



Cornerstone for Justice: How Arkansas 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 Arkansas:

In 2018, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- A statewide network of 19 multi-jurisdictional drug taskforces. Byrne JAG funds are combined with dedicated state funding (40 percent Byrne JAG/ 60 percent state funds) to support taskforce operations in 67 of the 75 Arkansas counties.
- Drug enforcement efforts in Arkansas are focused primarily on methamphetamine, marijuana, prescription/ opioid drugs and heroin interdictions and eradications. Each of the 19 taskforces are required to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and a governing board that helps direct the work of each taskforce and provides investigative oversight when appropriate.
- Byrne JAG funding also supports 200 small equipment grants for local law enforcement agencies. Grants usually provides funding to purchase a variety of safety equipment, technologies including body worn cameras, digital radios and in-car computers as well as uniforms and

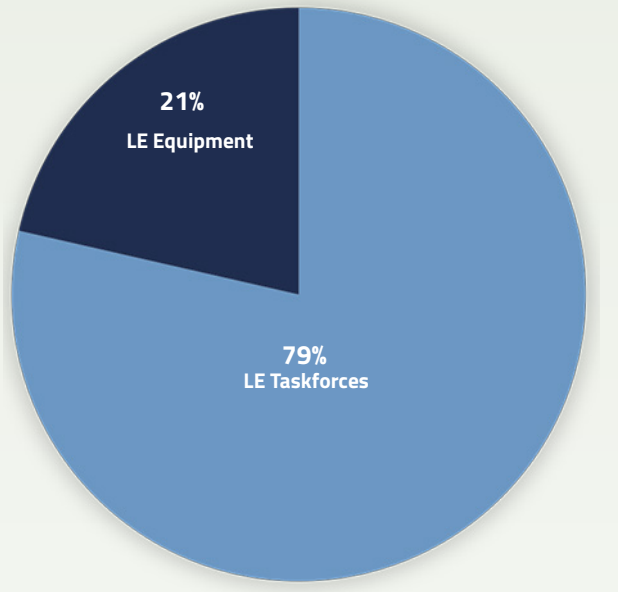
items for field operations. The majority of the law enforcement agencies who participate in this grant program are located in rural areas of the state and lack the general revenues to purchase necessary items for officer's protection and safety as well as items for enforcement activities and operations.

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

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

Byrne JAG funding 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 equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives.

Arkansas' Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



Total Investment = \$1,914,534

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.

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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