



Cornerstone for Justice: How Michigan Uses Byrne JAG Funding to Protect Public Safety and Prevent Crime

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. Many innovative criminal justice practices demonstrated using Byrne JAG funds have been replicated nationwide, such as drug courts, opioid prevention and addiction response, methamphetamine lab reduction, anti-gang strategies, reentry programs and information sharing protocols.

Byrne JAG in Michigan:

In 2016, the Michigan State Police invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Byrne JAG funds support 22 taskforces which cover all 83 of the counties in the state. Taskforces are composed of leadership from the State Police and staffed by local law enforcement from participating cities and counties.

To support these multi-jurisdictional efforts, Byrne JAG funds are also used for 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.

- Byrne JAG provides support to the State Court Administrative Office to fund 15 drug courts that target non-violent probation violators and non-violent straddle or presumptive cell felony offenders who, based on

Michigan Sentencing Guidelines, are otherwise bound for prison.

Drug courts offer an integrated, systematic approach to dealing with substance-abusing offenders. The drug courts are evidence-based and have been found to substantially reduce drug use and recidivism while offenders are in the program.

Byrne JAG keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build more productive lives.

Michigan's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$5,097,049

53%



Law Enforcement

5%

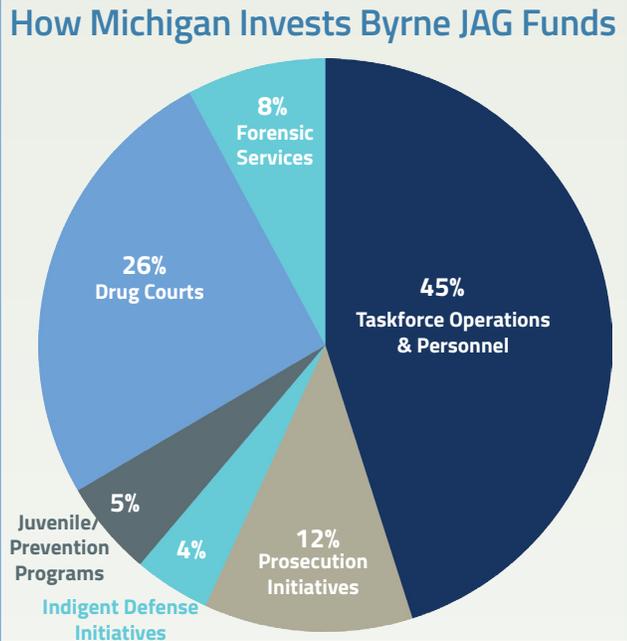


Prevention & Education

42%



Prosecution & Courts



Additional Examples:

- Funding supports four juvenile-focused community policing programs across the state, which foster proactive, problem-oriented interventions to combat juvenile delinquency. As part of this effort, the County of Cheboygan, 53rd Circuit Court, Family Division and Juvenile Probation, provides youth with 24/7 support, supervision, education, tools, and empathy in an effort to help youth overcome their individual issues and remain in their communities.
- The City of Westland, Department of Housing and Community Development, the Westland Police Department and other stakeholders, created and staff a student learning lab for K-12 tutoring in an at-risk neighborhood.
- The City of Wayne, along with the Wayne Police Department, expanded their Youth and Family Services Program (YFSP) by adding a family services coordinator to connect families to government assistance and other programs, and a new after-school program, both of which will supplement and enhance existing YFSP programming. These additions will include positive law enforcement interactions within the YFSP structure.
- The Michigan State Police (MSP), positively impacted two of Michigan's impoverished cities by providing a five-day

mentoring and leadership program for at-risk youth at the State Police Training Academy. Forty students, ages 15-16, from Benton Harbor and Inkster attended the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy (MiYLA™) at no cost.

- Support for the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office. The Appellate Investigation Project provides training and investigation services to appellate-assigned counsel, who challenge unsound evidence and develop evidence that will support legal claims for exoneration or retrial. The project reaches the 75 percent of Michigan's appellate cases that lack access to or funding for investigation.
- The Michigan Secure Cities Partnership (SCP) program is working to reduce crime and increase public safety in 10 high-crime cities in Michigan, including Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw. The Michigan State Police (MSP) initiated direct patrols in each of the SCP cities using real-time crime data and crime analytics, which has resulted in decreased crime in the SCP cities. MSP has worked with local law enforcement to enhance their ability to use data, mapping, and analytics to inform their enforcement strategies. Byrne JAG funds were also made available for crime analysts, as well as to prosecution-led major case squads that direct prosecution and enforcement resources towards the most violent offenders in these cities.

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 Administrating 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.

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