



United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

FFY2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Application

Submitted by:

New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NMDPS)
Grants Management Bureau (GMB)



Introduction

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), is implemented in New Mexico through the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NMDPS). As the State Administering Agency (SAA), NMDPS is responsible for the strategic planning, oversight, and administration of Byrne JAG funding on behalf of the State. This includes ensuring a coordinated, transparent approach to improving the administration of justice and advancing public safety outcomes statewide.

NMDPS employs a comprehensive strategic planning process to assess crime trends, identify system-wide priorities, and develop data-driven approaches to reducing crime and victimization. This process guides the effective allocation of Byrne JAG funds to address the most critical needs across New Mexico's criminal justice system. Through its Grants Management Bureau (GMB), NMDPS provides fiscal oversight, subrecipient monitoring, and programmatic reporting to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The GMB also delivers leadership and technical assistance to subrecipients, supporting them in identifying needs, developing competitive proposals, and successfully administering JAG-funded projects. Byrne JAG serves as the cornerstone federal funding source for state and local criminal justice initiatives. Authorized under 42 U.S.C. § 3751(a), the program provides flexible funding that enables jurisdictions to address a wide range of public safety priorities, including violent crime reduction, multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, and coordinated prevention and enforcement efforts. This flexibility allows New Mexico's state, local, and tribal partners to respond effectively to emerging challenges, bridge funding gaps, and strengthen collaboration across jurisdictions.

The State of New Mexico has established the Drug Enforcement Advisory Council (DEAC) as the governing body for Byrne JAG funding. Created by the Office of the Governor, the DEAC is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary of NMDPS and is tasked with advising on policy related to illegal drug activity and violent crime. The Council is composed of representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, prosecution, courts, behavioral health providers and task forces operating throughout New Mexico, ensuring broad, multidisciplinary input into funding priorities and strategies.

To further strengthen statewide coordination, the DEAC has adopted the Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Strategy for the New Mexico region as a guiding framework. This strategy provides a comprehensive assessment of drug trafficking and violent crime trends and supports the alignment of state efforts with regional and national priorities. By leveraging HIDTA analysis, the DEAC enhances its ability to develop targeted, evidence-based responses to the evolving public safety landscape in New Mexico.

Description of the Issue

The State of New Mexico encompasses approximately 121,589 square miles and remains largely rural, with a population of just over 2.1 million residents. Nearly 68 percent of the population resides within the state's four metropolitan statistical areas (Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, and Farmington), while the remaining population is dispersed across vast rural and frontier regions. This geographic distribution creates unique public safety challenges, particularly in areas with limited law enforcement presence and access to critical resources.

The NMDPS seeks to address persistently high rates of violent crime, property crime, drug trafficking, and drug-related mortality that continue to exceed national averages and place significant strain on the state's criminal justice system. These challenges are compounded by structural and geographic factors, including the state's expansive rural landscape, dispersed

population, and proximity to the U.S.–Mexico border, which contributes to its role as a major corridor for drug trafficking and associated criminal activity. Rural jurisdictions face limited access to personnel, technology, and behavioral health resources, reducing their ability to effectively respond to complex and increasing multi-jurisdictional crime.

New Mexico continues to report some of the highest crime rates in the nation. According to FBI Crime Data reporting in 2023, the state’s violent crime rate was 7.49 incidents per 1,000 people (approximately 749 per 100,000), compared to the national median of 4 per 1,000 (359–380 per 100,000). Property crime rates are similarly elevated, with 28.87 incidents per 1,000 people (2,751 per 100,000) compared to the national median of 19 per 1,000 (1,950 per 100,000). The homicide rate remains significantly higher than national averages, with New Mexico reporting approximately 10.5–12 homicides per 100,000 residents, compared to 5–6 per 100,000 nationally. Drug overdose rates also remain among the highest in the nation and significantly exceed the national average, driven largely by fentanyl and methamphetamine.

The City of Albuquerque, with a population of 560,557, accounts for more than half of the state’s overall crime, with consistently high levels of both violent and property crime. The Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Threat Assessment further identifies Albuquerque as a significant driver of statewide crime trends and a major corridor for drug trafficking activity. In 2024, Albuquerque recorded 96 homicides, a slight decrease from 99 cases the previous year; however, rates remain elevated relative to national trends.

