

# Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG)

CFDA: 16.738

**Administering Federal Agency:** U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

**Description:** The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. JAG funds awarded to a state (see e.g., [FY 2021 solicitation](#)) or local (see e.g., [FY 2021 solicitation](#)) may be used to support a range of program areas, including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. In a June 29, 2021 [letter to administrators](#), the BJA Acting Director explained that JAG funds can be used to combat the increase in hate crimes.

**Find your state/local administrator:** National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) has a directory of state administrators [here](#).

**Amount of available funding:** To find state and local funding allocations go [here](#).

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Potential uses:** In the [2021 Byrne JAG state formula solicitation](#) BJA describes permissible uses of JAG funds: "In general, JAG funds awarded to a state under the FY 2021 program may be used to hire additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the following program areas:

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs
- Crime victim and witness programs
- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.

The description provides for additional uses including to "assist victims of crime." Although JAG funds emphasize criminal justice, it is included in this database because it expressly allows for court funding and the civil needs of crime victims, reentry, as well as the courts' related needs for technology.

#### Other Helpful Information:

- The CARES Act of 2020 appropriated \$850 million for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF). CESF assists states, local governments, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. Byrne JAG administrators applied for and administered the state allocation of CESF funding, following the Byrne JAG formula allocation mechanism. See allocations by state [here](#).
- The NCJA has background information about Byrne JAG funds [here](#), and information about how states invest their funds including a series of fact sheets about problem solving specialty courts, prosecution initiatives, public defense, mental health and substance abuse programs, victim services, and reentry [here](#).