



Cornerstone for Justice:

How Maine Uses Byrne JAG Funding to Protect Public Safety, Prevent Crime and Reduce Recidivism

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is the nation's cornerstone justice assistance grant program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in improving state and local justice systems by spurring innovation and by testing and replicating evidence-based practices in crime control and prevention. States, localities and tribal nations are able to deploy Byrne JAG funding against their most pressing public safety challenges, to design complete programs or fill gaps, to leverage other resources and to work across city, county and state lines.

Byrne JAG funds may be invested across the criminal justice system for prevention, diversion, enforcement, courts, prosecution and defense, corrections, victim assistance, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and other community-based support. Byrne JAG improves the administration of justice, reduces incarceration, enhances fairness, improves outcomes for the justice-involved and saves taxpayer money.

Byrne JAG in Maine:

In 2018, the Maine Department of Public Safety invested in numerous successful initiatives. Examples include:

- 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

25%



Law Enforcement

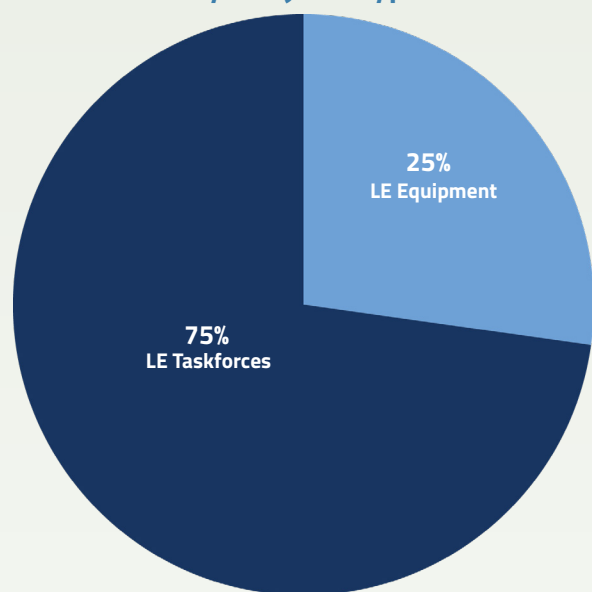
Total Investment = \$825,736

75%



Drug Treatment & Enforcement

Maine's Byrne JAG Investments by Project Type



How Byrne JAG Funding is Awarded:

Byrne JAG funds are awarded by a formula based on each state's population and crime rate. Sixty percent of a state's allocation is awarded to the state criminal justice planning agency (known as the State Administering Agency, or SAA) which, in turn, makes the funding available to local governments and non-profit service providers. The remaining 40 percent of the state's allocation is awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) directly to a number of local communities based on crime data.

Funding is authorized by Congress at \$1.1 billion, though annual funding has never reached that level. At its peak in FY02, Congress appropriated \$830 million. Until FY10 funding held steady at about \$500 million annually but has since dropped by about one-third. In FY18, the program was funded at \$340 million.

2018 Byrne JAG Spending Study:

Financial estimates and program examples were gathered as part of the 2018 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 hundreds of cities and towns across America through projects funded and investments made in state and local justice systems.

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