

# 2023 - 2025 BYRNE JAG

## Connecticut's Draft Strategic Plan



Submitted by:  
**State of Connecticut**  
**Office of Policy & Management**  
**Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division**



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## **I. Introduction**

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) is a leading source of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The program provides states, tribes, and local governments with funding to support an array of program areas including those listed in Figure 1. In general, Byrne JAG may be used to hire additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice or civil proceedings.

*Figure 1 Byrne JAG statutory 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 (other than compensation)
- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams
- 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

Several US Department of Justice (US DOJ) formula grants — including Byrne JAG — are awarded directly to state governments, which then set priorities and allocate funds to subrecipients. The work generally is carried out by state administering agencies (SAAs), which in Connecticut is the Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM CJPPD). OPM CJPPD’s location within the state’s budget and planning agency positions it to coordinate Byrne JAG program activities with other federal and state initiatives.

Through an array of functions — including data analysis and evaluation, grant administration, convening criminal justice system stakeholders, and developing and implementing policy — OPM CJPPD collaborates with state and local criminal

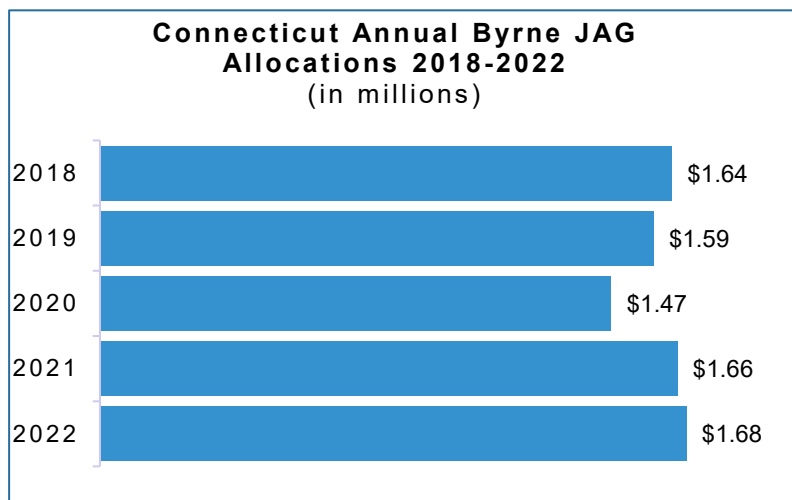
justice agencies to improve system outcomes. The undersecretary who directs OPM CJPPD chairs the statutorily established Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC), which, as will be described in greater detail in the third section, promotes coordination and planning among criminal justice system stakeholders and is covered later in this strategic plan.

### **A. Historical Use of Funds**

Between 2018 and 2022, Connecticut’s federal Byrne JAG award averaged \$1.61 million (See Figure 2). Connecticut’s in-state grant award allocation is guided by the Byrne JAG solicitation, the *DOJ Grants Financial Guide*, engagement of the assigned federal grant administrator, and other US DOJ-published resources. OPM CJPPD uses the program areas and areas of emphasis Byrne JAG solicitations as a foundation for how funding will be allocated. Approved program objectives, activities, and costs are reviewed using the above listed guidance to ensure compliance.

Allocation decisions are organized into program areas, the development of which is informed by a variety of factors, including data analysis, stakeholder engagement, current events, federal requirements (e.g., priority areas), implementation of recently enacted legislation, input from boards and commissions, or some or all the above. OPM CJPPD applies its broader role within the state to inform its approach to administering the Byrne JAG program.

Figure 2 Byrne JAG allocations to Connecticut (2018–2022)



Because of federal immigration-related special conditions placed on the Byrne JAG awards from 2017

to 2020, Connecticut and seven other states did not accept awards during that four-year period. Since 2021, when the special conditions were rescinded, OPM CJPPD has cleared administrative holds and begun the allocation of funds toward projects and programs.

US DOJ provides each state with Byrne JAG formula allocations, with approximately 60% designated for Byrne JAG State and approximately 40% for Byrne JAG Local following deductions for any penalties, reductions, and allowable administrative expenses. Byrne JAG State funds may be expended on projects and programs addressing criminal justice objectives on a state-wide level. Entities eligible to receive these funds include state agencies, non-profit organizations, federally recognized tribal nations, coalitions, inter-municipal groups and taskforces, and private entities.

Byrne JAG Local is divided into two portions. First, the Less-Than-\$10,000 Allocation for municipal police departments based on a formula provided by US DOJ. Second, the Variable Pass-Through provided to local units of government, including municipalities or certain federally recognized American Indian tribes, for allowable Byrne JAG projects.

