



Department of Justice Grants for Law Enforcement Needs

Elizabeth Pyke

National Criminal Justice Association

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Two types of grants –

Formula and Discretionary

Formula Grants

- Funds flow automatically to states and localities by formula and policy established by Congress
- DOJ little authority to direct how states/localities spend funds
 - Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program
 - Byrne State Crisis Intervention
 - Residential Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Victims of Crime Act
 - Violence Against Women STOP

Byrne JAG and Byrne SCIP

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program (\$400 million)

- 60% to/through states (by statutory formula based on crime rate and population)
- 40% directly from DOJ to localities (by statutory formula based on crime rate)
- Fully flexible - can be used for prevention through reentry
- States must subaward the majority to local needs
- Focus varies by state; nationwide 75% of all funds, and 50% of state funds directly to LE
 - For operations, overtime, equipment and programs

Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) (\$150 million)

- Added a new area of attention to Byrne JAG for violent/gun crime prevention
- In third of five years of dedicated funding

RSAT, VOCA and VAWA

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program (\$35 million)

- Funds substance use disorder treatment in prisons and jails
- States receive the money by formula and award grants to prisons and jails

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds (~\$1.5-\$2 billion)

- Assistance and compensation for survivor of all crimes
- Focus on gender-based violence and Children's Advocacy Centers

Violence Against Women STOP Grants (\$255 million)

- Set aside for law enforcement agencies/purposes

How to apply for formula grants

- Funds flow to the agency designated by the governor or mayor
- Spending guided by a strategic plan
 - Agencies solicit applications for those purposes
- Agencies have specific grants cycles
 - Applications often peer reviewed or by governing board

Discretionary Grants

(60-70
programs)

- Congress sets purpose in statute; DOJ interprets
- DOJ releases Notices of Funding Opportunities (usually) several months after final spending bills pass
- Eligible jurisdictions or organizations apply directly to the DOJ granting agency
- DOJ has discretion who wins awards

Discretionary Grant Program Examples

COPS Hiring (\$200M)

- To hire and equip local law enforcement officers

Second Chance Act (\$80M)

- Programs that ease reentry for people leaving jail

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program (\$189M)

- Specific focus on opioid reduction programming

STOP School Violence Act (\$140M)

- Range of program and equipment needs

Discretionary Grant Program Examples, con't

DNA Backlog Reduction (\$140M)

- Debbie Smith and other purposes; emphasis on rape kit backlogs

Criminal History Records and NICS (\$88M)

- For upgrading records systems and uploading to NICS

Community Violence Intervention (\$100M)

- For street level gang and violence interruption

Body Worn Cameras (\$32M) and Bullet Proof Vests (\$30M)

Annual Funding

- Most FY25 grant awards not yet out
- House and Senate working on FY26 appropriations bills
- FY26 bills will not be done by October 1
- Earmarks may be available in FY26 again

OBBBA - Additional funding

- \$3.3 billion to DOJ, including for: Byrne JAG and COPS grants for state/local law enforcement, combating drug trafficking, compensating states/localities for incarceration of undocumented immigrants
- \$3.5 billion for investigation and detention of undocumented immigrants
- \$30 billion to ICE, including for: personnel, technology and Section 287(g) agreements
- \$2 billion to DHS, including for: CBP agents, state/local homeland security efforts, expedited removal
- \$46.6 billion for border wall and infrastructure and \$45 billion for detention capacity

Where is consensus in Congress on grants?

- Law enforcement needs
 - Operational support
 - Equipment
 - Programs and innovation (co-responder models; law enforcement-led diversion)
- Intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health
- Reentry strategies
- Conditions of confinement and treatment in jails

Historical Funding of the DOJ Granting Agencies

