

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Program Overview

Named after [Edward “Eddie” R. Byrne](#), an officer in the New York City Police Department who was murdered while protecting a witness in a drug case, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the leading federal source of criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. Administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the JAG Program provides states, territories, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement; prosecution and court; prevention and education; corrections and community corrections; drug treatment and enforcement; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement; and crime victim and witness initiatives. It also provides funding support for mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs such as behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. Also see [Purposes for Which Funds Awarded Under the JAG Program May Be Used](#) for more information.

Legislation

The JAG Program is authorized by Title I of Public Law 90–351 (generally codified at [34 U.S.C. 10151-10726](#)), including subpart 1 of part E (codified at [34 U.S.C. 10151-10158](#)); see also [28 U.S.C. 530C \(a\)](#).

Funding and Awards

Since fiscal year (FY) 2005, BJA has funded over 22,000 direct JAG awards, totaling over \$7 billion. Award

information can be found at [Opportunities & Awards | OJP Award Data | Office of Justice Programs](#).

Formula

For each state and territory, the Bureau of Justice Statistics calculates a minimum base allocation which, based on the congressionally mandated JAG formula, can be enhanced by (1) the state’s share of the national population and (2) the state’s share of the country’s Part 1 violent crime statistics as reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI’s) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Once the state funding is calculated, 60 percent of the allocation is awarded to the state and 40 percent to eligible units of local government. For additional details regarding the JAG formula and award calculation process, with examples, please review the [JAG Technical Report](#).

Eligibility and Program Guidance

All 56 states and territories are eligible as well as units of local government and tribes identified annually in the JAG allocation charts.¹ BJA posts the annual JAG Program solicitations (program guidance) and allocation charts to its [JAG web page](#), which also contains a direct link to [JAG Frequently Asked Questions](#) (JAG FAQs) that are updated regularly.

Areas of Emphasis

BJA recognizes that many state and local criminal justice systems currently face challenging fiscal environments and that an important, cost-effective way to relieve those pressures is to share or leverage resources

¹ States must designate a single State Administering Agency (SAA) that has authority to apply on their behalf. Contact information for each SAA can be found at www.ojp.gov/saa.



through cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement. Each year, BJA includes areas of emphasis in the JAG program solicitations, encouraging state and local award recipients to join federal law enforcement agencies across the board in addressing these challenges. In FY 2021, the JAG areas of emphasis were: Restoring Justice – Support for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Administration of Criminal Justice; Community Violence Intervention; Law Enforcement Accreditation, Policy Development, and Training; Technologies to Support Transparency and Information Sharing between Law Enforcement and Communities; Sustaining COVID-19 Criminal Justice Innovations; and Innovative Forensic Technologies such as Rapid DNA for Booking Stations. Additional information on each area of emphasis can be found in the [state](#) and [local](#) JAG solicitations.

How/When to Apply

BJA solicits applications for state and local JAG awards every year in the spring/summer. All JAG applications must be submitted via [Grants.gov](#) and the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) [Justice Grants \(JustGrants\) System](#).

Award Length

Awards of \$25,000 or more begin October 1, the first day of the fiscal year, and are 4 years in length. Awards that are less than \$25,000 also begin October 1 and are 2 years in length. Requests for up to 2 additional years to complete performance of the award will be granted automatically for awards that are less than \$25,000. Extensions beyond a 4-year period for all JAG awards may be approved on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of BJA.

Match Requirement

A match is not required.

Reporting Requirements

For FY 2020 and future years, JAG recipients of less than \$25,000 are required to submit quarterly [performance measures](#) in the [Performance Measurement Tool](#) (PMT) as well as quarterly Federal Financial Reports (SF-425s) and annual programmatic performance reports in [JustGrants](#). All

other JAG award recipients are required to submit quarterly performance measures in the PMT as well as quarterly SF-425s and semi-annual programmatic performance reports in [JustGrants](#). Detailed reporting information can be found in the [JAG FAQs](#), and recent information on how JAG funds were utilized, as reported by recipients in the [PMT](#), can be found in the [JAG Activity Report](#).

Statewide Strategic Plans

States are required to submit a comprehensive strategic plan with their applications. Additionally, in any year in which the statewide strategic plan is not fully updated, states must also submit a brief annual report with their applications.