## **II. Biennial Byrne JAG Strategic Plan**

### **A. Introduction**

This strategic plan outlines the expenditure of active funds from Byrne JAG grant years 2017 to 2022, which were previously withheld, along with a plan to allocate the 2023 funds. Considering the accumulation of previously withheld Byrne JAG funds, the strategic plan seeks flexibility as well as ability to remain responsive to emerging issues with a potential for future modifications as needed. Through ongoing collaboration and

feedback from subrecipients and stakeholders, OPM CJPPD will closely monitor the progress of the funded projects and assess their alignment with the evolving needs of the criminal justice system. This iterative approach will allow for timely modifications of the project timeline and expenses, ensuring that resources are used effectively to address current challenges and opportunities.

In December 2022, OPM CJPPD made a grant announcement consisting of three years of previously withheld Byrne JAG grant years (2017–2019) for prospective subrecipients to submit project proposals with expenditure periods expected to include 2022, 2023, 2024, and, if needed, 2025. OPM CJPPD is currently accepting proposals and awarding funds. OPM CJPPD also has made a grant announcement for local units of government for Byrne JAG Local.

Please see Figure 3 for Byrne JAG grant years, estimated expenditure periods within Connecticut, and actual or estimated funding. The estimated expenditure periods listed in the center column anticipate the amount of time required for subrecipient project submission, review, and approval as well as the awarding and expenditure of funding. As a result, timeline adjustments may be needed to accommodate fulfillment of subrecipient grant activities. To ensure successful implementation, OPM CJPPD will maintain steady communication with subrecipients, US DOJ grant managers, and others.

*Figure 3 Byrne JAG Expenditure Timeline, Estimated and Projected, 2017–2025*

<b>Byrne JAG Grant Years</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure Period</b>	<b>Total Award</b>
2017 – 2019	2022 – 2024/25	\$4.9M
2020 – 2022	2024/25 – 2026/27	\$4.8M
2023 – 2025	2026/27 – 2028/29	\$4M – \$5M (Estimated)

## **B. Project Planning**

Historically, US DOJ has released an annual Byrne JAG solicitation, to which OPM CJPPD applies by completing and submitting a strategic plan, narrative, budget, and other required materials. OPM CJPPD coordinates with CJPAC and criminal justice stakeholders on the development of the strategic plan, which must be updated a minimum of every five years and may undergo revisions during the interim.

Annually, OPM CJPPD presents a draft strategic plan to CJPAC and posts it for public comment. The input helps inform development of the final strategic plan, which is included in OPM CJPPD’s Byrne JAG application. If, after Connecticut’s Byrne JAG application is

reviewed by US DOJ, it is approved, the federal department issues an award letter that launches a process in Connecticut to review grant conditions that, if approved, leads to the initiation of the award acceptance process.

Acceptance of the funds enables OPM CJPPD to develop a grant announcement inviting eligible prospective subrecipients to prepare applications for available funds. OPM CJPPD posts the announcement on its website and provides updates at CJPAC meetings. To ensure approved proposals comply with federal and state guidelines, OPM CJPPD reviews them with guidance from Byrne JAG award conditions; the solicitation; the *DOJ Grants Financial Guide*; the assigned federal grant administrator; BJA-approved technical assistance providers, including experts from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA); and internal controls.

### **C. Stakeholder Assessment of Program Areas**

OPM CJPPD staff has sought input on this strategic plan from a variety of individuals and resources. For example, input from NCJA, CJPAC, and stakeholders; review of other states' strategic plans and engagement of other SAAs; and data analysis. OPM CJPPD will seek further input on the draft strategic plan from CJPAC members during the commission's July 27, 2023, meeting. Additionally, individuals will have the opportunity to provide input using the OPM CJPPD Byrne JAG website, on which the draft strategic plan will be posted. OPM CJPPD has used the above input to structure its 2023-2025 plan around the program areas and intersecting DOJ areas of emphasis listed in Figure 4.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 4 US DOJ-provided Program Areas and Areas of Emphasis for the 2023-2025 Byrne JAG Solicitation

