

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program: Leading Change in State and Local Justice Systems



The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program government's crucial role in spurring innovation, as well as testing and replicating evidence-informed practices in crime control and prevention nationwide. States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs across the entire justice system. In this way, Byrne JAG-funded investments touch nearly every city, town and county in America.

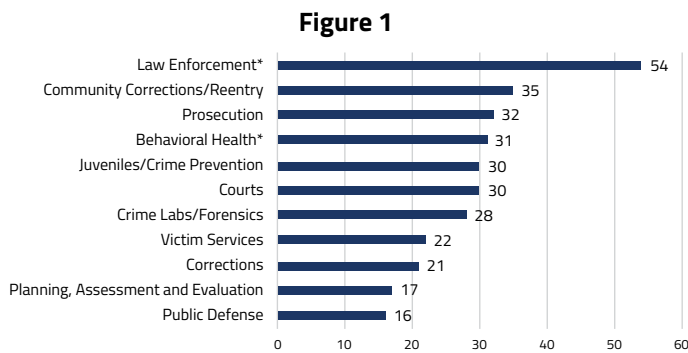
Byrne JAG's hallmark is its flexibility. States, localities and tribal nations are able to deploy Byrne JAG funding against their most pressing public safety challenges. This funding allows communities to design complete programs, fill gaps, leverage other resources, and work across city, county and state lines. Byrne JAG allows states to reach underserved and under-resourced rural and urban communities that are often unable to access other federal grant funds.

Byrne JAG funds can be used across the criminal justice system, in any of nine statutorily created program areas – law enforcement; prosecution; public defense and courts; prevention and education; corrections and community corrections; drug treatment and enforcement; mental health; crisis response and intervention; crime victim and witness; and planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs. Byrne JAG programs improve the administration of justice, prevent crime and victimization, improve outcomes for the justice-involved and save taxpayer money.

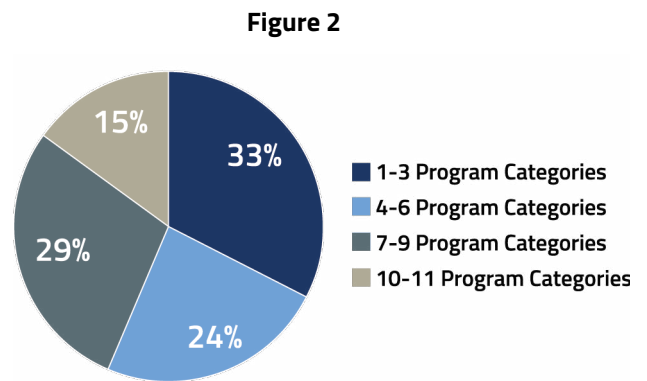
“ States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system. ”

Figures 1 and 2 show how broadly the states, territories and the District of Columbia strategically allocate Byrne JAG funds across the justice system. When the nine Byrne JAG program areas mentioned previously are de-aggregated into 11 program categories, two-thirds of states allocate funds across at least four categories, and nearly half spend in seven or more.

Number of States Spending in Each Program Category



Percent of States Spending in Multiple Program Categories



Based on spending in 2023

* Law enforcement includes operations, training, programs and equipment

* This figure does not include programs funded by Byrne SCIP. (For more detail, see bottom of page 12.)

Based on spending in 2023

The Role of the State Administering Agency

The State Administering Agency (SAA) is the agency designated by the governor to oversee the Byrne JAG program. The SAAs conduct cross-system strategic planning, design and implement programs, award subgrants to local governments, evaluate program effectiveness and ensure the full accountability of federal funds. With a structure and process that varies by state, the strategic planning process analyzes crime trends, provides a forum for eliciting the policy priorities of the various sectors of the justice system and establishes a plan for the use of the grant funds. SAAs are supported in this strategic planning by peer-to-peer technical assistance.

Byrne JAG funds are appropriated by Congress and distributed by formula by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Sixty percent of each state’s award is allocated to the SAA, who in turn subgrants a designated percentage

to local governments and nonprofit service providers. The remaining 40 percent goes directly by formula from BJA to local governments. Calculated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics through a formula, state allocations are based on population and crime rate, and local allocations are based on crime rate. Read more about the [Byrne JAG formula](#). In FY23, grants to the states, territories and the District of Columbia ranged from about \$550,000 for the smallest states to more than \$21 million for the largest. This paper discusses only the grants awarded to states and the subawards SAAs make to local agencies and community-based organizations; it does not discuss the awards made by BJA directly to local governments, nor awards made using the dedicated Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program funding, as authorized and appropriated by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. (For more detail, see bottom of page 12.)

With Byrne JAG funds, state and local governments have made remarkable strides in advancing data-driven practice in criminal justice. The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) collects data from the SAAs and gathers examples of Byrne JAG-funded programs and practices. A sampling, as provided by the states, is highlighted on the pages that follow, organized by topic.

Supporting Law Enforcement’s Role in Improving the Administration of Justice



In the United States, law enforcement is primarily the responsibility of state and local governments. Yet because law enforcement is the threshold of the criminal justice system, the federal government has an interest in supporting and helping to replicate successful approaches to preventing and suppressing crime. The nature of this assistance has changed over time. When the original Byrne grant program grew out of the Omnibus Crime Control Act and Safe Streets Act of 1968, its primary purpose was to support states in fighting drug trafficking. In the years since, the emphasis has broadened considerably.

Byrne JAG funds support law enforcement through a wide array of programming and support, such as testing new operational approaches, enhancing the sharing of information, adopting prevention and diversion strategies and purchasing needed equipment and diagnostic tools. Byrne JAG supports cross-agency responses to regional crime, including drug, violent crime and anti-trafficking multijurisdictional task forces. Every Byrne JAG-funded task force officer is required by BJA to complete the training provided by the [Center for Task Force Leadership and Integrity](#).

Importantly, law enforcement agencies can use Byrne JAG to respond quickly to new and emerging public safety challenges in their communities, including in recent years the opioid epidemic. Collectively, states spend just over half of their Byrne JAG formula dollars to support this wide array of law enforcement programs.

IMPROVING POLICING AND FILLING GAPS

- ▶ **Massachusetts** utilized Byrne JAG funds to introduce a program called the Safer Communities Initiative. The program, designed to complement the U.S. Attorney’s Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative, provides funding to district attorney’s offices and to the Department of State Police to work collaboratively in their efforts to prevent and reduce gang and gun violence. Prosecutors were required to use 50 percent of their funding to support diversion, prevention and outreach efforts, while the remaining portion was dedicated to enforcement and prosecution. The program’s main objective was to decrease the usage of illegally obtained firearms, find alternatives to imprisonment and target crimes committed by young people.
- ▶ Byrne JAG funding supports **New York’s** statewide professional policing efforts, including implementation of the state’s Professional Policing Act and updates to the basic officer training for all police and peace officer recruits, minimum in-service training standards for police agencies, police and peace officer instructor certification, model policies on priority issues (e.g., hate crimes, domestic incidents, body-worn cameras, use of force), and comprehensive agency accreditation.
- ▶ In **North Carolina**, Byrne JAG funds help small and large law enforcement agencies attain accreditation, either to the National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement or to the North Carolina Statewide Accreditation standards, which are administered by the North Carolina Training and Standards Commission. In the past two years, three large state agencies have received accreditation grants as well as five sheriffs’ offices and 11 police departments.
- ▶ The New Castle County, **Delaware** Police Department funded two officer wellness programs: a confidential wellness line, which provides 24-7 access to confidential peer support personnel; and wearable sensor technology fitness/ stress trackers, which monitor heart rate and fitness and help reduce stress and improve overall wellness. The police department is hoping to expand the program by offering a wider range of wellness services and education, exercise classes, peer support, financial literacy and more. Also, the Delaware State Police has used Byrne JAG funds to offer a confidential wellness app and toolkit to 1,500 officers.
- ▶ **Nevada** funds officer health and wellness, including the first Nevada

State Police project that provided virtual trainings on topics from officer suicide to family wellness as well as one-on-one sessions with a vetted culturally competent therapist. Funds also allowed the state police to rebuild its peer support team after the Covid-19 pandemic. This team answers calls after officer-involved shootings or after officers are killed in the line of duty, including after the December shooting at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Byrne JAG funds will allow the state to extend this training to all parts of the state.

