



Cornerstone for Justice: How Maine 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 Maine:

In 2016, the Maine Department of Public Safety invested in numerous successful initiatives. For example:

- The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, provides a central administrative structure for the establishment, coordination and oversight of specialized narcotics and narcotics-related investigative units within the state of Maine. This approach has been proven to be one of the most effective tools in proactively addressing the proliferation of illegal drug distribution. With limited resources, the majority of participating departments are not able to assign officers full-time to a drug task force. Byrne JAG funds support six of the 39 Drug Enforcement Agency positions.

The goals of this project are to: disrupt the market for illegal drugs by investigating drug distribution activities and reduce availability of drugs; enhance the ability of law enforcement to detect and apprehend drug traffickers by improving coordination and communication among criminal justice agencies; and broaden awareness to trends, threats, myths, and consequences associated with the illicit drug market.

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

Maine's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$880, 854

27%



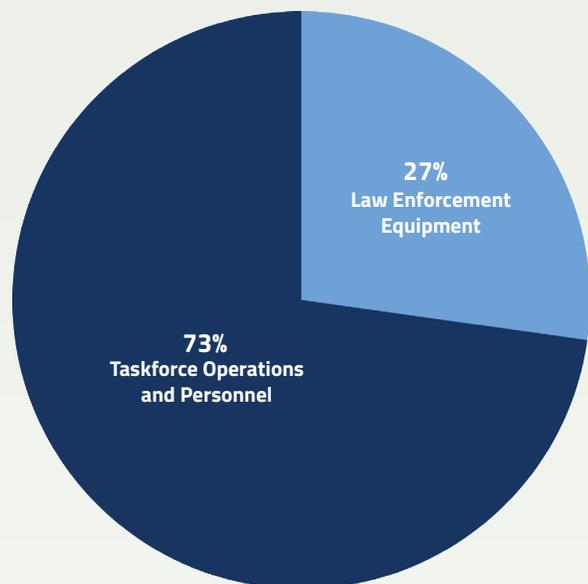
Law Enforcement

73%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

How Maine Invests Byrne JAG Funds



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 Administrative 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.

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