



## Cornerstone for Justice:

# How Nevada 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 Nevada:

In 2018, the Nevada Department of Public Safety invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Byrne JAG funds support 10 multi-jurisdictional task forces in 14 of 17 counties. The task forces address drug trafficking, pharmaceutical diversion, homeland security, gang suppression and related violence and associated violent crime. Task forces utilize evidence-based practices. The composition of the task forces is multi-jurisdictional and often include a sworn officer from the DPS Investigation Division as a force multiplier for many of the rural areas where the task forces are strategically placed. Nevada’s drug task forces play a critical role in drug interdiction. Major roadways that transit northern Nevada include I-80, which passes through Reno and connects the country with San Francisco to the west and major metropolitan areas, such as Salt Lake City, Utah; Denver, Colorado; and Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri, to the east.

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.

### Nevada’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,135,648

33%



Law Enforcement

5%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

17%



Prevention & Education

10%



Crime Victim & Witness Programs

7%



Prosecution & Courts

8%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

- Two selected projects will fund Behavioral Health Peace Officers who collaborate with health services and another project provides a Youth Resource Officer for a rural jurisdiction.
- Reentry services for individuals returning to Washoe County following incarceration. Funds support transitional housing, substance abuse treatment and supportive employment services through two local non-profits.

## 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.

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.

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.

This funding touches hundreds of cities and towns across America through projects funded and investments made in state and local justice systems.

This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2016-DP-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions are those of the authors.