- ▶ In **Nevada**, Byrne JAG supports rural law enforcement with the purchase of mobile data in-vehicle terminals, high-caliber bulletproof vests, body-worn cameras, forensic equipment, handheld drug analyzers, sex-offender monitoring software and support for K-9 officers and court security projects. In urban areas, Byrne JAG supports law enforcement agencies in purchasing bomb imaging detection equipment, license plate readers and technology to

support data modernization and other needs.

- ▶ **New York's** GIVE initiative helps local law enforcement implement successful gun violence reduction strategies through funding training and technical assistance, including on problem-oriented policing, hot-spots policing, focused deterrence/group violence intervention, street outreach and crime prevention through environmental design. Byrne JAG funding is used to provide dedicated technical assistance to each of the GIVE partners, as well as evaluate the program impact and meet unaddressed funding needs from law enforcement partners.
- ▶ **Virginia** is addressing officer/first responder wellness using Byrne JAG funding to expand their resources, training and awareness, including creating public service announcements that will be distributed to the public and first responder communities, and making available website resources, training and

other information regarding wellness to the first responder community.

- ▶ **New Jersey** is expanding the state police's Auto Theft Task Force by supporting additional detectives and prosecutors, additional police departments and funding equipment and overtime.
- ▶ A new **Delaware** state law requires that all law enforcement agencies become accredited to the Delaware Police Accreditation Commission standards by September 2028. The state uses Byrne JAG funds to support the local law enforcement agency's accreditation, as well as recertification process.
- ▶ Byrne JAG funding in **Iowa** supports a partnership between state and local enforcement, prosecution, indigent medical services and a human trafficking service provider, providing a conduit for law enforcement to refer potential trafficking victims to services.

IMPROVING TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES

- ▶ In Anne Arundel County, **Maryland**, Byrne JAG funding supports the local department's Firearm Intelligence Real-Time Sharing Tactics (FIRST) Program, which utilizes evidence-based technology to enhance comprehensive gun crime strategies. This program focuses on analyzing and investigating gun crime within the community by building upon NIBIN technology, crime gun tracing and law enforcement partnerships to identify shooters, disrupt criminal activity and prevent future violence.
- ▶ The **Missouri** Interstate License Plate Reader Project helps local and state law enforcement agencies disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations and

cartels, combat human trafficking and stop the flow of illegal drugs coming into and traveling through Missouri. This project provides law enforcement agencies with an effective tool to combat crime through the sharing of actionable license plate information.

- ▶ **Utah** provides small grants to more than 110 mostly rural law enforcement jurisdictions, to Utah's college and university campus law enforcement agencies, as well as to the Division of Wildlife law enforcement to assist with vital equipment, supplies and training needs.
- ▶ The Weld County, **Colorado** Sheriff's

Office Investigation Unit is able to collect data and prepare crime case reports faster through the purchase of a 3D forensic scanner that captures millions of measurable data points in a matter of seconds. The reports can be shared and utilized for collaboration internally, with the district attorney's office and other law enforcement agencies.

- ▶ In **South Carolina**, Byrne JAG funds support crime scene and forensic lab equipment and personnel for local and state agencies to expand capacity and reduce case backlogs, an Argon Laser for Forensic Firearm Analysis in the city of Charleston, an automatic ballistic identification system in York County, and a digital radiography x-ray system

for the safe detection of increased explosive-related threats across the state.

- ▶ Each year, **North Carolina** provides over 100 small local law enforcement agencies with equipment grants for radios, non-lethal weapons, body armor, cameras and technology.
- ▶ **New York** supports crime analysis centers, which bring together law enforcement intelligence and analysis to solve crimes. This first-of-its-kind, \$18 million network of 11 regional crime analysis centers, collects and shares criminal intelligence and data among state and local law enforcement agencies. The network has become the backbone of state and local efforts to deter, investigate, and solve crimes, handling 90,000+ annual calls for assistance throughout more than 47 counties and over 350 law enforcement agencies.

- ▶ Byrne JAG funding allowed the **Massachusetts** Department of Criminal Justice Information Services to purchase access to the National Crime Information Center Violent Person File for use by all Massachusetts law enforcement agencies. This database promotes officer safety by providing members of law enforcement with potentially lifesaving alerts about individuals who may have a propensity for violence against officers.
- ▶ The City of Marianna, **Florida** used Byrne JAG funding to purchase a CAD/RMS system upgrade. Marianna is in one of Florida's fiscally constrained counties and was unable to achieve NIBRS compliance without this CAD/RMS upgrade.
- ▶ Rush County, **Kansas** is a rural community with limited resources. Byrne JAG funds made it possible for the sheriff's office to replace its outdated

and unserviceable radio system, the primary form of contact for emergency communication between all necessary county agencies, and with neighboring counties and state agencies.

- ▶ Hillsborough County, **Florida's** Eye-on-Crime Technology Enhancement and Expansion project allows the county to connect live-feed cameras to help deter and address crime in the jurisdiction.
- ▶ The Las Cruces, **New Mexico** Police Department used Byrne JAG funding to purchase a touchless laboratory, which has substantially increased its capacity for crime scene processing and significantly decreased the number of items sent to the state laboratory to be processed, many of which did not have trace evidence.

SUPPORTING OFFICER TRAINING

- ▶ **Nevada** supports law enforcement training and the purchase of virtual de-escalation equipment for law enforcement agencies statewide, including the Sparks Police Department, the Department of Public Safety Training Division, the Nevada POST Division and the City of Las Vegas Department of Public Safety.
- ▶ The Scott County, **Kentucky** Sheriff's Office (SCSO) received Byrne JAG funding to purchase a virtual reality training simulator suite. SCSO will use the system to conduct scenario-based training for its officers, with specific trainings focusing on de-escalation and conflict resolution.
- ▶ **Ohio** offers crime mapping training free of charge to law enforcement agencies through the University of Cincinnati. Crime mapping is an evidence-based crime reduction tool that has been proven effective for place-based models of policing.
- ▶ **Alabama** provides funding to the Jacksonville State University Center for Applied Forensics for training to state and local law enforcement officers that emphasizes the importance of recognizing, preserving and collecting items of evidence routinely encountered by patrol personnel responding to crime scenes as well as investigators working complex crime scenes.
- ▶ In **Texas**, Byrne JAG supports specialized officer training on numerous topics, including but not limited to physical surveillance, sexual assault investigation, narcotic investigation, scenario-based simulation and tactical training.
- ▶ **Nebraska** supports de-escalation training for the Metro Community College Police Department, who are responsible for a four-county area.
- ▶ **Virginia** is using Byrne JAG funding to facilitate numerous training courses related to addressing violent crime,

drugs, active shooter responses and the investigation of these crimes. These courses include but are not limited to criminal investigations techniques, firearm trafficking investigations, law enforcement

intelligence, digital forensics for investigations, death investigations training, crime scene management, overdose death investigations, homicide investigations training and basic narcotics investigations.

▶ **New Jersey** funds training for law enforcement officers in resiliency and in becoming better equipped to handle the daily stress of police work that, when left unchecked, may lead to physical ailments, depression and burnout.

ENHANCING CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL COORDINATION

▶ **Nevada**, which sits at the intersection of three interstate highways, supports eight multijurisdictional task forces that provide support to all 17 counties and address drug trafficking, human trafficking, sex trafficking, pharmaceutical diversion, violent gang crimes, gang suppression and other violent crimes associated with drugs and drug cartels. The task forces utilize evidence-based practices and obtain new training techniques through current well vetted law enforcement training provided across the nation. Also, the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Investigation Division provides a detective to six rural multijurisdictional task forces and all counties, as requested, for major crimes, officer-involved shootings and other investigations.

