



Cornerstone for Justice: How Georgia Uses Byrne JAG Funding to Protect Public Safety and Prevent Crime

The cornerstone of federal support for state and local justice systems, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is a federal-state-local partnership enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs.

Byrne JAG is used broadly for law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning evaluation and technology, mental health services, and crime victim and witness programs. This breadth and flexibility means states and local communities can use Byrne JAG to balance resources and address problems across the entire criminal justice system, and to react quickly to urgent challenges and changing circumstances. Many innovative criminal justice practices demonstrated using Byrne JAG funds have been replicated nationwide, such as drug courts, opioid prevention and addiction response, methamphetamine lab reduction, anti-gang strategies, reentry programs and information sharing protocols.

Byrne JAG in Georgia:

In 2016, the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- A state residential substance abuse treatment (RSAT) program at Coastal State Prison. Coastal's RSAT program diverts qualifying offenders sentenced to two years or less of prison time to three and six-month residential substance abuse treatment programs, followed by community supervision and aftercare.
- The Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC), one of 77 U.S. Department of Homeland Security-recognized fusion centers. The fusion center is the primary repository for criminal intelligence information, and staff is responsible for turning the flow of raw information into an actionable intelligence picture.
- Seventeen multi-jurisdictional drug task forces whose overarching goals are to 1) disrupt illicit drug markets by investigating drug distributors and/or drug trafficking organizations, 2) broaden awareness as to the trends,

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

threats, myths and consequences associated with illegal drug use, and 3) participate in the local drug enforcement strategy through law enforcement intervention with drug abusers. Each task force is overseen by a local control board comprised of law enforcement and prosecution representatives. MJTFs are committed to addressing and decreasing the current level of drug-related crime within Georgia.

Georgia's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$5,145,022

12%



Law Enforcement

6%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

8%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement Programs

3%



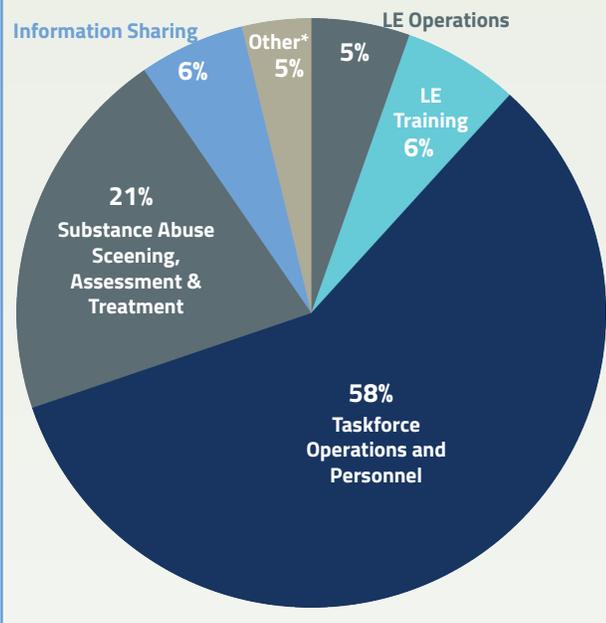
Prosecution & Courts (including indigent defense)

21%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

How Georgia Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: Victim Services and Supports and Prosecution Initiatives.

Additional Examples:

- Driver's license and identity theft investigation and prevention through the Georgia Department of Driver Services through support of investigative positions.
- Law enforcement training series held by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC). Their Drug Enforcement Training Program offers advanced specialized training in drug enforcement investigations, school resource officer, community oriented policing, and Spanish language. In addition, GPSTC provides a Georgia Clandestine Laboratory Investigation/Safety Certification program and Crisis Intervention Team Certification training, which are imperative trainings for all specialized investigators.
- Georgia Byrne Innovative Communities grant program that responds to local needs and provides three communities with the necessary resources to address complex criminal justice issues within their localities. Each community addresses a specific systemic criminal justice issue: 1) a local RSAT initiative that focuses on state prisoners who have a history of substance abuse and are slated to exit the correctional system in the Hall County area; 2)

a DeKalb County Gang Reduction Intervention Program for the creation of a robust investigative files system to enhance gang investigations and facilitate the sharing of intelligence with state and local law enforcement agencies; 3) support of the Clayton County Public School System in training school personnel on identifying juvenile trafficking victims and other at-risk juveniles.

How Byrne JAG Funding is Awarded:

Sixty percent of the overall Byrne JAG grant is awarded to the state criminal justice planning agency (known as the State Administering Agency or SAA), which, in turn, awards the funding, to local governments and non-profit service providers; the remaining 40 percent goes directly from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to local communities based on population and crime data.

Funding is authorized at \$1.1 billion annually. At its peak in FY02, Congress appropriated \$830 million. In subsequent years, funding held steady at about \$500 million. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in FY09 provided a one-time boost of \$2 billion. Since FY10, funding has dropped by about one-third. In FY17 the program was funded at \$335 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 nearly every city and town in America through projects funded and investments made in the state and local justice systems.

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