



Cornerstone for Justice: How New York 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 New York:

In 2016, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- Technical assistance and an ongoing evaluation of the state-funded Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative. The GIVE initiative builds upon the information sharing and partnerships developed under a predecessor program, Operation IMPACT, expanding the use of crime analysis, evidence-based practices and community partnerships to assist in the reduction of firearm-related homicides and shootings.

Crime-fighting strategies developed under GIVE vary by jurisdiction and include, but are not limited to: enhanced patrols in hot spots prone to gun violence, focused deterrence against violent gangs and groups considered responsible for the most gun violence in communities, increased supervision of individuals on parole and probation, and the deployment of street outreach workers to interrupt cycles of violence and prevent retaliation.

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.

- New York State SNUG program. An evidence-based, street outreach program based on the Cure Violence Model in Chicago, the New York State SNUG program utilizes a public health approach to gun violence, treating it like a disease by identifying its causes and interrupting its transmission. DCJS administers state funding for 11 local SNUG programs across the state, and also provides training, technical assistance and general program oversight. Byrne funding was utilized to employ a statewide SNUG program coordinator and a statewide training director.

New York's Investment By Purpose Area

22%



Law Enforcement

34%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

3%



Prevention & Education

1%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

39%



Prosecution & Courts (including indigent defense)

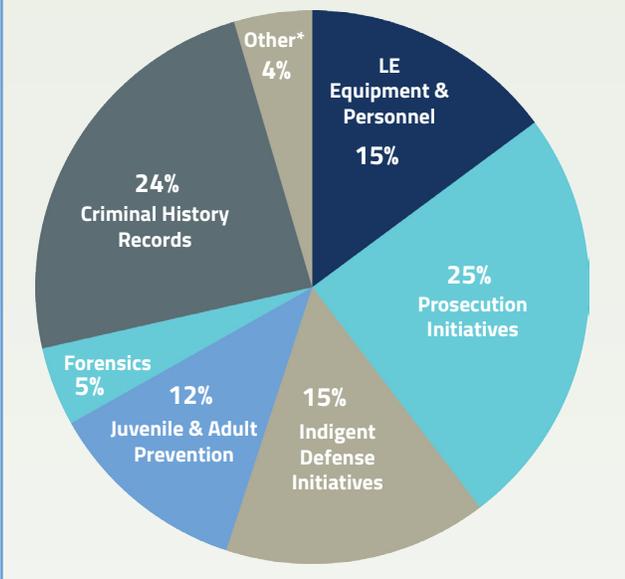
1%



Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry

Total Investment = \$6,262,117

How New York Invests Byrne JAG Funds



* Other includes: Victims Services and Supports; Training (other than law enforcement); Reentry initiatives; Substance Abuse programs; and Taskforce Operations & Personnel

Additional Examples:

- Support for Crime Analysis Centers (CACs) in Albany, Erie, Monroe, and Onondaga counties. DCJS provides staff, equipment, software, training, and program management to develop effective intelligence-led crime reduction strategies and improve local crime analysis capabilities. CACs are comprised of law enforcement and crime analysts from federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies. A primary goal of the CACs is to facilitate information sharing and provide timely and accurate data that law enforcement agencies can use to identify patterns, deploy resources, and reduce crime both within their own multi-jurisdictional regions and throughout the state.
- Non-fatal shooting incident demonstration project. Byrne JAG funding was used to support demonstration projects in two jurisdictions, with specific investigative and prosecution resources being devoted to non-fatal shooting cases, utilizing an "evidence-based" investigation and prosecution approach that is often used in domestic violence cases. The focus of the projects are bullet-to-body shootings, however other confirmed shooting cases where intended victims were not actually shot were included on a case by case basis.

- Enhanced prosecution projects in all five New York City counties district attorneys' offices as well as the NYC Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. Funds are used to enhance the investigation and prosecution of drug and firearms trafficking, gangs, and drug/gang related violent crimes throughout New York City with a focus on multi-agency cooperation targeting large-scale drug and gun trafficking organizations and associated violent crime.
- Public defense projects in New York City and Erie, Onondaga, Monroe, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. Funding supports public defense services, including: expanded indigent defense services, legal and case management services to reduce pre-trial incarceration, representation and advocacy for treatment alternatives for non-violent offenders, parole revocation defense services, sex crimes representation in a specialized Sex Offender court, and domestic violence, veterans, and mental health courts.
- Support for specialized law enforcement equipment purchases, including Livescan fingerprint and video recording of statements equipment, body cameras, marked patrol cars, and interoperable communications equipment.

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.

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