



Cornerstone for Justice: How New Mexico 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 New Mexico:

In 2018, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

- Byrne JAG funds support all violent crime related facets of the criminal justice system throughout the state that included Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces (MJTFs) that were specific in targeting violent criminal offenses, violent fugitives and violent gang members.

Task forces are one of the most effective law enforcement structures to address complex drug trafficking organizations and cross jurisdictional investigations. The task forces collaborate with local, state, and several federal law enforcement agencies including the FBI, DEA, HIDTA, ATF, and ICE. Byrne JAG funding allows states, localities, and tribal nations the opportunity to address their most pressing public safety challenges, fill funding gaps, leverage other resources, and work across city, county and state lines.

- Byrne JAG funds also support the New Mexico State

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.

New Mexico's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$530,119

99%



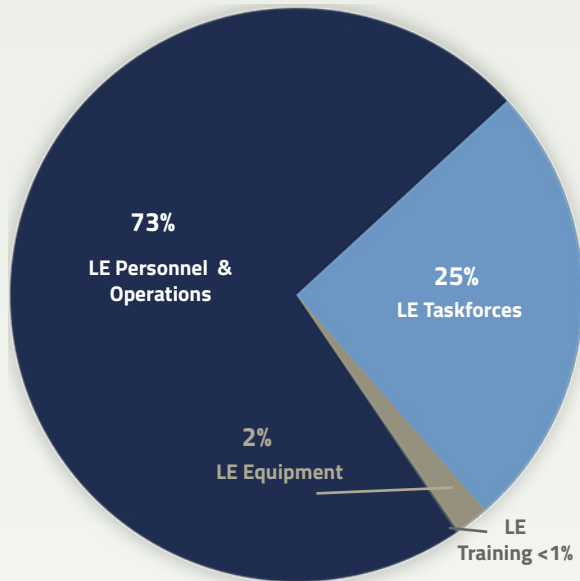
Law Enforcement

1%



Prevention & Education

New Mexico's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



Police in their effort to provide a variety of services to other state agencies, including: undercover personnel and contingency funds; hazardous material response officers; access to audio/visual surveillance equipment; and investigation efforts of clandestine methamphetamine labs throughout the state.

New Mexico State Police's presence and expertise is needed most in rural areas of the state where local law enforcement agencies have limited access to resources. New Mexico Byrne JAG funding is instrumental to providing support for officer overtime to assist with highly complex investigations and operations, and maintain effective partnerships with both regional MJTFs and other local, state, and several federal law enforcement agencies.

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 govern-

ments 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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