

# Byrne Justice Assistance Grant

**Purpose of Funds:** The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system from multijurisdictional drug and gang tasks forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. JAG funded projects may address crime through the provision of services directly to individuals for communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems processes and procedures.

**Receiving Department:** District Attorney's Office, Denver Sheriff Department, Denver Police Department

**Amount:** \$2,789,418

**Type of Grant:** Formula

**Estimated Jobs Created or Retained:** 2 jobs created and 13 retained.

## Public Process:

The JAG allocation plan was prepared by several city agencies the week of March 30, 2009. This plan was then presented to the Mayor's Cabinet on April 10, 2009 and made available to the Denver City Council Safety Committee. Councilman Doug Linkhart, Chair of Denver City Council's Safety Committee, signed a letter in support of the plan on April 15, 2009. Public opinion was solicited during the week of May 7, 2009 by publishing a legal notice in The Denver Post requesting comments on the plan.

## Proposed Spending:

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant will support several employees to enhance law enforcement, prosecution, correctional services and crime prevention in Denver, funds will also be used to replace aging law enforcement equipment and will also provide additional funding for certain programs that have already been established. The following projects and departments will be the primary beneficiaries:

1. The Denver Police Department will receive \$781,440 to retain eight High Intensity Location Observation (HALO) Surveillance Technicians. The HALO Surveillance Technicians watch the numerous closed circuit monitors that keep watch over public spaces throughout the city in order to alert public safety departments of incidents or emergencies. Also, these technicians are used to provide information to courts through cataloging incidents and sharing information if necessary.
2. The Denver Police Department will also receive \$591,354 for the replacement of Mobile Data Terminals which are laptop computers used in Police vehicles throughout the Denver area. The laptops are 3 years old and are beginning to fail already, leaving 50 vehicles and the officers without key access to information. With this grant money, the Denver Police Department can replace 130 laptops and provide non-traditional assignments such as motorcycles, foot patrols and horse patrols with smaller, more mobile laptops as well.
3. The Denver District Attorney's Office will receive \$996,624 to retain five members of its DNA Cold Case Unit. Currently there is a 550 case backlog which will be addressed and processed with the help of additional funding. Attending to these cases will bring violent criminals to justice while at the same time providing closure to the victims and their families.
4. The Denver Sheriff's Department will receive \$210,000 to create one position to run their Juvenile Treatment Program for three years. This program provides increased treatment and program options to juveniles who are being tried as adults at Denver County Courts.
5. The Denver Safe City Office will receive \$210,000 to create one full time equivalent position to their Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver (GRID) in order to prevent youth gang activity by encouraging strong schools, communities, services and families.

For more information, please see the oversight committee docs at <http://www.denvergov.org/stimulus>