

# The 2010 Justice Assistance Grant awards: what they mean for vendors

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In May 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics awarded nearly half a billion dollars to state and local governments as part of the Byrne Memorial Grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) program. These grants are awarded for projects that relate to law enforcement, courts, corrections, corrections development, witness programs, and crime prevention, to name a few.

In a [recently released analysis](#) of grant allocations from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, allocations were as follows for fiscal year 2010 (FY 10):

- The total 2010 allocation for JAG funding was approximately \$457 million, of which \$445.9 million went to states, and \$11.1 million to territories and the District of Columbia.
- The five states eligible to receive the largest total state allocation were California (\$51.1 million), Texas (\$34 million), Florida (\$30.9 million), New York (\$24.8 million), and Illinois (\$18.9 million).
- 2,214 local governments were eligible for awards directly or through a joint allocation with other governments within their county. The five local governments eligible to receive the largest awards were New York City (\$6.4 million), Chicago (\$4.9 million), Los Angeles (\$3.1 million), Philadelphia (\$3 million), and Houston (\$2.7 million).
- Three states had more than 100 local governments eligible to receive awards directly or through a joint allocation: California (272), Florida (152), and Texas (145).

The above statistics may be for FY 10, but the funding was only awarded to agencies around May 2011. Typically, a grant is awarded during the year following the grant process. For many grants, the application deadline is in July, and awards occur in February. The Byrne/JAG funding for FY 10 will assist many agencies during FY 11.

Throughout October, GovWin's justice/public safety and homeland security team has been honoring Crime Prevention Month through blogging, including a recent post on red-light cameras. Many of the programs that received funding under the Byrne/JAG program fall into categories that directly relate to crime prevention. As part of the crime prevention blog series, I mentioned that judicial/court projects will see the most growth, while corrections projects will receive the most funding. With the addition of millions of dollars in grant funding, vendors should consider state and local law enforcement and policing projects a top priority.

While vendors are aware of the fiscal impact the recession has had on their companies, state and local agencies have also been forced to make drastic changes. Many correctional facilities and law enforcement agencies have been put in the position of laying off several workers as well as putting many IT projects deemed unnecessary or too costly on hold. With the receipt of the Byrne/JAG funds, some of these agencies will look to revise and restart these projects. Many agencies are looking to rehire officers, while at the same time figuring out ways to use technology to better utilize existing resources. Examples of doing more with less include the use of red-light cameras, speed enforcement cameras and additional surveillance systems and correctional security systems. These types of systems aid in public safety initiatives with fewer officers on the street.

Grant funding has been available in the Byrne/JAG program since 2005, and these funds are essential to state and local agencies and the vendors who support them with IT infrastructure. Vendors must continue to follow various grant programs after funds are awarded, seek out future grant programs, and provide recommendations or assistance to agencies in their quest for obtaining those funds. State and local agencies typically have projects in mind when they request funds, so vendors who can assist in the early stages will have a leg up when those projects come to fruition.