▶ In **Indiana**, Byrne JAG funding supports the Cyber Crime Task Force based in southern Indiana. Utilizing advances in the field of digital intelligence, the task force serves more than 38 law enforcement agencies across 11 states and has achieved an 88 percent success rate in extracting more than 104.4 Terabytes of data from 2,784 confiscated digital devices. The team has become a valuable resource for local, state and federal agencies.

▶ The **New Hampshire** Attorney General's Drug Task Force is a statewide multijurisdictional drug task force unit. Byrne JAG funds support undercover operatives who

conduct controlled drug investigations in support of local law enforcement agencies, a prosecution team and options for training.

▶ **Iowa** funds 15 local and one statewide task force, which are responsible for removing dangerous drugs, guns and violent persons from communities. The task forces also refer endangered children and victims of human trafficking to protective resources and provide education.

▶ **South Dakota** supports a statewide drug and violent crime task force, which is led by the State Division of Criminal Investigation. The task force leverages statewide resources to focus on heroin and methamphetamine as well as homicide and violent crime cases that smaller and more rural jurisdictions are not equipped to investigate. In addition, the South Dakota Highway Patrol uses Byrne JAG to support local and tribal agencies with law enforcement support in times of crisis.

▶ The **Wyoming** Division of Criminal Investigation's (WDCI) five Regional Enforcement Teams are supported by a combination of Byrne JAG funds, general state funds and a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant. The primary goal is to identify, disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations and to apprehend the individuals responsible for

violent crime. Training, equipment, policy and procedures for law enforcement are standardized, and the WDCI coordinates, cooperates and communicates with local law enforcement agencies to ensure statewide enforcement efforts and to facilitate the sharing, exchange and utilization of intelligence information and investigative resources.

▶ In **Vermont**, Byrne JAG funding is blended with state funds to support a statewide multijurisdictional task force run out of the Vermont State Police. Specifically, Byrne JAG funds support one Unit Supervisor State Police Sergeant position with overtime as well as a local police officer who is assigned full time to the drug task force. The task force is composed of individuals from state and local law enforcement agencies. Task force priorities include heroin, fentanyl, opioids, powder cocaine, crack cocaine and prescription drugs interdiction. Additionally, Byrne JAG funding is used for direct task force operating expenses.

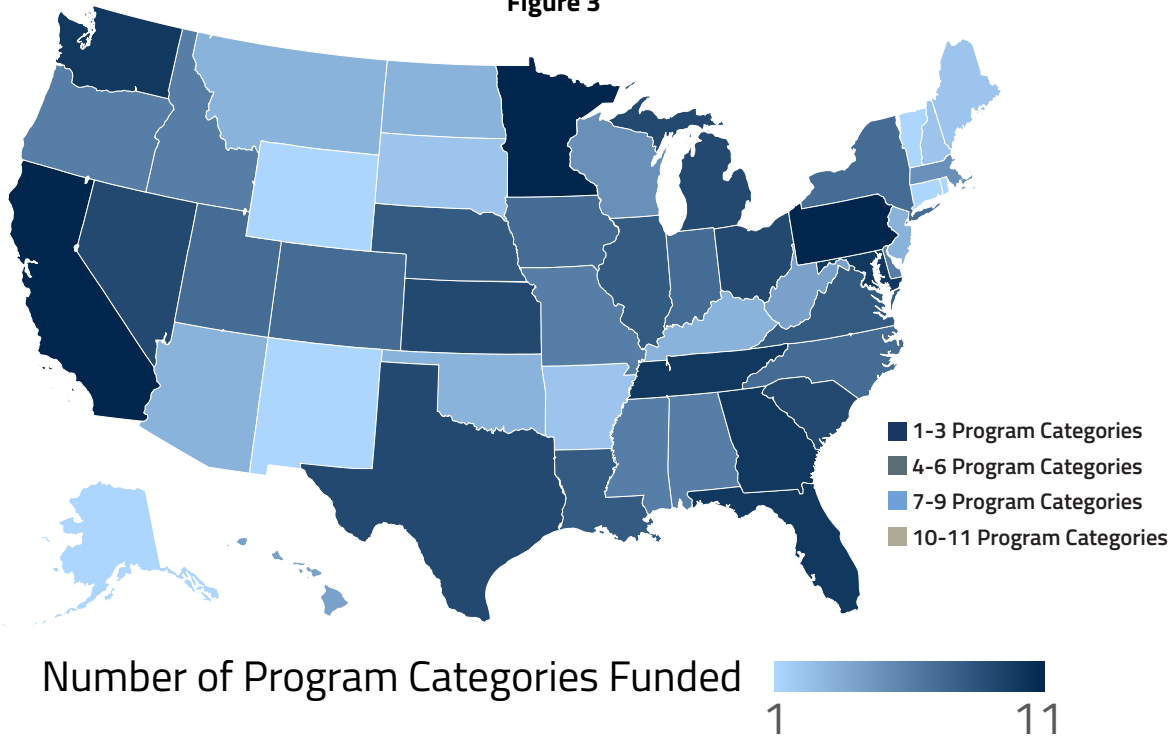
▶ **Arizona** funds 15 drug apprehension projects that focus on inter-agency collaboration and a commitment to the effective targeting of high-priority drug offenses. In FY23, these efforts seized illicit drugs with a street value of \$209 million.

- ▶ The Valencia County, **New Mexico** Sheriff's Office is using funds to equip and train a small team in counter narcotics operations that has conducted numerous high risk search warrants on suspected drug trafficking locations.
- ▶ **West Virginia** currently has 11 task forces, funded in part by Byrne JAG, that field collaborative joint investigative teams consisting of state, federal and local investigators. These task forces work in conjunction with community-based programs to address their area's crime problems more effectively.
- ▶ **Alaska's** multijurisdictional drug task forces play a significant role in the interdiction of illegal substances being imported into Alaska and distributed to smaller Alaskan communities through hub locations at the airports.
- ▶ **North Dakota** funds four multijurisdictional drug task forces across the state. To maximize federal support, Byrne JAG funds are braided with a set aside from the state lottery fund. In addition, Byrne JAG funds allow the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to provide oversight to 10 regional drug task forces across the state. In recent years, the task forces have expanded the types of crime they investigate, with an increased focus on gangs, violent crime and organized crime cases.
- ▶ **Montana** supports six regional drug task forces, each a collaboration of multiple member agencies that together involve dozens of counties, cities and Indian reservations. Two are administered by the Montana Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation and one each by the Flathead County Sheriff's Office, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and Havre Police Department.
- ▶ Multijurisdictional drug task forces operate across the Commonwealth of **Kentucky** and focus on disrupting mid-to upper-level methamphetamine and fentanyl trafficking organizations; these Byrne JAG-funded taskforces helped reduce overdose deaths by 5 percent in 2022, according to the 2022 Overdose Fatality Report released by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy.
- ▶ **Wisconsin** funds 18 multijurisdictional drug enforcement task forces that cover 56 of Wisconsin's 72 counties and 11 Native American reservations. Projects involve federal, state and local drug enforcement agencies and prosecutors aimed at enhancing interagency coordination and intelligence sharing targeting gangs, drugs, firearms and associated criminal investigations. In many cases, the task force is the primary drug unit for the county and member agencies depend on the unit to target and investigate the most significant drug threats to local communities, which in turn decreases drug-related crime and makes communities safer. Funds are used to train new and current investigators, overtime for investigations, salaries and supplies.
- ▶ In **Oklahoma**, Byrne JAG funds support 13 multijurisdictional drug and violent crime task forces operated by local district attorneys' offices. Task force officers are dedicated to investigating and disrupting high-level drug trafficking operations, as well as reducing violent crimes by apprehending and prosecuting the individuals responsible for the most dangerous offenses in the state. Furthermore, these officers devote their time to assisting state and federal law enforcement agencies and engaging in community outreach and education efforts.
- ▶ **New Jersey** supports 21 county prosecutors' offices' gang, gun and narcotics task forces. A statewide task force works cooperatively with federal, county and local law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute members of criminal gang organizations, gun traffickers and gun trafficking organizations who operate across county or state lines.
- ▶ The **Maine** Drug Enforcement Agency provides a central administrative structure for the establishment, coordination and oversight of specialized narcotics and narcotics-related investigative units that work to disrupt the market for illegal drugs and enhance the ability of law enforcement to detect and apprehend drug traffickers by improving coordination and communication among criminal justice agencies. Due to limited resources, most participating departments cannot assign officers full-time to a drug task force. Byrne JAG supports six of the 39 Drug Enforcement Agency positions.

