

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, including reentry;
- drug treatment and enforcement;
- planning, evaluation, and technology improvement;
- crime victim and witness initiatives;
- mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams; and
- implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives including, but not limited to mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.

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 24,000 direct JAG awards, totalling over \$7.6 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

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.



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 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 consider coordination with federal law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders, including communities most impacted by crime and violence, in addressing these challenges. In FY 2023, the JAG areas of emphasis are:

- Advancing Justice System Reform Efforts;
- Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities;
- Preventing and Combating Hate Crimes;
- Crime and Violence Reduction Strategies; and
- Community Based Violence Intervention (CVI) Approaches.

Additional information on each area of emphasis can be found in the state and local JAG solicitations located on the [BJA JAG web page](#).

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](#).

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

By statute, BJA JAG awards are calculated using summary part 1 violent crime data from the FBI's UCR program. Specifically, the formula allocations for JAG rely heavily on the ratio of "the average number of part 1 violent crimes of the UCR of the FBI reported by such State for the three most recent years reported by such State to the average annual number of such crimes reported by all States for such years" (34 U.S.C. 10156(a)(1)(B)). Historically, JAG calculations have been based on data collected by the FBI through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System (SRS).

As of January 1, 2021, the UCR Program phased out SRS and transitioned to NIBRS-only data collection and agencies are no longer able to submit SRS data. BJS uses a combination of NIBRS and SRS data in determining

eligibility, with NIBRS data being used from 2021 forward. In practice, if a jurisdiction has previously reported at least 3 years of SRS data during the prior 10-year period (2012-2021) and did not begin reporting NIBRS data in 2021, the jurisdiction will still be potentially eligible for a JAG award, as the jurisdiction still meets the minimum statutory requirement. Agencies that began reporting NIBRS data in 2021 but have not previously reported SRS data or who reported fewer than 2 years of SRS data during the 2012-2021 data years will not be eligible for an award. For more information on NIBRS, please see: [National Incident-Based Reporting System \(NIBRS\) | Bureau of Justice Statistics \(ojp.gov\)](#).

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](#). Beginning with FY 2023 awards, States must submit a DCRA state implementation plan with their applications, which includes its plan for collecting and reporting DCRA program data. The required elements in the DCRA state implementation plan can be found at: [DCRA State Implementation Plan Guidance](#). Additionally, in any year in which the DCRA state implementation plan is not updated, states must submit a brief annual DCRA implementation update with their applications. BJA offers no-cost training and technical assistance to state JAG recipients to support DCRA data collection efforts. To learn more visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/dcra/training-and-technical-assistance>. Additional information on DCRA reporting can be found on the [DCRA web page](#) and in the [DCRA Reporting Guidance and FAQs](#). A state that fails to comply may, at the discretion of the Attorney General, be subject to not more than a 10-percent reduction of the funds that would otherwise be allocated for that fiscal year to the state under the JAG program.

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 America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.ojp.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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