



Cornerstone for Justice: How Missouri 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 Missouri:

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

- The Jackson County Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) represents a multi-jurisdictional initiative that provides comprehensive enforcement services to Jackson County residents in an effort to identify and shut down drug houses and street level narcotics operations. DART provides an interagency mechanism through which residents throughout the 13 municipal jurisdictions in Jackson County can report illegal narcotics activity. DART personnel take suspected drug activity, primarily anonymously, and communicate the information to the appropriate law enforcement agency for confirmation. Investigations are conducted, operations are shut down and sellers are arrested and prosecuted. DART activities include the coordination of property inspections for housing and fire code violations that often merit the properties be vacated until the property is made inhabitable. In addition, DART engages, otherwise often uninformed, property owners of the drug activity and works with them in an effort to eliminate whatever

factors led to the drug activity. However, in certain circumstances when property owners fail to take corrective action or in severe cases, drug properties are subject to expedited eviction, nuisance, and forfeiture actions. Finally, DART members attend community meetings to engage the community in discussions related to criminal drug activity, its toll on the community, and actions that can fight its effects.

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

Missouri's Investment By Purpose Area

96%



Law Enforcement

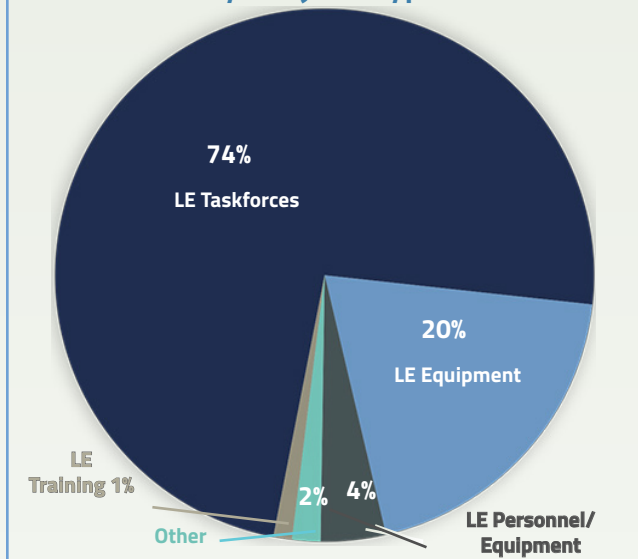
Total Investment = \$3,924,342

4%



Crime Prevention
& Education

Missouri's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



- Byrne JAG supported the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services Witness Protection Program. In Missouri, a key part to the successful apprehension and prosecution of criminals is a cooperative witness and/or victim. The Witness Protection Program provides security to witnesses, potential witnesses and their immediate families in criminal proceedings or investigations pending against a person alleged to have violated a state law. Providing safety for witnesses may include provision of housing and for the health, safety and welfare of witnesses and their immediate families, if testimony by a witness might subject the witness or an immediate family member to danger of bodily injury, and may continue so long as such danger exists. Costs associated with this project can include, but are not limited to: housing costs, hotel nights, meals and/or transportation or mileage. These costs are important to this program due to the need for witnesses to be relocated or receive temporary housing during the duration of a case that is working through the criminal justice system.
- Support for 21 multi-jurisdictional drug task forces focused on street-level and/or interdiction enforcement. Byrne JAG funds are used to reduce the use and availability of illegal drugs by means of covert and overt narcotic investigations, educating the public on the dangers of drug

use, participating in community prevention initiatives, and coordinating treatment for substance abusers.

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.

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

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