As noted above and illustrated by the program examples below, Byrne JAG addresses jurisdictions’ needs across the justice system. **Figure 3** depicts the number of program categories for which each state allocates funding. It should be noted that many funded programs can fit across multiple labels and categories. For instance, funding for a co-response team located in a law enforcement agency is most likely reported under the law enforcement category, even though it may better be described under the mental health program area.

Number of Program Categories Funded in Each State

Figure 3



Reducing Recidivism Through Court Innovation



States have used Byrne JAG to test innovation in the court system for more than three decades. The first drug court, established in Dade County, Florida in 1989, was funded initially with a Byrne JAG grant. Since then, states have used Byrne JAG funds to replicate the model across the United States and expand the model to other specialty courts. Specialty, or problem-solving, courts meet needs not often addressed in the traditional court setting and are proven to increase the likelihood of a defendant’s rehabilitation, unclog the criminal docket, reduce prison overcrowding and, ultimately, improve public safety and save taxpayer money.

With increasing frequency, states are using Byrne JAG funds to divert people to treatment before arrest or sentencing and to reduce the number of people detained in jail while awaiting trial. As many as eight out of every 10 people in U.S. jails, or over half a million individuals on any given day, are in jail awaiting disposition of their case.¹ Programs that can keep people in the community not only save taxpayer money but prevent the collateral consequences that even a short jail stay can cause. Many SAAs also support public defense and prosecution agencies, particularly programs designed to help defendants and victims during court proceedings or to connect them with social services in the community.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC DEFENSE

- ▶ A Byrne JAG grant to **Minnesota's** Regional Native Public Defense Corporation seeks to increase regional cross-collaboration and response for criminal defense, mental health, and substance use disorder assessment and treatment to decrease the likelihood of Anishinaabe/American Indians' future involvement in the criminal justice system. Three funded programs use connections to community, traditional teachings and practices as the foundation for their work.
- ▶ **Michigan's** Indigent Defense Commission and State Appellate Defender Office use Byrne JAG funds to improve representation and provide services to the indigent that are on par with those given to people who are able to hire attorneys. The funds allow these agencies to expand a working model for indigent defense reentry advocacy and assistance to a much larger client population so that post-conviction representation of indigent clients can provide advocacy for release from incarceration and return to the community.
- ▶ **Mississippi** provides support to the Indigent Appeals Division that represents indigent defendants on direct appeal of felony convictions from circuit court and youth court adjudication appeals. Also, the Training Division provides continuing legal education training for all public defenders at any trial level in the state.
- ▶ Los Angeles County, **California** is continuing and expanding a promising pilot project operating in the Public Defender Office designed to improve access to social services and improve outcomes for low-income individuals facing misdemeanor and low-level felony charges. Funding also supports the replication of this program within the county's indigent defense agencies.
- ▶ **Pennsylvania** provides intensive training on trial advocacy skills and litigation skills for new public defenders.
- ▶ **New Hampshire** provides support to its Public Defender Program, which has seen an increase in the percentage of clients with a substance use disorder. Byrne JAG funding helps individuals with a substance use disorder who become involved in the criminal justice system navigate available treatment options, complete the treatment admission process and access treatment during incarceration.
- ▶ Denver, **Colorado's** Front Door to Procedural Justice project is a partnership between Denver Human Services and the Denver Office of Municipal Public Defenders that supports indigent clients by providing case management and peer navigation for hard-to-reach, very low-income individuals and/or clients experiencing homelessness by connecting them with benefits and support services.

ENHANCING COURTS AND COURT-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- ▶ In **Texas**, Byrne JAG funds support several innovative, assessment-driven, treatment-focused reentry, pretrial diversion and other court-based programs that use a multidisciplinary approach to expand access to necessary services for at-risk populations to reduce recidivism rates.
- ▶ In St. Mary's County, **Maryland**, Byrne JAG funding is used to support the local Office of the State's Attorney by improving technology capacity to efficiently manage digital case information, collaborate with law enforcement agencies and other entities and present evidence in court. Not only does this initiative improve the analysis of digital evidence by implementing software to manage and analyze body worn camera footage, but it also increases the efficiency with which post-conviction prosecution investigations are examined and evaluated to ensure that justice is served in a timely and effective manner.
- ▶ The Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Methamphetamine & Opioid (Fentanyl) Focused Prosecution project was funded in part by **Hawaii's** Byrne JAG program. Kauai County supports a full-time deputy prosecuting attorney, who applied the vertical prosecution model and screened and charged cases involving methamphetamine and opioids. During the first six months, the project achieved a 94 percent conviction rate (33 of 35 cases).
- ▶ The **Missouri** Office of State Courts Pretrial Project provides local courts with access to administrators to facilitate the pretrial process. The

project also provides a foundation for the development of pretrial programs in each judicial circuit by informing decisions related to risk assessment tools, Missouri pretrial best practices and necessary resources to support pretrial programming.

- ▶ The San Joaquin County, **California** Project Navigate Constructive Change is a pretrial diversion program using a problem-solving court model that targets indigent youthful defendants with first-time felony charges. Program interventions are offered under the leadership of a mental health clinician and include unique adaptations of evidence-based and promising practices that are being tested for effectiveness in reducing system involvement and lowering recidivism.
- ▶ **South Carolina** supports a dedicated violent crime prosecution team in the

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office, which has resulted in more efficient case preparation to continue working towards the goal of reducing the backlog of cases in the Fifteenth Circuit.

- ▶ Byrne JAG supports the Administrative Offices of the Courts in implementing training and strategies to assist **Arkansas** courts in drug-related cases.
- ▶ **Wisconsin** provides funding to pretrial pilot programs in Chippewa, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Marathon, Outagamie, Rock and Waukesha counties. The pilot sites operate a risk-informed pretrial justice program that incorporates a validated pretrial risk assessment tool and assesses all individuals who are booked into jail and who are subject to a pretrial release/detention decision by a judicial officer.

▶ The **Missouri** Office of Prosecution Services' Witness Protection Program provides security to witnesses, potential witnesses and their immediate families in criminal proceedings and provides services that can include housing costs, hotel stays, meals and/or transportation or mileage.

▶ **Louisiana** provides funding for the 24th Judicial District Attorney's Office Pre-Trial Intervention Program to support a team of licensed professional counselors, social workers and addiction counselors who conduct needs and risk assessments, create treatment plans and document behavioral change goals through counseling and sobriety. Over the past 15 years, tens of thousands of individuals have been provided the opportunity to avoid conviction in exchange for treatment and sobriety, leading towards a safer and healthier community.

INVESTING IN SPECIALTY COURTS

- ▶ **Mississippi's** drug court program works with youth, adults and their families in handling drug-related cases through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services and intermediate sanctions and incentives.
- ▶ Over 8,500 individuals have participated in **Arizona's** Byrne JAG funded drug courts. While under the supervision of the courts, 87 percent of these participants did not recidivate, and 50 percent obtained employment.
- ▶ RCA Foundation's Court Connected Drug Treatment Program (RCAF-CCDT) in **Alabama** provides treatment to individuals with substance use disorders and/co-occurring disorders and behavioral health concerns who

have pled into drug courts and/or are being monitored through a court referral program in rural Lowndes, Butler, Crenshaw, Elmore and Autauga counties. The program will address drug treatment provider shortages and patient access to care by providing telehealth services for individuals with transportation barriers and those in need of a flexible seven day a week and evening schedule for treatment.

- ▶ **Oregon** provides financial and technical assistance to 55 specialty courts throughout the state on national and state court standards and invests directly in the local operations of 14 drug treatment courts and five mental health treatment courts. Additionally, the Oregon Specialty Court Case Management System supports a

network of approximately 70 specialty courts statewide. This management information system improves court performance and accountability, data collection, grant monitoring and evaluation.

