



## Cornerstone for Justice: How Missouri 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 Missouri:

In 2016, 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.

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 and not return to the criminal justice system.

### Missouri's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$3,472,719

94%



Law Enforcement

1%



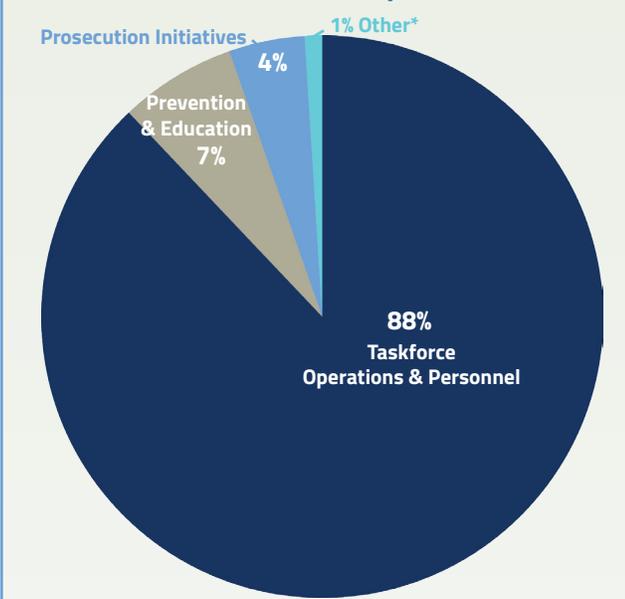
Planning, Evaluation & Technology

5%



Prevention, Education & Crime Victims Programs

## How Missouri Invests Byrne JAG Funds



\* Other includes: Victims Services and Supports and Strategic Planning

- 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:

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.

## 2016 Byrne JAG Spending Study:

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2016 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.

This funding touches nearly every city and town in America through projects funded and investments made in the state and local justice systems.

This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2016-DP-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions are those of the authors.