

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

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Purpose

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, authorized under 42 U.S.C. §3751(a), is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary 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, and crime victim and witness initiatives and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.

The Maine Department of Public Safety is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the funds and has received JAG funding since 1995, and those funds are passed through to local units of government and state agencies. JAG grants are awarded by the Maine Justice Assistance Council (JAC). The JAC is made up of state, local, and federal government, and non-governmental organizations.

Allocation of Funds

JAG is a Federal formula grant program. The level of funding is determined through Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) formulas that look at multiple factors including population and crime statistics in combination with a minimum allocation. Funds are split 60/40 between state and local recipients within states. The funding level is a four-part process:

1. Initial Allocation to States and Territories: An initial allocation is computed for each state and territory, based on its share of the nation's violent crime and population (weighted equally). Based on the congressional appropriation for the JAG program, BJS calculates the initial allocation amounts for the 50 states and U.S. territories. Using the congressionally established formula, BJS allocates half of the available funds based on a

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state's or territory's share of the nation's violent crime and half of the funds based on its share of the nation's population.

2. De Minimus Awards: The initial allocation amount is reviewed to determine if it is less than the minimum (de minimus) award amount defined in the JAG legislation (0.25% of the total). If this is the case, the state or territory is funded at the minimum level, and the funds required for this are deducted from the overall pool of funds. Each of the remaining states receives the minimum award plus an additional amount based on its share of violent crime and population. The JAG legislation requires that each state or territory be awarded a minimum allocation equal to 0.25% of the total JAG allocation, regardless of its population or crime average.
3. 60%/40% Split: Except for the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, 60% of the total allocation to a state is retained by the state government, and 40% is set aside to be allocated to local governments. The local governments are the larger municipalities in Maine.
4. Determining Local Award Allocations: Local award allocations are determined, based on a jurisdiction's proportion of the state's 3-year violent crime average. If a local jurisdiction's calculated award is less than \$10,000, the funds are returned to the state to distribute. If the calculated local award is \$10,000 or more, then the local government is eligible to apply for an award under a separate BJA RFP. In Maine, the state distributes the 60% share to counties, municipalities, tribal governments, towns and townships. Each county has a designated jurisdiction that represents all the units of government in administering the JAG subgrant.

Federal Statutory Purpose Areas

The original 1968 Act established 26 purposes for which the Byrne Formula funding could be used. Those were later expanded to 29 categories, then collapsed into the current purpose areas

In general, JAG funds awarded may be used to provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the following—

1. Law enforcement programs.
2. Prosecution and court programs.
3. Prevention and education programs.
4. Corrections and community corrections programs.
5. Drug treatment and enforcement programs.
6. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.
7. Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).

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8. Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.

Match Requirements

There are no match requirements for the JAG program.

Eligibility Requirements

Only States may apply for this type of JAG funding. By law, for purposes of the JAG program, the term “States” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. If a municipality or county has a calculated local award is \$10,000 or more, then the local government is eligible to apply for an award under a separate BJA RFP (See Allocation of Funds above.)

Eligible Subgrantee Organizations

Any unit of state or local government may apply for JAG funding within Maine, so long as the unit is not also eligible for a direct local JAG award from BJA. Units of local government which are eligible for a direct local JAG award may only submit for multi-jurisdictional projects, which must be supported by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

PMT Reports

Subgrantees must file PMT Report for each quarter of the project period, or until the grant is programmatically and fiscally closed, which comes first. PMT reports must be submitted via the BJA PMT website (<https://bjapmt.ojp.gov/>) by the 15th day following the reporting period. For example, the first quarter report (July to September) is due by October 15th

Website Links Disclaimer

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About JAG Formula Grants

The United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance has a website with many of the frequently asked questions about the JAG program. This page is updated regularly.

<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/JAGFAQ.pdf>

Links to Additional Information

Justice Assistance Grant Program, 2016 (NCJ 250157), Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 2016. This technical report describes the steps used in the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) formula calculation process and presents summary results of the fiscal year 2016 calculations.

<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/jagp16.pdf>

Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Fact Sheet

https://www.bja.gov/Publications/JAG_Fact_Sheet.pdf