▶ In **Michigan**, Byrne JAG supports 15 drug courts that target non-violent probation violators and non-violent straddle or presumptive cell felony offenders who, based on Michigan Sentencing Guidelines, are otherwise bound for prison. These courts are evidence-based and have been found to substantially reduce drug misuse and recidivism.

Improving Outcomes by Supporting Community Corrections and Reentry



A primary purpose of the Byrne JAG program is to disrupt the cycle of crime and reduce recidivism. The statistics are familiar. America’s prison population is the highest in the world, with 1.9 million people incarcerated and an additional 3.7 million people on probation or parole on any given day². Over two-thirds return to prison within three years, and nearly half return to prison within five years³.

SAs are responding to this reality by directing Byrne JAG to community-based programs that provide the services people need to break the cycle of crime and victimization by testing new approaches, replicating what works and strengthening the community-based organizations that provide the services.

These programs and services range from pre-release planning to comprehensive case management, and can include coordinated wraparound services, substance use disorder and mental health treatment, job training and education. These programs often work in partnership with other BJA-funded reentry programs, including the Second Chance Act and Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), as well as county and municipal initiatives.

- ▶ Goodwill Industries received Byrne JAG funding to implement its “Aspire” program, working with justice-involved Kentuckians to reduce recidivism. Proposed activities include career coaching and counseling. The program will be implemented in Pikeville, an under-resourced and underserved area of eastern **Kentucky**.
- ▶ Byrne JAG funding supports community reentry simulations for a wide range of stakeholders hosted by the **Rhode Island** Center for Health and Justice Transformation.
- ▶ In **Ohio**, Alvis House partners with University of Cincinnati researchers to provide training and support to staff who work directly with higher-risk populations in halfway houses and reentry programs in Columbus, Toledo, Lima and Chillicothe. Topics include engagement and social support, identifying high risk situations and crisis intervention with the individuals most prone to agitated/aggressive interactions.
- ▶ In **Minnesota**, the West Central Regional Juvenile Center Community Living Independent Programming and Skills (CLIPS) program provides life skills training and cognitive behavioral therapy to transition age youth who, without programming, are likely to enter an adult facility upon release. Over 50 percent of the youth who entered the CLIPS program had no further contact with the courts. Other grantees provide juvenile justice interventions that include wraparound services for homeless youth, school and community-based restorative justice programs and mental health and case management services.
- ▶ Volusia County, **Florida’s** Adult Drug Court Counselor program provides structured, court-ordered counseling and treatment services to individuals who would otherwise be sentenced to jail/prison.
- ▶ In the **District of Columbia**, Byrne JAG supports the Reentry Performance Measurement and Evaluation Project, which provides process evaluation services to District of Columbia Reentry Coalition grantees and includes a web-based case management system for reentry grantees to be able to serve specific target populations.
- ▶ The **Kansas** Brothers In Blue Path to Freedom Program utilizes targeted instruction, rehabilitation, mentoring and counseling services to break the cycle of recidivism in current and formerly incarcerated individuals. Over 80 percent of participants successfully graduate from the program.
- ▶ Career Resources, Inc. (CRI) in **Connecticut** is a workforce development nonprofit agency that is a statewide leader in supporting the reentry population and helping returning citizens successfully reintegrate into their communities. Byrne JAG funds support Entry Point Staffing, a workforce training and temporary staffing agency launched by CRI in 2020 to support returning citizens and other system-impacted individuals in their efforts to secure steady employment, financial self-sufficiency and successful community reintegration.
- ▶ Byrne JAG funds support the **District of Columbia’s** community-based organizations, which provide valuable case management, programs and other support to District residents who have been or are currently incarcerated.

- ▶ **Tennessee** supports reentry programs in Dyer, Grundy, Henderson, Maury, Wayne and White counties, enabling local government agencies to provide comprehensive services to individuals at least six months prior to, and following, release from incarceration. Individuals have been released with employment and housing, obtained their IDs and driver’s licenses, received work release opportunities, enrolled into adult education classes, and have been involved in and completed trauma-informed classes and individual/group therapy.
- ▶ **Minnesota** funds five programs that provide employment, housing and case management services to individuals returning from prison or jail. The Emerge Community Development grant provides credential training programs and other job training opportunities. An evaluation shows that 79 percent of participants who have completed the program obtain stable employment at a livable wage and the overall program has a 21 percent recidivism rate.
- ▶ **Fresno County, California** provides evidence-based case management services to individuals ages 18-30 committed to the Fresno County Jail for a minimum of 60 days, affiliated or previously affiliated with gangs and at medium- to high-risk to re-offend. Case management services address the participants’ stabilization and criminogenic needs.
- ▶ **Nevada** supports reentry projects in the Washoe County area that address mental health and drug misuse needs for both men and women working to reenter the community as productive members of society and rebuild broken family relationships.
- ▶ **Sarasota County, Florida** provides contracted case management and treatment services to Health Care Court participants including mental illness and co-occurring disorder assessments, transition care, medication management and individual and family therapy sessions.
- ▶ **Hang Time** is a grassroots program in **Connecticut** that provides holistic community support and social service navigation for men and women returning home from incarceration and their families, with the long-term goal of reducing community violence and recidivism.

Improving Justice System Responses for Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders



America is facing a crisis in its prisons and jails. Two-thirds of individuals incarcerated in the nation’s prisons and jails have an active substance use disorder⁴ and another 20 percent were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their arrest.⁵ People leaving prison or jail with unaddressed substance misuse issues are significantly more likely to re-offend⁶ and are at significantly higher risk of dying of an opioid overdose than the general population.⁷ Further, about 2 million times each year⁸, people with serious mental illness are booked into jails, and almost three-quarters of these adults also have drug and alcohol misuse issues. Overall, about two in five incarcerated adults have a diagnosable mental health condition and as many as 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a history of mental illness.⁹ Once incarcerated, individuals with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of returning to incarceration than those without these illnesses.¹⁰

States and local governments are focusing attention and resources on responding to individuals in crisis, diverting people to treatment before arrest or sentencing, screening for treatment needs on entry into jail, and funding drug and mental health and other specialty courts. Fortunately, SAAs also use Byrne JAG, in partnership with the state alcohol and substance abuse agencies, funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to help facilitate and strengthen collaboration between the justice and behavioral health systems.

Byrne JAG-funded programs help to align and bolster resources so people can continue their treatment immediately upon release. The challenges are many and complex. True cross-system solutions are in their infancy, but federal grants like Byrne JAG are making this innovation possible. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, signed into law in June, 2022, amended Byrne JAG to add a ninth program area focusing on state crisis intervention programs. It authorized and appropriated \$150 million annually for five years specifically for these needs. The funding is administered as a separate grant program, the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP). This report does not include examples of Byrne SCIP spending, nearly the entirety of which would fall under the mental health, crisis intervention and/or other sections of this report.

COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES TO SUBSTANCE USE, MENTAL HEALTH AND CRISIS RESPONSE

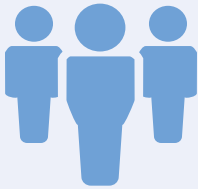
- ▶ **Pennsylvania's** Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee provides guidance and structure to ensure that Pennsylvania's criminal justice/mental health activities are coordinated statewide and that counties receive the guidance and support necessary to implement effective responses. In partnership with Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the committee supports evidence-based strategies for interventions for individuals with mental illnesses and cooccurring substance use disorders. This collaboration benefits mental health clients, but also promotes public safety by identifying appropriate interventions.
- ▶ The Richland County, **South Carolina** Sheriff's Department's Crisis Intervention Team consists of deputies and mental health counselors trained in de-escalation techniques. The team responded to more than 62 calls for service from October 2022 through March 2023, with only two resulting in arrest. The project has recently been expanded through Byrne SCIP funding in FY24.
- ▶ The Georgetown, **Kentucky** Police Department supports a Community Mental Health Support Team that collaborates with other community agencies and organizations to create and enhance existing programs directed at reducing drug abuse and related deaths, reducing recidivism, and addressing related mental health needs in the community.
- ▶ In Wicomico County, **Maryland**, Byrne JAG funds are used to integrate a clinical professional within the local law enforcement department to implement a co-responder model for responding to calls for service with a mental health nexus. The goal of this program is to divert those with mental health needs from the criminal justice system and identify and understand any gaps and barriers within current services to address challenges and enhance those resources.
- ▶ In **Rhode Island**, Byrne JAG funds support the Family Court Mental Health Clinic. The clinic provides juveniles with routine evaluations following referral and emergency same-day evaluations by an on-call clinician.
- ▶ The Cache Valley Unified Support Program is a multi-disciplinary team that serves residents of Cache County, **Utah**. The team collaborates to identify community resources for Cache County residents who struggle with mental health and/or substance misuse. The case manager, funded by Byrne JAG, helps referred individuals navigate services and community resources free of charge.
- ▶ In **North Carolina**, Byrne JAG funds six mental health pilot projects. Two projects involve training curriculums to help officers recognize mental health/substance abuse and learn effective communication and alternative options to arrest. Two projects are co-responder programs that allow local law enforcement agencies to deploy a mental health professional with the law enforcement officer when responding to a citizen in a mental health crisis and two programs involve the mental health and wellness of officers.
- ▶ An embedded social worker has been the key to helping Northville Township, **Michigan's** Behavioral Health Consortium forge connections, increase positive interactions, provide resources and assist those of all ages who need mental health assistance. These social workers sustain and build the capacity of this important public safety co-responder program which supports Northville Township and neighbors Northville and Plymouth.
- ▶ The Dixon, **Illinois** Police Department's Safe Passage Initiative is a police deflection program serving Lee and Whiteside counties designed to help get heroin and other opioid users into recovery from addiction. The funding trains and sustains recovery coaches who develop a coordinated system of care to ensure individuals who voluntarily seek treatment for their substance use disorder receive the services they need.
- ▶ A collaboration of judges, prosecuting and defense attorneys, the local substance abuse authority and jail in Sanpete County, **Utah** uses Byrne JAG funds to provide treatment by a licensed therapist and licensed counselor to an underserved population in a rural jail.
- ▶ In **North Carolina**, Byrne JAG funding supports crisis intervention trainings for three local law enforcement agencies and the creation of a train the trainer course at Forsyth Technical Community College.
- ▶ **Wisconsin** is using Byrne JAG funding to expand and enhance at least five existing law enforcement-assisted deflection programs currently funded under the federal Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). The programs deflect opioid users from further drug misuse and involvement with the law with the goal of addressing the underlying substance misuse needs of non-violent individuals and reducing exposure to the justice system.

- ▶ The Hodgenville, **Kentucky** Police Department received funding to establish a police social worker position, providing services such as crisis counseling, information about victims rights and the criminal justice system, advocacy, court accompaniment and referrals for counseling and other services.
- ▶ **Wisconsin** supports its statewide Drug Take Back Initiative in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Agency and hundreds of local, county and tribal law enforcement agencies. To date, the semi-annual events have collected and safely disposed of over 1 million pounds of unused medications in Wisconsin.
- ▶ In Davis County, **Utah**, Byrne JAG supports a psychiatrist serving individuals entering a receiving center who are in need of prescription medications, including medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and alcohol use disorders, as well as psychiatric medication for those with mental illness. The psychiatrist is able to provide on-site and after-hours medication management.
- ▶ The Sarpy County, **Nebraska** Mental Health Program offers intensive case management to clients with mental health problems. Modelled after problem-solving courts, the program seeks to help individuals improve their living skills, manage mental health needs and reduce additional contacts with the criminal justice system. Also, Byrne JAG funds a sworn sergeant with mental health credentials in the Douglas County Sheriff's Office who will lead a new behavioral health and wellness unit.
- ▶ **Tennessee** provides funding for master's level forensic social workers who have had substantial training in addressing issues related to substance abuse, untreated mental health concerns, homelessness, unemployment, poverty and life consequences that follow arrests. Knox County began a pilot program, which grew to cover 20 counties across the state.

SUPPORT FOR SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING AND TRAINING

- ▶ The National Alliance on Mental Illness **Kansas** provides inmates access to mental health resources that help to prevent suicide and self-harm. The Justice Involved Project (JIP) began at the Butler County Jail and quickly expanded to additional facilities, bringing 94 groups serving 578 inmates in the Wyandotte County Jail, Topeka Correctional Facility, Hutchinson Correctional Facility, Norton Correctional Facility, Riley County Jail. In the 12-month award period, NAMI data confirmed a decrease in suicide-related incidents and deaths.
- ▶ **Iowa** supports two community resource programs that help people in behavioral health crises, with the goal of preventing arrest or diverting clients from incarceration. Programming includes crisis stabilization and referral to community resources.
- ▶ **Florida's** Department of Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment Program provides programming for inmates with substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorders to reduce recidivism upon release from the state prison system.
- ▶ **Arkansas** funds specialized training for courts, law enforcement and other stakeholders who have direct contact with individuals who may have substance use disorders.
- ▶ The Butte County, **California** Probation Department utilizes Byrne JAG funding to continue the Community Alliance Program, which provides substance use disorder treatment, placement in sober living environments to support continued sobriety, and educational opportunities and employment support to probationers with the highest criminogenic needs.
- ▶ AltaPointe Health provides mental health training and support for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel in Mobile, **Alabama** and surrounding areas. These programs have successfully reduced hospitalizations, encounters with law enforcement, jail time, emergency room visits and homelessness. Participants learn to identify when a person's behavior results from a behavioral health need; they engage in active listening, communication techniques and de-escalation strategies with an emphasis on safety. Central to the training is the opportunity to network with local community mental health center professionals to understand the referral process and available intervention strategies.
- ▶ The XChange Recovery program provides behavioral health and substance use services to community members experiencing homelessness and incarceration in collaboration with the Clark County, **Washington** Sheriff's Office and other community agencies. Byrne JAG funds will support new programs and bridge the gap in reentry services for individuals returning to their community after short-term incarceration.

Supporting the Needs of Victims



The primary source of federal funding for victim services is the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program, funded by the Crime Victims Fund, which is financed through the remittance of federal criminal fines and penalties and is administered by the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. Many states and local governments supplement VOCA with Byrne JAG-funded initiatives, such as support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, funding for children’s advocacy centers, youth and family services, counseling and forensic and other investigative tools. Further, Byrne JAG-funded multijurisdictional task forces work collaboratively with victim and social service organizations to identify victims and convict their perpetrators.

- ▶ The **Tennessee** Bureau of Investigation (TBI) receives funding to reduce the sexual assault kit backlog. Since February 2023, 64 cases have been uploaded to CODIS, TBI has identified three new arrestee index hits and 15 new offender index hits that have led to 18 sexual assault-related investigations being solved. Because of these funds, the TBI is anticipated to process an additional 908 sexual assault kits.
- ▶ Bonneville County, **Idaho’s** Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center (DVSAC) supports sexual assault nurse examiner services on a regional level and enhances investigations and prosecutions throughout the region for all victims of sexual assault crimes, including those involving strangulation, through trainings and the development and implementation of procedures, best practices and protocols for DVSAC’s Sexual Assault Response and Multi-Disciplinary Teams.
- ▶ **Tennessee’s** Statewide Family Justice Center initiative is a network of 14 Family Justice Centers that are community-wide collaborations of public and private agencies in a centralized location that serve victims of family violence, sexual assault and elder abuse. Byrne JAG funds assist local communities in bringing community partners together and in hiring a Family Justice Center coordinator.
- ▶ **Idaho** Legal Aid Services, located at the Nampa Family Justice Center (NFJC), allows clients immediate access to legal help, such as obtaining a protection order, immediate legal protection followed by representation in an extended custody case, child support and health insurance, in addition to a variety of services offered by other providers co-located at the NFJC, including counseling, case management, safety planning, emergency financial assistance, housing, law enforcement, prosecution, victim witness coordinators and others.
- ▶ **Minnesota’s** Men as Peacemakers uses Byrne JAG funds to implement the Domestic Violence Restorative Circles Program (DVRC) that includes healing circles for victims. An evaluation of results from the men who completed the DVRC program show that cognitive behavioral therapy methods have a positive long-term effect on dynamic criminogenic needs and likelihood of recidivism reduction.
- ▶ Byrne JAG funding supports the **Ohio** Domestic Violence Network in providing civil legal assistance for a range of legal needs for domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking survivors who are at or below the poverty level and cannot access legal services. The Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center provides no-cost direct legal assistance to crime victims
- ▶ to protect and enforce their rights, with targeted outreach to child victims and victims of color. The office also provides victims’ rights training to criminal justice officials and allied professionals.
- ▶ The **Connecticut** Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a statewide support network for victims and survivors. Byrne JAG funds are supporting implementation of a new database system to increase the coalition’s ability to track and use data to improve service delivery. This database seeks to ensure compliance with state and federal mandates, integrate data dashboards and access real-time analytics.
- ▶ In Boulder, **Colorado**, Blue Sky Bridge’s Project Pinwheel brings numerous community agencies together to prevent and reduce child sexual assault by providing education and resources to empower children with strategies to prevent abuse, educating adults on how to foster relationships that support a child’s healthy development and learning how to prevent, detect, react to and report child sexual abuse.

