

## BYRNE JAG: CORNERSTONE FOR JUSTICE

Byrne JAG tests evidence-based initiatives.

Its flexibility allows states and local governments to target resources where the need is greatest.

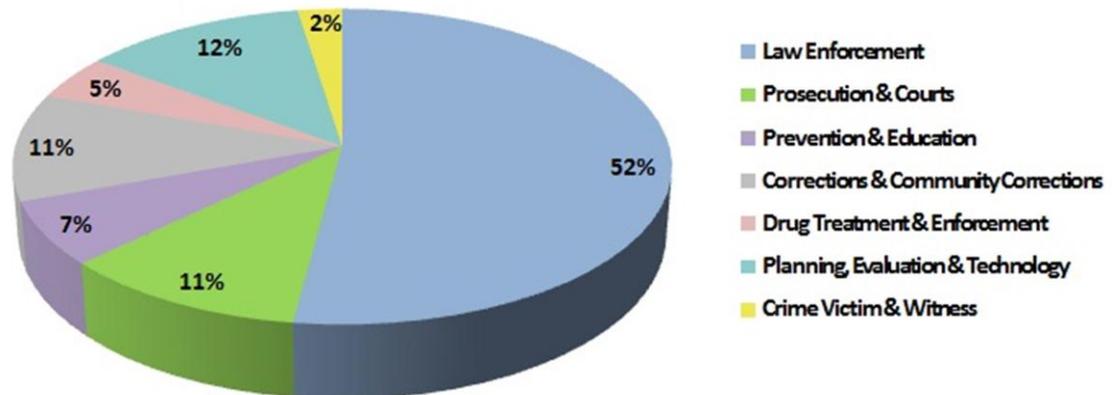
Byrne JAG supports all segments of the criminal justice system.

## Byrne JAG: Cornerstone for Justice

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation, as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide.

States use Byrne JAG to test innovative, evidence-based approaches to emerging and persistent problems in public safety. Many successful practices, first tested by Byrne JAG, are now in practice nationwide, including drug courts, Hawaii's HOPE program, multi-jurisdictional task forces, and information sharing protocols.

Byrne JAG's strength is in its flexibility. Funding is used broadly across the criminal justice system (as shown in the chart) with most states investing in a variety of programs across multiple areas of the system.\*



Within law enforcement, nearly every state invests at least some portion of its grant in operations, equipment, police-based services (including victim support services, information sharing and juvenile delinquency prevention) and multi-jurisdictional drug, gang, or other task forces, though spending varies widely across jurisdictions.

A large and broad coalition, representing all segments of the criminal justice system, supports robust and steady funding for Byrne JAG.

Funding is authorized at \$1.1 billion annually. At its peak in FY02, Congress appropriated \$830 million for the formula grants. The Recovery Act provided a one-time boost of \$2 billion. Recent annual funding has been about \$510 million. In FY11, Byrne JAG took a 17 percent across the board cut, dropping funding to about \$430 million.

Read more about Byrne JAG, including a report about the program's impact on the criminal justice system at [www.ncja.org](http://www.ncja.org).

\*From a 2010 survey of State Administering Agencies (SAAs) by the National Center for Justice Planning, a project of the National Criminal Justice Association.



**Disclaimer:** This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2010-DB-BX-K086 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.