Firearm-related violence remains a critical component of this broader public safety challenge. In 2024, New Mexico recorded an estimated 563 firearm-related deaths, representing a rate of approximately 26.6 deaths per 100,000 population—more than double the national average and among the highest in the United States. In 2023, the state reported 530 firearm-related deaths,

continuing a pattern of elevated firearm mortality rates compared to national trends. These data underscore the magnitude and urgency of violent crime in New Mexico and its impact on communities statewide.

The combined effects of violent crime, drug trafficking, and substance use continue to increase demands on law enforcement agencies, particularly in under-resourced jurisdictions. These conditions not only threaten community safety but also elevate risks for law enforcement personnel, reinforcing the need for enhanced officer safety, specialized investigative capacity, and coordinated statewide responses.

In response to these challenges, the New Mexico State Police (NMSP), supported in part by Byrne JAG funds, plays a critical role in assisting law enforcement agencies through multi-jurisdictional task force operations and officer-involved shooting (OIS) investigations. NMSP frequently serves as both a primary and assisting investigative agency for firearm-related incidents, particularly in jurisdictions that lack sufficient investigative resources. Through these efforts, NMSP helps meet the requirement to provide criminal justice services to units of local government within the state that are ineligible for a direct JAG award due to their size.

These data underscore the magnitude and urgency of the public safety challenges facing communities across New Mexico. Key indicators include a violent crime rate of 717 incidents per 100,000 residents, compared to approximately 359–380 nationally; a property crime rate of 2,751 incidents per 100,000 residents, significantly higher than the national average of 1,950; and a homicide rate of 10.5 incidents per 100,000 residents, compared to 5–6 nationally. Drug overdose rates also remain among the highest in the nation, driven largely by fentanyl and methamphetamine.

The NMDPS, in collaboration with the DEAC, has established two primary purpose areas to guide FFY2025 Byrne JAG funding: (1) Law Enforcement and (2) Prevention and Education.

These purpose areas are strategically defined to address the state's most significant public safety challenges, including persistently elevated rates of violent crime, drug trafficking, and related criminal activity. They are designed to ensure that limited resources are prioritized and deployed in a manner that produces measurable outcomes, enhances system-wide capacity, and supports coordinated, multi-jurisdictional responses.

These priorities were developed through a comprehensive strategic planning process grounded in the analysis of crime and public health data, stakeholder engagement across criminal justice agencies, and the application of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices. This approach ensures that Byrne JAG investments are aligned with statewide priorities and federal program objectives while reinforcing a cohesive, data-driven framework for improving public safety, strengthening interagency coordination, and advancing long-term system effectiveness.

In addition to crime data, a statewide stakeholder survey conducted through the DEAC in November 2025 identified critical gaps in resources and system capacity that limit the effectiveness of NMDPS and partner agency responses. Key issues include workforce shortages and recruitment challenges, limited access to behavioral health and substance use treatment services, and insufficient multi-jurisdictional coordination and intelligence-sharing capabilities. Stakeholders also identified significant needs related to equipment, technology, training, and forensic capacity, all of which directly impact agencies' ability to investigate crimes, process cases, and respond to emerging threats.

Survey findings further validate these challenges. Among 48 respondents representing local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, a majority identified property crime (64.58%), violent crime

(62.50%), and drug-related offenses (62.50%) as the most significant issues affecting their communities. Drug-related concerns remain widespread, with 61.70% identifying drug-related crime and 59.57% identifying opioid and methamphetamine use as primary concerns. Additional operational gaps include challenges in multi-jurisdictional coordination (47.92%), as well as needs for equipment (39.58%) and training (37.50%). Stakeholders also highlighted concerns related to domestic violence (41.67%), gun violence (37.50%), and forensic delays (43.75%), which continue to impede investigations and case processing.

To address these challenges, NMDPS will utilize Byrne JAG funding to support data-driven strategies across three priority goal areas:

Goal 1: Combating Violent Crime – Enhance enforcement capacity through targeted operations and strategic use of officer overtime in high-crime areas. Efforts will prioritize support for Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces (MJTFs), strengthen interagency coordination across local, state, federal, and tribal partners, and invest in specialized training and investigative tools to improve case development, clearance rates, and overall public safety outcomes.