Byrne JAG Program Areas	US DOJ Areas of Emphasis	Goals
Prevention and education programs	<p>2023: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, and Community Based Violence Intervention Approaches</p> <p>2024: Will be updated in FY 24 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.</p> <p>2025: Will be updated in FY 25 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill service gaps and pilot innovative approaches to prevent future victimization or contact with the criminal justice system.</li> <li>• Strengthen partnerships with public health and social service agencies as well as nonprofit organizations to prevent future victimization or contact with the criminal justice system.</li> </ul>
Law enforcement programs	<p>2023: Crime and Violence Reduction Strategies</p> <p>2024: Will be updated in FY 24 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.</p> <p>2025: Will be updated in FY 25 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support multi-jurisdictional strategies to prevent and reduce crime.</li> <li>• Enhance data-driven crime-reduction strategies addressing public-safety challenges.</li> </ul>
Corrections, community corrections and reentry programs	<p>2023: Advancing Justice System Reform Efforts</p> <p>2024: Will be updated in FY 24 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.</p> <p>2025: Will be updated in FY 25 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide swift connection to meaningful supervision and treatment informed by risk, need, and responsivity factors.</li> <li>• Over reentry barriers to successful reentry for people returning to the community</li> </ul>

Byrne JAG Program Areas	US DOJ Areas of Emphasis	Goals
		following incarceration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen partnerships with victim service providers, including enhancing victim safety planning.</li> </ul>
Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs	2023: Preventing and Combating Hate Crimes  2024: Will be updated in FY 24 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.  2025: Will be updated in FY 25 to reflect DOJ emphasis areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in technological initiatives to improve criminal justice data capacity.</li> <li>Augment criminal justice planning efforts with data analysis and evaluation.</li> </ul>

**III. Capabilities and Competencies**

**A. Introduction**

As previously mentioned, OPM CJPPD collaborates with state and local criminal justice agencies as well as stakeholders to perform and review data analysis while working collaboratively to improve system outcomes. The division is the SAA for several other federal grants appearing under Appendix A. Staff have knowledge and experience in collaborating with teams, designing programs, collecting data, and implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the use of federal funds. To inform planning involving Byrne JAG investments, the division engages criminal justice system stakeholders and utilizes evidence-informed approaches, which are detailed below.

**B. Criminal Justice System Stakeholder Involvement**

Within Connecticut there are 169 municipalities and no administrative county government. There therefore exists a largely unified criminal justice system. Except for municipalities with organized police departments, for example, most criminal justice functions are administered and operated by state agencies.



CJPAC helps bring stakeholder input forward regarding criminal justice system issues, challenges, and opportunities (Please see Figure 5 for a list of criminal justice system stakeholders serving on the commission.) CJPAC receives updates on grants, including Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) and Byrne JAG; reviews data analysis; interacts with external presenters; and engage in strategic planning to improve criminal justice system outcomes. As covered in the next subsection, the data analysis CJPAC receives covers several reports released throughout the year.

### C. Evidence-Informed Approach to Funding Decisions

In addition to a Grants Unit, OPM CJPPD maintains a Research Unit which also functions as Connecticut’s Statistical Analysis Center (CT SAC). The Research Unit focuses on conducting in-depth analyses of the criminal justice system to support system

Figure 5 Criminal justice stakeholders serving on CJPAC

- Board of Pardons and Paroles
- Campus Police Chiefs
- Criminal Justice Information System
- Department of Children and Families
- Department of Correction
- Department of Education
- Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- Department of Labor
- Department of Mental Health and Addition Services
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Municipal Police Chiefs Nonprofit service providers
- Prosecutors
- Public Defenders
- The Judicial Branch
- Victim advocates

monitoring and aid in understanding its long-range needs. The Research Unit produces monthly, annual, and ad hoc statistical reports on criminal justice system performance, as well as supports additional research activities into emergent priority criminal justice topics for Connecticut policymakers, state justice agency stakeholders and the public.

Recent CJPPD Research Unit activities have produced a variety of content on topics including: an annual forecast of the correction population, the Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard, analyses of prosecutorial caseflows and decision-making, as well as an annual cohort study of recidivism in Connecticut. In addition to these activities, the CJPPD Research Unit regularly develops two reports important to CJPAC members and Byrne JAG planning activities: The [\*Monthly Indicators Report\*](#) and The [\*Trends in Connecticut’s Criminal Justice System\*](#) report. The *Monthly Indicators Report* compiles data from a variety of state criminal justice agencies to provide policymakers and the public at-a-glance insights into recent

monthly justice system changes and correction population trends. The *Trends in Connecticut’s Criminal Justice System* report provides a multi-year review examining annual changes across Connecticut’s justice system. This report includes discussion of crime, victimization, arrests, correction and community supervision trends presented over five or more years.

