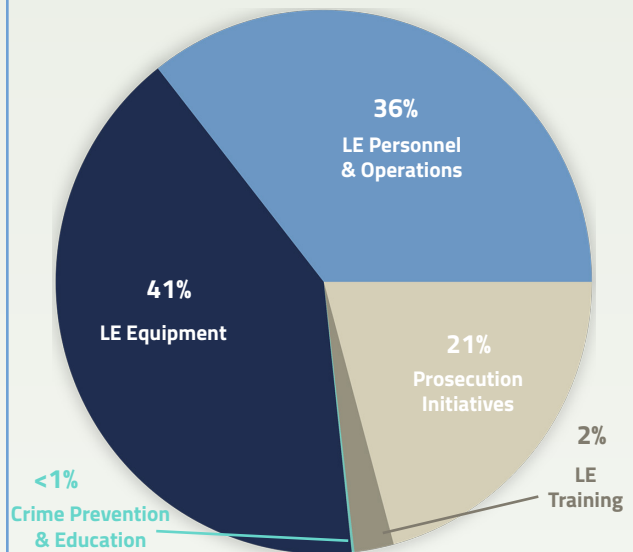
Law Enforcement

21%



Prosecution & Courts  
(including indigent defense)

### South Carolina's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- Equipment purchases for State Law Enforcement Division, including a Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer and a DNA Extraction Instrument.
- Five Specialized Investigator positions within, Berkeley, Lexington, Kershaw and Lancaster counties, and one Juvenile Adjudicator in the 5th Judicial Circuit.
- Byrne JAG funds support a variety of equipment purchases to local agencies, including bullet proof vests, tasers, vehicles, computers, and digital in-car video cameras. These funds have also been used for radio upgrades.
- Funding supported the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for an Advanced Level Forensics Training Program.
- Support for the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice to come into compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards by establishing a zero-tolerance culture for sexual abuse through their Advocacy Project. This project allows inmates access to outside confidential support.

- Byrne JAG funds support targeted enforcement operations focusing on criminal domestic violence, financial crime investigation and prosecution, child and elder abuse, drug and violent crime, gangs and drug parcel interdiction.

### 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 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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