

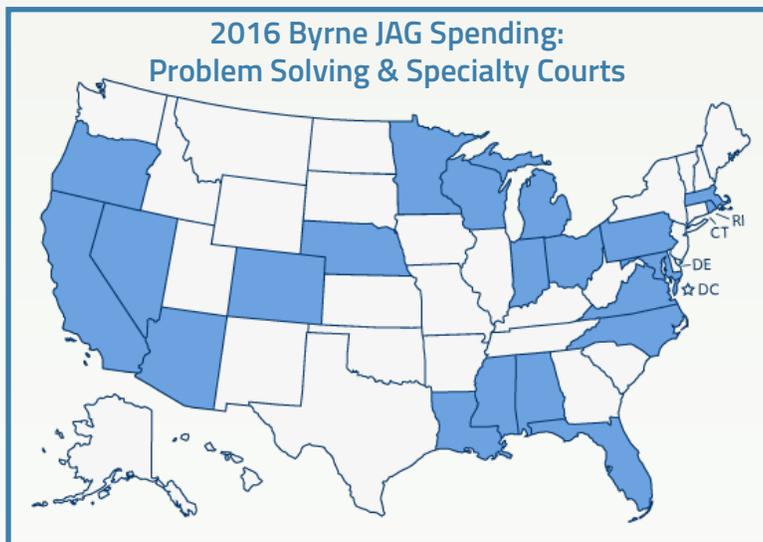
How States Invest Byrne JAG in Problem Solving and Specialty Courts

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program

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. The Byrne JAG program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, provides grant funding to thousands of justice and public safety agencies and initiatives each year. To learn more about Byrne JAG visit: <http://www.ncja.org/ncja/policy/about-byrne-jag>.

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. This information was self-reported and additional states may also use Byrne JAG funds for a specific project type.



Support for Problem Solving & Specialty Courts

Byrne JAG funding supported problem solving and specialty court programs in at least 20 states, highlighted in dark blue on the map. This was an investment of over \$3.7 million (not including California) in total Byrne JAG funding in 2016. These initiatives included: adult and juvenile drug courts, veterans courts, neighborhood courts, family courts, domestic violence courts, and mental health courts along with support services provided through the specialty courts.

Examples of Problem Solving & Specialty Court Programs

- In Yolo County, California, Byrne JAG funds support the implementation of a Neighborhood Court, an adult criminal diversion program based on restorative justice that addresses criminal violations that impact the quality of life in the community. Restorative justice is accomplished in Neighborhood Court by involving the victim, the offender and community members. The Yolo County Program is planning an expansion to the jurisdictions of West County, Woodland and a new target population of homeless offenders in the county.
- In Louisiana, Byrne JAG funds support personnel, operations, and supplies within an adult drug court in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court and a juvenile drug court in the 16th Judicial District.

- Byrne JAG funds in Wisconsin support the implementation and expansion of specialty courts throughout the state in coordination with the state's Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program. In 2015 and 2016, funding supported nine specialty court expansion grants and two initial implementation grants including Adult Drug Court, DUI Courts, a Mental Health Court and a Veterans Court.
- In North Carolina, Byrne JAG funds support Veteran's Treatment Courts in Forsyth and Cumberland County which offer individualized and comprehensive treatment to veterans charged with misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies in an effort to lower the recidivism rate for veterans charged with nonviolent crimes. Court personnel collaborate with the VA medical center, local providers, peer mentors, educational providers and other community agencies to provide treatment.
- In Mississippi, Byrne JAG funding supported the implementation of 12 adult and juvenile drug courts throughout the state and provided funding for implementation assistance through The Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP). In addition to certification, MADCP will ensure that the juvenile and adult dockets are implemented with fidelity to the national drug court model.
- Byrne JAG funds in Oregon support 14 of the state's network of 68 specialty courts. Byrne JAG funds support one Family Court, one Veterans Courts and 12 Adult and Juvenile drug courts. As the largest single Byrne JAG investment for the state, the Criminal Justice Commission continually monitors outputs and evaluations of the state's specialty courts.
- In Maryland, Byrne JAG funds support the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office's Adult Drug Court program. The project assists drug court participants, including those who are leaving jail or homeless, with securing essential services to assist in their recovery and provides drug testing to monitor their abstinence from drugs.
- In Virginia, Byrne JAG funds support the continuation of Virginia's Juvenile Court Service Unit's Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) program. EPICS utilizes an evidence-based model which trains probation and parole officers on the use of structured social and cognitive behavioral therapy during interactions with offenders in an effort to promote behavioral change.
- Byrne JAG funds in Ohio support five specialty courts including a veteran's treatment, drug, mental health, juvenile and domestic violence courts. Each court receives certification through the specialized docket section of the Ohio Supreme Court to ensure they utilize established best practices.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Rhode Island Family Court, Mental Health Clinic. The clinic provides juveniles with routine evaluations following referral and emergency same-day evaluations by an on-call clinician.

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.

States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution, indigent defense, corrections, crisis intervention and behavioral health services, victim assistance, and other community-based supports and services.

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