To help ensure that states consider the impact of JAG funding decisions across the entire criminal justice system, BJA strongly encourages each state to bring all criminal justice system stakeholders together in the strategic planning process. The strategic planning process should include local governments and representatives of all segments of the criminal justice system, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and corrections personnel, as well as providers of indigent defense services, victim services, juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs, community corrections, and reentry services. BJA offers no-cost training and technical assistance to state JAG recipients to support strategic planning efforts and the implementation of fair, just, evidence-based and effective policies and practices. To learn more visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/training-technical-assistance>.

Reductions/Penalties

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), which is Title I of the [Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006](#), mandates a 10 percent reduction in a JAG award to a state that has failed to substantially implement SORNA. Further, states that have substantially implemented SORNA have an ongoing obligation to maintain their implementation each year. A JAG reduction will be applied for each year a jurisdiction has failed to substantially implement SORNA. For additional information regarding SORNA implementation, including requirements and a list of states that will be

affected in the current fiscal year by the 10 percent reduction to the JAG award, send inquiries to AskSMART@usdoj.gov. Additional SORNA guidance can be found within the [SORNA FAQs](#).

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) National Standards are set out at [28 C.F.R. Part 115](#) and apply to confinement facilities including adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, and police lockups. Under PREA, if a state's chief executive (e.g., Governor) does not certify full compliance with the PREA National Standards, the state is subject to the loss of 5 percent of certain DOJ grant funds, including JAG award funds, unless the chief executive submits an assurance to DOJ that no less than 5 percent of such funds will be used solely for the purpose of enabling the state to achieve and certify full compliance with the PREA National Standards in future years. See [34 U.S.C. § 30307\(e\)\(2\)](#). For additional information concerning PREA implementation, send inquiries to the PREA Management Office at PREACompliance@usdoj.gov and/or review the [PREA FAQs](#).

National Incident-Based Reporting System Compliance

In FY 2016, the FBI formally announced its intention to sunset the [UCR Program's](#) traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS) and replace it with the UCR Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System ([NIBRS](#)). As of January 1, 2021, the FBI's NIBRS is the law enforcement crime data reporting standard for the Nation, and SRS data are no longer accepted by the UCR Program. By statute, JAG Program awards are calculated using summary Part 1 violent crime data from the FBI's UCR Program. See [34 U.S.C. § 10156](#). Eventually, JAG Program awards will be calculated using NIBRS data, and NIBRS compliance will impact JAG Program eligibility.

Death in Custody Reporting Act Compliance

In FY 2019, BJA began requiring reporting from states pursuant to the Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA; [Public Law 113-242](#)). DCRA requires states to report to the Attorney General information regarding the death of

any person who is detained, under arrest, in the process of being arrested, en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, state-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted out by the state, any state or local contract facility, or other local or state correctional facility (including any juvenile facility). All DCRA data are reported in the [PMT](#). Additional information on DCRA reporting can be found in the [DCRA PMT FAQs](#).

About Officer Byrne

Edward R. Byrne was destined for a life in law enforcement, having a father who was an officer with the New York City Police Department. Born on February 21, 1966, Eddie – as he was known by family and friends – was an outgoing and friendly person who had a strong calling to public service and wanted to make his city, New York City, a safer place.



In 1986, Eddie became a New York City Transit Police Officer, to help ensure the safety of New York City's subway commuters. In 1987, Officer Byrne joined the New York City Police Department's finest, assigned to the 103rd Precinct. Well-liked by his brothers and sisters in blue, Eddie was passionate about his job and loved the opportunities it offered him to interact with the people he had sworn to protect.

In the early morning hours of February 26, 1988, Officer Byrne was on detail protecting a witness who had agreed to testify in court against local drug dealers. Officer Byrne was in his patrol car outside the witness's home around 3:30 a.m. when two armed gunmen crept up to his car from both sides. One of the men knocked on the passenger-side window to distract Officer Byrne just as a second perpetrator ran up to the driver's side window and, without uttering a sound, opened fire. Officer Byrne was shot five times in the head. Both gunmen, along with two other perpetrators who served as lookouts, fled the scene. Officer Byrne was rushed to Mary Immaculate Hospital where he died of his wounds. He was only 22 years old.

The four assailants were captured six days after the murder and were eventually sentenced to 25 years to life. They were members of a gang who had been instructed by a jailed drug kingpin to kill a police officer.

NYPD lost one of its finest that day, and Eddie's family lost a loved and cherished son and brother. Leaving behind his parents and three brothers, Eddie's brothers continued the family tradition of law enforcement and justice by dedicating their careers to the field.

BJA is honored to administer "Byrne" funding to communities nationwide in memory of Officer Byrne.

ABOUT BJA

BJA helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system; its grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting-edge tools and best practices they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.ojp.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.