## **IV. Performance Measures and Data Collection Plan**

### **A. Electronic Grant Management System**

All Byrne JAG sub-recipient grant management activities are conducted through the OPM CJPPD GMS known as Grantium, which encompasses beginning-to-end management and administration of grant programs and sub-recipient grant projects in a secure web-enabled workflow-driven system. Key grant administration business process outcomes supported include:

- Password protected access control and user account management for applicants and sub-recipients
- Online application submission;
- Online submission of Progress, Quarterly Financial and Performance Management reports such as Time Accountability reports and Property/Equipment Inventory lists;
- Online submission of Payment Requests;
- Inclusion of all grant-related correspondence, including e-mail, word processing documents, notes, and portable document files;
- Automated grantee and grantor-initiated Amendments and/or Grant Adjustment Notices (GAN); and
- Automated Final Financial Reconciliation and Grant Close-Out.

### **B. Governing Body Review and Public Comment**

OPM CJPPD will make its FY2023 Byrne JAG draft application available for public comment by posting it on its website on July 20, 2023. CJPAC will hold a meeting on July 27 to review the draft proposal. Participants will be notified once the FY 2023 Byrne JAG solicitation is posted and will be invited to review the draft application prior to the CJPAC meeting. They will be encouraged to provide input on the draft and submit questions on or before August 2.

It is important to note that OPM CJPPD will update the strategic plan on an annual basis to reflect any changes or requirements from the US DOJ projects. As new initiatives or guidelines are introduced, OPM CJPPD will incorporate them into the strategic plan to ensure alignment and compliance while updating CJPAC and stakeholder along the way.

### **C. CJPPD JAG Strategic Plan Review & Updates**

OPM CJPPD will review and evaluate the constantly evolving trends in criminal justice across the state through CJPAC, CT SAC, other boards and commissions, and

stakeholder engagement opportunities. The continuous evaluation of the state's strategic plan will help ensure that through the fiscal years of 2023-2025 Byrne JAG funds are used to support evidence-informed spending across the grant period.

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## **V. Appendix A: Federal and State Grants Administered by OPM**

### **A. Federal Programs**

#### ***i. National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)***

NCHIP provides direct awards and technical assistance to states and localities to improve the quality, timeliness, and immediate accessibility of criminal history records and related information. Complete records require that data from all components of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and corrections be integrated and linked. NCHIP assists states to establish the integrated infrastructure that meets the needs of all components.

#### ***ii. STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program***

The STOP (Services, Training, Officer, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program enhances the capacity of local communities to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. Each state and territory must allocate 25 percent for law enforcement, 25 percent for prosecutors, 30 percent for victim services (of which at least 10 percent must be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations), 5 percent to state and local courts, and 15 percent for discretionary distribution.

#### ***iii. Sexual Assault Services Formula (SASP)***

The Sexual Assault Services Program is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. The SASP Formula Grant Program directs grant dollars to support Connecticut rape crisis centers and other nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations that provide services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault. Funds provided through SASP are designed to supplement other funding sources directed at addressing sexual assault within the state.

#### ***iv. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)***

The purpose of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program is to break the cycle of drug addiction and violence by reducing the demand for, use, and trafficking of illegal drugs. This program's objectives are to enhance the capabilities of states to provide residential substance abuse treatment for incarcerated inmates; prepare inmates for their reintegration into the community by incorporating

reentry planning activities into treatment programs; and assist these offenders and their communities through the reentry process by delivering community-based treatment and other broad-based aftercare services.

**v. *Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funds (CESF)***

The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program provides funding to assist eligible states, local units of government, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses, and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

**vi. *Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP)***

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 established this grant program to provide funding to fund the creation and/or implementation of risk protection order programs, state crisis intervention court proceedings, and related gun violence reduction programs/initiatives. Byrne SCIP grant opportunities are expected to support state- and local-level projects implementing Connecticut's risk warrant and risk protection order laws as well as other crisis interventions intervening when people with access to firearms presents immediate risk of injury to themselves or others.

**B. State Programs**

**i. *The Body Worn Camera and Dashboard Camera Grant Program (BWC-DC)***

OPM CJPPD administers a state-funded grant program that provides reimbursement for eligible costs associated with the purchase of body-worn recording equipment, digital data storage devices, and dashboard cameras for eligible municipalities and institutions of higher education.

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<sup>1</sup> US DOJ purpose areas are the categories in which state and local award recipients may allocate Byrne JAG funds. Areas of emphasis are included by the US DOJ with each Byrne JAG solicitation. State and local award recipients are encouraged to join federal law enforcement to address current challenges with national reach. Source: <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-program-fact-sheet.pdf>.