



SAAs: Who They Are & What They Do

About the Byrne JAG State Administering Agencies

State Administering Agencies (SAAs) are responsible for comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy development. These agencies manage federal resources under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program. In many states these agencies manage other federal and state criminal justice assistance programs. As required by federal statute, the SAA is designated by the Governor, or in the case of territories and the District of Columbia, the head of the executive branch of government. In total, there are 56 Byrne JAG SAAs across the 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia.

Structure of SAA Offices

Most SAAs are a component of the Governor’s (or Mayor’s) office; a free-standing criminal justice planning entity or a division of the state department of public safety. In addition to location, the mission, vision and strategic focus of an SAA is often defined by state statutes. Due to differences in location, formula grants administered, research capacity and the leadership selection processes, SAAs are a diverse group of government agencies with differing capacities, perspectives, missions and priorities.

Location of SAAs		
SAA Locations	Number of SAAs	Percent
Freestanding Agency	11	20%
Dept. of Public Safety or Office/Division of	19	34%
Governor/Executive Level Office	13	23%
Attorney General's Office/Department of Justice	7	13%
Department of Finance, Administration, Commerce, etc.	4	7%
State Police Departments	2	4%
Total	56	100%

Programmatic Responsibilities

As the executive branch agency designated to accept, plan and distribute criminal justice funds, SAAs seek to leverage state and federal grant dollars to address the needs of statewide and local criminal justice systems. Because of this responsibility, SAAs serve as the primary coordinating body for state and local public safety issue identification, system collaboration, policy development, and system planning and implementation. These responsibilities require SAAs to work closely with a myriad of state and local entities including: law enforcement, prosecution and defense agencies, court systems, corrections departments, non-profit service providers and professional associations.

FEDERAL FUNDING

In FY13 the 56 Byrne JAG SAAs distributed over \$585 million in federal funds to support state and local criminal justice systems.

FEDERAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In FY13, 93 percent of SAAs administered at least four of the six DOJ formula grant programs to the states.

FIND SAAs IN EACH STATE

To find out more about the SAA in each state or to learn more about the SAA structure please visit the NCJA Center for Justice Planning at www.ncjp.org





ABOUT NCJP

The NCJA Center for Justice Planning is a project of the National Criminal Justice Association. To learn more about NCJP and our work please visit www.ncjp.org.

To learn more about the National Criminal Justice Association, please visit www.ncja.org.

Formula Grants

In addition to administering the Byrne JAG program, the majority of SAAs oversee other federal criminal justice formula grant programs. In FY 2013, 93 percent of SAAs administered at least four of the Department of Justice state formula grants including: Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) Formula Grant; Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, the Violence against Women Act (VAWA) STOP/SASP grants, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA); the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) formula grants.

Select DOJ Grant Programs: Byrne JAG SAAs				
Programs	% of SAAs Administering	FY13 Allocation	FY13 Allocation Administered by the SAA	% of Funds Administered by the SAA
Byrne JAG (state)	100%	\$194,147,278	\$194,147,278	100%
RSAT	93%	\$10,768,326	\$10,397,115	97%
Coverdell	83%	\$7,933,667	\$6,589,869	83%
VAWA (STOP/SASP)	77%	\$140,942,700	\$103,603,439	74%
SAC	71%	\$3,060,569	\$2,082,812	68%
VOCA	63%	\$428,140,906	\$212,573,353	50%
NCHIP	58%	\$8,867,481	\$6,490,550	73%
NICS	53%	\$10,275,436	\$7,091,076	69%
OJJDP (Title II/JAGD)	52%	\$45,081,251	\$25,630,933	57%
DNA Backlog Reduction	37%	\$47,407,170	\$15,935,671	34%
John R. Justice	36%	\$3,304,626	\$1,097,520	33%
TOTAL:		\$899,929,410	\$585,639,616	65%

Strategic Planning

As the principal entity responsible for strategic resource allocation, SAAs are often called upon to lead statewide or grant specific planning efforts. Due to their grant making and monitoring functions, SAAs are often uniquely positioned to identify and convene stakeholders from across the justice system. Through the use of strategic planning SAAs ensure that both federal grant funds and state resources are effectively leveraged to address the needs of state and local criminal justice systems.

Governing Boards and Councils

In an effort to better serve the criminal justice community SAA offices often staff and work closely with high level governing boards and state level advisory councils. These boards and councils, comprised of state and local level decisionmakers, help the SAA establish policy and priorities, analyze statewide trends, identify recourses, and share successful program models. These councils and boards often help guide strategic criminal justice investment, create policy and practice recommendations and guide future criminal justice initiatives.

