



## Cornerstone for Justice: How Kentucky 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 Kentucky:

In 2016, the Kentucky Justice & Public Safety Cabinet invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Funding for 11 Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces. These funds were used to support a wide range of interdiction needs and assist task forces in implementing best practice models. In an effort to improve the effectiveness of enforcement, Byrne JAG funds were used to fund dedicated prosecutors to assist two of the drug task forces with strengthening the evidentiary chain and improving enforcement outcomes. Byrne JAG funds were also awarded to the Bowling Green – Warren County Drug Task Force to support the Kentucky Narcotic Officer's Conference which highlighted The Naked Truth About Marijuana, Drug Related Death Investigations and Detecting Deception.
- Support for the Greater Hardin County's Narcotics Task Force (GHCNTF). GHCNTF is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional police narcotics operation, formed in 1995, that investigates, arrests and prosecutes individuals or organizations trafficking illegal controlled substances or

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.

diverted pharmaceutical drugs in Hardin, Hart, Nelson, Grayson and Larue Counties. The project brings together the resources of 10 city, county, state and federal agencies with the common goal of targeting mid to upper level drug dealers.

### Kentucky's Investment By Purpose Area

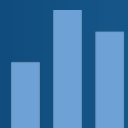
Total Investment = \$2,287, 630

93%



Law Enforcement

4%



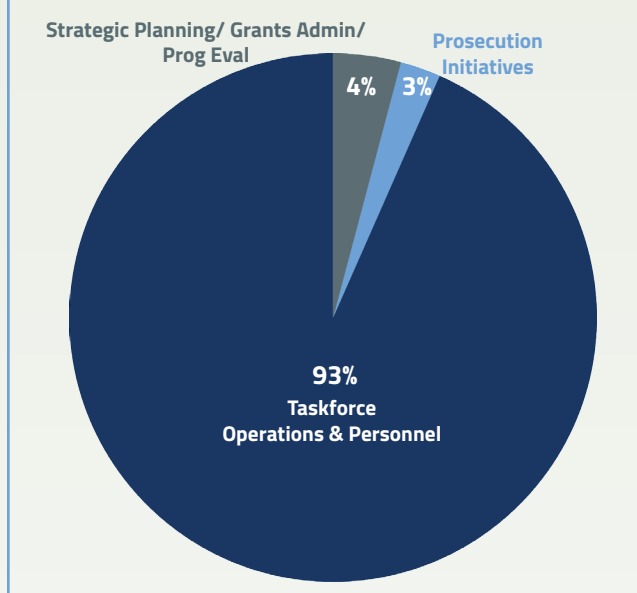
Planning, Evaluation & Technology

3%



Prosecution & Court  
Programs

## How Kentucky 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 Administrating 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.