



Cornerstone for Justice:

How Iowa 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 Iowa:

In 2018, the Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

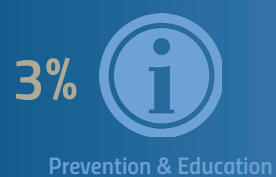
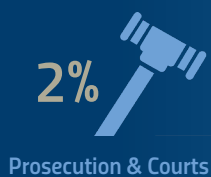
- Byrne JAG funds support Iowa’s network of 18 multijurisdictional drug task force operations. The task forces are overseen by a governing board representing officials from participating law enforcement and prosecution agencies. In 2017, the state and local task forces collaborated to focus heavily on methamphetamine distribution and opioid misuse reduction efforts.
- Byrne JAG funds were used to support local drug and crime prevention initiatives. These initiatives are run by community coalitions which bring together citizen volunteers, professionals who provide school-based education to teachers, parents and students, and mentors who work with at-risk youth to promote public safety and healthy lifestyle choices.

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

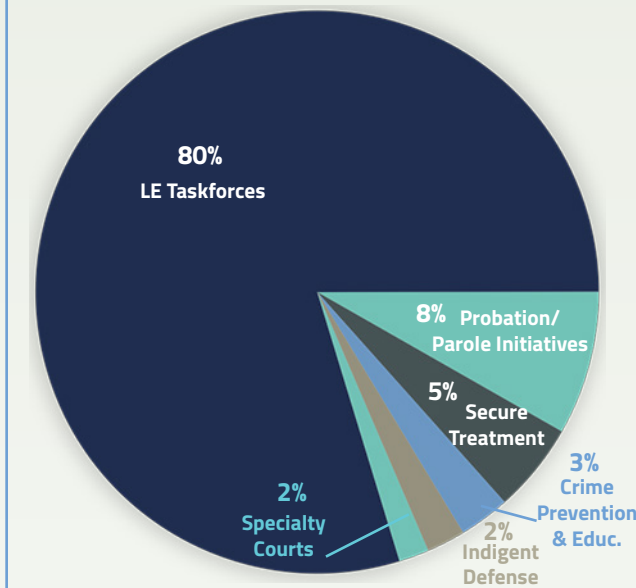
Grants are awarded based on a strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state’s system stakeholders.

Iowa’s Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$2,021,836



Iowa's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- Byrne JAG funds were used to set up telemedicine services for the state's rural prisons in order to assist offenders who are battling mental illness by providing access to psychiatrists and other licensed medical professionals and mental health staff.

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.

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.