- ▶ **North Dakota** supports forensic interviewing and examination services through local Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs). Funds support culturally competent and age-appropriate forensic interviewing, examination and intervention services for children who are victims of, or witnesses to, crimes. In addition, North Dakota supports a network of domestic violence programs across the state. Run by local nonprofits, these service providers assist the victims of domestic violence with shelter support, counseling, education, court accompaniment and advocacy services.
- ▶ The Capital Area Response Effort (CARE), in collaboration with the Lansing, **Michigan** Police Department, will enhance the services offered by CARE by providing crisis intervention, safety planning and resources to domestic violence victims in six jurisdictions. The goal of this project is to promote victim safety, further participation in criminal justice efforts, and to expand CARE’s partnership with law enforcement.
- ▶ The YWCA Family Justice Center of Greater Cincinnati, **Ohio** centralizes services from victim advocates,

law enforcement, prosecutors, probation and legal attorneys to increase accessibility and improve the coordinated community response to interpersonal violence. Also, the Center for Child and Family Advocacy provides evidence-based and trauma-informed clinical services for youth and their families in two rural counties.

- ▶ The **Kansas** Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services’ Batterer Intervention Project (BIP) utilizes a collaborative approach to provide services statewide to address domestic violence for victims of incarcerated individuals. Last year, Byrne JAG funds made it possible to provide 374 victims with 2,203 supportive services, 298 community referrals and 79 Kansas Domestic Violence Offender Assessments. The project facilitated 163 BIP offender groups.
- ▶ In Baltimore, **Maryland**, Byrne JAG funding is used to increase safety for domestic violence victims by providing advocacy, case management, representation in court for final protective order hearings, individual and group therapy and follow-up services that aim to stabilize the victim and their children. This is accomplished

through the utilization Lethality Assessment Project (LAP), Maryland Model which connects victims with police involvement directly to domestic violence advocates and services.

- ▶ **Washington** supports the Organization for Prostitution Survivors, which provides supportive services to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation in King and Pierce counties. Byrne JAG will support expansion of services for young people impacted by commercial sexual exploitation through trauma-informed service provision and advocacy.
- ▶ **South Carolina** funds domestic violence initiatives, including a domestic violence prosecution team in the Fourth Judicial Circuit and multiple specialized domestic violence investigator positions in Chesterfield County, the Town of Lexington and the Town of Bluffton.
- ▶ Byrne JAG supports dedicated staff for the Family Resource Center housed in the Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center, which provides housing, food, clothing and other community resources to families in Pacific County, **Washington**.

Preventing Crime and Juvenile Delinquency



While crime prevention and education is one of the nine program areas specifically authorized in the Byrne JAG statute, this category is more difficult to describe separately as nearly every Byrne JAG-funded program shares the goal of preventing crime. Nonetheless, many initiatives focus specifically on crime prevention, education and juvenile delinquency prevention. For instance, SAAs in several states use Byrne JAG to supplement the juvenile delinquency prevention grants administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention by supporting anti-delinquency programs, cyber-bullying prevention, gang prevention and suppression, substance abuse prevention and anti-human trafficking prevention.

SUPPORTING SPECIALIZED COMMUNITY-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

- ▶ In response to rising community and youth violence in Eastern **Washington**, the Safe Communities Partnership has provided more than 130 youth (ages 13-17) with gang and group violence intervention and prevention services throughout Spokane County. Byrne JAG funds will support the expansion of intervention and prevention programming to include additional efforts throughout the city of Spokane and mentorship to incarcerated young people.
- ▶ In **Iowa**, Byrne JAG funds support a rural mentoring program for system-involved youth whose parents are involved in the criminal justice and/or social services system as well as direct services to educate youth and parents on drug and crime issues.
- ▶ The University of **Illinois** at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Between Friends will partner to implement DREAMS, a dating violence prevention program in five Chicago public schools (grades 6-8). The partnership includes engaging influential adults in trainings and leading a youth leadership program that focuses on peer education and outreach projects. The program will serve racially and ethnically diverse early adolescents living in economically disadvantaged communities.
- ▶ **New York's** SNUG outreach program works through community-based organizations and hospitals in 14 communities from the Bronx to Buffalo. SNUG employs nearly 200 outreach workers who are credible messengers within their community, usually from prior justice system involvement, and who respond to shootings to prevent retaliation, detect conflicts and resolve them peacefully before they lead to additional violence. SNUG has dedicated social workers and case managers to work with individuals affected by community violence. Byrne JAG funding is used to evaluate the program's impact, as well as meet unaddressed funding needs from the community partners.
- ▶ Canyon County, **Idaho's** Breaking Chains Academy of Development provides at-risk youth with the tools and resources needed to deter them from criminal and gang activity, helping them successfully transition into adulthood. In partnership with the Idaho Department of Labor and Nampa Housing Authority, BCAD provides youth with a GED/HSE curriculum and related needs and encourages students to pursue on-the-job skills training.
- ▶ Denver Day Works Together is an innovative crime prevention and employment program in Denver, **Colorado's** Five Points neighborhood that began as a pilot program in 2019. The program follows a trauma-informed employment-first model that includes case management to help participants reach employment and housing goals.

ENHANCING COURT-BASED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- ▶ **Hawaii** used Byrne JAG to enable the Judiciary to pilot a Parental Engagement Empowerment Resource project in the First Circuit, Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) program. The project was established to improve parental/legal guardian(s) involvement for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth placed on probation with JDC. The overall goal of the project was to engage, educate and empower families with sustainable skills and knowledge to improve overall family functioning, reduce youth substance misuse and reduce recidivism.
- ▶ In Frederick County, **Maryland**, Byrne JAG funds are used to divert juveniles accused of first-time minor crimes from the juvenile justice system and avoid having a juvenile record by providing wraparound services and resources that address mental, emotional, social and economic challenges. This includes skills training, counseling and case management, as well as employment, mental health, education and aftercare services.
- ▶ The **Louisiana** 16th Judicial District Attorney, Family Services Division works with youth in grades K through 12, and their families in Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary parishes who experience behavioral problems, truancy and/or school performance deficits. Youth are screened and assessed to determine high-risk anti-social behaviors that could impact them later in life and are provided an avenue to engage in services to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors around the referred youth and their families. Over the course of several grant years, 4,461 youth and their families have received support, including 2,287 referrals to evidence-based services.

▶ The Sacramento County, **California**, Office of the Public Defender’s Juvenile Division is using Byrne JAG funds to create a Juvenile Pre-Trial Program to work with justice and community partners evaluating youth upon entry into the juvenile justice system and

ultimately, to connect them with specifically tailored services, including for any issues surrounding mental health, substance abuse, gender identity, education and more. Utilizing early intervention service connections improves outcomes for juvenile justice-

involved youth, resulting in fewer detainments, shorter probationary periods, lower recidivism, reduced community violence and addresses the underlying issues causing the behavior for which the youth was brought into the system.

