



Cornerstone for Justice: How Delaware 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 Delaware:

In 2018, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The funding of a coordinator to support Delaware Law Enforcement Agencies in completing a Statewide Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. with individual agencies assisting them with the Statewide Accreditation process. The state developed policies and procedures, but many agencies have neither the financial means nor personnel to engage in the accreditation process.
- Statewide Law Enforcement Implicit Bias Training, conducted by Dr. Bryant Marks, a leading authority on the subject. Dr Marks addressed more than one hundred law enforcement officers during a full day of training.
- Partners for Justice, a program designed by the Public Defender's Office to recruit and train recent college graduates as non-attorney advocates of low-income community members facing numerous legal issues.

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

Grants are awarded based on a strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state's system stakeholders.

Delaware's Investment By Purpose Area



Total Investment = \$889,967



Delaware's Byrne JAG Investment by Project Type



- Byrne JAG funds support law enforcement programs, equipment and technical support that jurisdictions would not otherwise have been able to obtain given limitations with local municipal budgets.
- Byrne JAG funds support a public defender to work specifically with juveniles who are eligible for release from mandatory sex offender registration.
- Byrne JAG funds support an anti-bullying program in Sussex County that focuses on early intervention and improved awareness of issues associated with bullying.
- Efforts from neighboring law enforcement agencies to assist Wilmington Police Department in their efforts to combat rising violent crime problems.

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.

2018 Byrne JAG Spending Study:

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2018 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.

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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