



BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM

Maintain At Least Level Funding of \$350 million in FY27 and Refocus Resources on Law Enforcement

As long as international drug trafficking organizations exploit U.S. borders and traffickers operate across state lines, the federal government has a clear responsibility to support multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts to combat criminal activity that is killing Americans.

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) formula program is the most important federal grant program supporting multi-jurisdictional law enforcement in the United States and is the top federal priority of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC). Byrne JAG provides flexible, locally driven resources that allow state and local agencies to work together across jurisdictions to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.

Over time, Byrne JAG funding available for law enforcement purposes has declined due to appropriations carve-outs and state-level shifts away from drug law enforcement priorities. While prevention and treatment are essential components of a comprehensive drug strategy, in some places these investments have increasingly come at the expense of critical law enforcement capabilities. At the same time, narcotic officers continue to see firsthand the devastation caused by illegal drug manufacturers, traffickers, and dealers. Congress should ensure that Byrne JAG resources are refocused on supporting multi-jurisdictional law enforcement initiatives that directly target traffickers and criminal organizations.

Byrne JAG-funded task forces have played a vital role in apprehending drug dealers, dismantling trafficking networks, and removing illicit drugs from American streets. The program has been especially effective in supporting multi-jurisdictional task forces that promote intelligence sharing, case deconfliction, and coordinated enforcement across local, state, and federal agencies. These task forces maximize limited resources by leveraging state and local investments while ensuring that agencies closest to the threat retain local control. Despite demonstrated success, the number of task forces has declined at a time when drug trafficking organizations continue to adapt and pose serious threats to communities nationwide. Funding should be re-focused to enable targeted enforcement activities against traffickers.

Byrne JAG has long enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support because it delivers results and enables state and local law enforcement to work together effectively. **Congress should provide at least level funding for the Byrne JAG formula program in FY 2027 (\$350 million) and ensure that program resources are refocused on supporting multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts.**