SUPPORTING YOUTH AND PREVENTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

▶ The **West Virginia** Prevention Resource Officer program is a cooperative effort between schools and law enforcement to prevent students from committing crimes, to mentor youth, and to combine safety and child advocacy while assuring a better school experience for all West Virginia youth. Certified police officers attend extra-curricular activities and facilitate classes on non-traditional educational topics such as juvenile law, domestic

violence, underage drinking, drug and alcohol prevention and child abuse and neglect.

▶ The Santa Cruz County, **California** Comprehensive School Safety Program is a multi-agency partnership, led by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office, that will work together to initiate, coordinate and expand several evidence-based programs aimed at reducing

juvenile delinquency, increasing school credit accruals, reducing on-campus bullying and harassment and improving collaboration between school districts and law enforcement.

▶ Byrne JAG funds support Lancaster County, **Nebraska’s** Project RESTORE, which disrupts the classroom to courtroom pathway through restorative justice programming.

Strategic Planning, Data Analysis, Evaluation and Technology



State Administering Agencies are required by statute to complete a strategic plan to guide investment of Byrne JAG funds. As part of this planning process, SAAs are required to engage stakeholders from across the justice system, including law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, corrections officials, reentry services, public defenders and others. The planning process is used to articulate priorities, identify gaps in programs and resources and determine how Byrne JAG funds will be leveraged and coordinated with other federal, state, local and philanthropic resources to address gaps and improve the overall functioning of the criminal justice system. BJA supports the training and technical assistance essential to effective strategic planning.

Planning and program evaluation rely on accurate data and data management systems and the development of the skills needed to use them. Criminal justice is a system that spans state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies as well as courts, corrections and social service providers, each with their own data and case management systems and protocols for sharing of information and records. An important goal of the SAAs’ strategic planning process is to build the trust needed to break down silos and build the skills needed to access, use and analyze available data to develop programs and evaluate their success. The training and technical assistance authorized in the Byrne JAG statute is instrumental in advancing these goals and building these skills.

Also, the SAAs are responsible for all oversight of their subgrantees, including desk audits, on-site monitoring, adherence with federal fiscal controls and all other federal funds administration requirements. They also support the acquisition of technology, criminal records and information sharing systems.

- ▶ Byrne JAG funds were used to support research, planning, data collection and analysis of criminal justice policies and programs targeting priority areas of the **Massachusetts** Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. Funding allowed the Office of Grants and Research to collect and analyze data with the goal of identifying evidence-based programs that can improve public safety. Research activities covered areas on recidivism, reentry, sexual assault, domestic violence, gang and youth violence, juvenile justice, substance abuse and drug-related crime, crime reporting, smart policing and technology.
- ▶ Byrne JAG helps the **Wyoming** State Crime Laboratory, the state's only accredited laboratory, support agencies across the state with evidence processing, analysis, transport, expert testimony and a 24/7 on-call Crime Scene Response Team.
- ▶ **Tennessee** is supporting the development and implementation of a formal risk assessment tool and pretrial release decision making framework that enables local court system stakeholders to make evidence-informed decisions about release that focus on enhancing public safety and eliminating the unnecessary detention of low-risk defendants while simultaneously allocating more intensive and restrictive options (e.g., pretrial supervision, detention) for higher risk defendants. Hamilton and Dyer counties have successfully implemented the risk assessment tool and pretrial supervision options and have hired support staff.
- ▶ The **Utah** Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Corrections, is funding a research project that will help communities prioritize the types of programs to implement by using geospatial analysis to determine which projects are needed in each community. The project will prioritize prevention and education programs, as well as corrections and community corrections programs.
- ▶ **Hawaii** funded the Maui Police Department's Cybercrime Unit Enhancement project that included implementation of a comprehensive case and laboratory management system to provide for tracking of workloads, time and other information, and to reduce the backlog of digital forensic exams.
- ▶ Byrne JAG funding has allowed **Georgia's** Information Sharing Analysis Center to continue to expand the National SAR Initiative through training, Watch Desk and Regional Terrorism Specialists. The all-crimes fusion center serves as a single point of access for the collection, analysis and dissemination of tips and leads concerning emerging, imminent or existing threats.
- ▶ **New York's** new Justice Lab partners with national and state experts to develop timely, relevant, objective and research-based evidence on justice programs, policies and strategies. This lab seeks to leverage the SAA agency's expertise, in partnership with national researchers and practitioners, to generate relevant, objective evidence on justice programs and strategies, as well as to provide meaningful, actionable information for policymakers and criminal justice practitioners. Byrne JAG funding supports research projects that evaluate and improve programs and policies.
- ▶ **Illinois** funds three research centers that collect, analyze and disseminate statistical information; the centers focus on program assessment and evaluations and produce findings and implications for policy and practice, conduct research and program evaluation, refine program performance measures and identify promising practices. This research will inform Illinois' five-year strategic planning process, which is overseen by a 32-member committee and includes listening sessions with the wider stakeholder community conducted over three days.
- ▶ The Franklin County, **Ohio** Municipal Court is contracting with a criminal justice researcher to develop a domestic violence risk assessment tool that will enhance the supervision of intimate partner violence cases.
- ▶ **Pennsylvania's** Commission on Crime and Delinquency developed, and continues to support, countywide Criminal Justice Advisory Boards in all 67 of its counties. The boards are made up of key policy makers from a range of disciplines across criminal justice and behavioral health. Their goals include strengthening coordination and cooperation across agencies, increasing effectiveness and efficiency across the justice system through the smart targeting of resources, and measuring and reporting on the impact of strategic change. Primary areas of concern are the management of county correctional populations and the implementation of community corrections programs to help alleviate jail overcrowding. Program performance is measured and reported to the state planning agency.
- ▶ The Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue Initiative at the **Oregon** Health and Science University has utilized Byrne JAG funding to develop a Gun Violence Review Commission in Multnomah County. This multi-disciplinary

commission implemented a systematic review process for gun violence incidents that includes independent data collection and analysis, case review, and recommendations for the prevention or reduction of gun violence at the community, systems and policy levels.

- ▶ Byrne JAG funds support the **Rhode Island** Department of Corrections with the creation of an agency-specific strategic plan, as well as support for probation and parole services.
- ▶ The **Georgia** Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, in partnership with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Medical Examiner's Office, is using Byrne JAG funds to collect data and verify and report deaths under the Death in Custody Reporting Act. Collaborative partners include the Georgia Department of Corrections, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and five metro medical examiner's offices.

- ▶ **Wisconsin** supports training and outreach for the development and implementation of local criminal justice coordinating councils and training on program-specific topics identified by the coordinating councils. Also, funding will support a survey of jails to identify and address barriers to implementing evidence-based vs. non-evidence-based programs, challenges encountered regarding program fidelity, quality assurance and evaluation, and issues of funding, facility conditions/amenities, staffing for introducing new programs, sustainability of existing programs, and capacity and eligibility limitations.

- ▶ Byrne JAG funding complements **New York** state funding for the technical assistance and evaluation of its 55 alternatives to incarceration programs and 20 county reentry task forces that provide dedicated case management, care coordination and stabilization services in partnership with local government agencies and community-based organizations. Byrne JAG funding is used to evaluate the program models and support new, innovative programming.

- ▶ Byrne JAG is crucial to the work of **Georgia's** Sexual Offender Registration Review Board, which is tasked with assisting law enforcement/management agencies by detailing the registration requirements and classification process for individuals convicted of a sexually dangerous offense and for determining the level of danger they present to the community. In 2020, final classification was completed on 665 cases and the current backlog significantly reduced.

- ▶ **New Jersey** is supporting a specialized firearms/NIBIN investigator responsible for investigating ballistic imaging leads entered in the NIBIN system to verify if recovered casings have been fired from the same firearm.

Endnotes

1 https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2023/03/14/whole_pie_2023/

2 Ibid.

3 <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/recidivism-prisoners-released-34-states-2012-5-year-follow-period-2012-2017>