Goal 2: Disrupting Drug Trafficking and Associated Offenses – Expand intelligence-led policing and highway interdiction efforts to disrupt drug trafficking networks, particularly those involving fentanyl and other illicit substances. Strengthen coordination with federal, state, and local partners to support joint operations and intelligence sharing, while investing in training, equipment, and operational resources to enhance narcotics investigations.

Goal 3: Reducing Gun-Related Crime – Implement focused enforcement strategies targeting repeat offenders and illegal firearm activity. Enhance forensic and investigative capacity through targeted investments in tools and training to improve the identification, processing, and prosecution of gun-related crimes, with the goal of reducing firearm-related violence statewide.

Byrne JAG funding also supports critical investments in technology, overtime, training, equipment, and officer safety, improving investigative efficiency and alignment with best practices. These resources are particularly vital for rural and underserved jurisdictions, where limited capacity can hinder participation in coordinated enforcement efforts.

New Mexico prioritizes regional, coordinated strategies to address violent crime and drug trafficking through evidence-based, multi-jurisdictional initiatives. These efforts emphasize strong collaboration among law enforcement agencies and focus on intelligence-driven enforcement, including targeted highway interdiction. The Drug Enforcement Advisory Council supports the continued use of the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force model, implemented in coordination with the NMSP, to strengthen partnerships and enhance statewide response capabilities.

Through Byrne JAG funding, the state has expanded collaboration among local, regional, state, federal, and tribal partners, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), HIDTA, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These coordinated efforts strengthen information sharing, improve operational alignment, and support adoption of standardized reporting practices such as the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), enhancing data quality, transparency, and the state's ability to respond to emerging public safety threats.

Project Design and Implementation

The NMDPS utilizes a coordinated, data-driven approach to identify and address public safety needs, ensuring Byrne JAG funding aligns with statewide priorities, stakeholder input, and evidence-based strategies. The state submitted a five-year Byrne JAG Strategic Plan in 2020 and is currently finalizing the 2025–2029 update to reflect evolving crime trends, stakeholder needs,

and state priorities. This planning process is conducted in coordination with the DEAC and is informed by analysis of crime and public health data, research on best practices, and assessment of available statewide resources.

Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning

The NMDPS engages stakeholders through the DEAC and its Strategic Planning Subcommittee, which includes representatives from state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as partners across the justice fields. Stakeholder participation includes input from law enforcement, prosecution, courts, corrections, behavioral health providers, and prevention-focused organizations representing Byrne JAG statutory purpose areas. Engagement occurs through regular DEAC meetings, strategic planning sessions, and statewide stakeholder surveys, ensuring that both urban and rural perspectives are incorporated into funding priorities.

Local communities are engaged through their representation on the DEAC, participation in subgrant application processes, and involvement in regional task forces and collaborative initiatives. Coordination between state and local planning efforts is facilitated through ongoing communication, shared data analysis, and joint participation in the DEAC committees. While coordination across jurisdictions presents challenges—particularly in rural areas with limited resources and capacity, the NMDPS continues to address these barriers through structured collaboration, technical assistance, and support for multi-jurisdictional initiatives.

Alignment with State and Federal Strategies

To ensure consistency and maximize impact, the DEAC, in collaboration with the Southwest Border (SWB) New Mexico Region HIDTA, has adopted the HIDTA Strategy as a foundational framework for statewide priorities. This alignment ensures that Byrne JAG-funded activities are coordinated with federal, state, and regional strategies, promoting a unified and comprehensive

approach to addressing violent crime, drug trafficking, and gun-related offenses. By integrating HIDTA priorities and intelligence products, the State advances intelligence-led, evidence-based practices that enhance interagency coordination, optimize resource allocation, and strengthen the overall effectiveness of public safety efforts.

Coordination with Other Funding Sources

The use of Byrne JAG funds is strategically coordinated with other state and federal funding streams—including HIDTA, state general funds, and additional justice-related grants—to maximize impact, leverage resources, and avoid duplication of services. The NMDPS ensures alignment across programs through centralized planning, oversight by the DEAC, and ongoing interagency coordination.

This integrated approach allows Byrne JAG funds to complement existing investments by filling critical gaps, supporting multi-jurisdictional initiatives, and enhancing statewide capacity across enforcement, prevention, and behavioral health efforts. Coordination across funding sources ensures a comprehensive and balanced strategy that addresses both immediate public safety needs and underlying drivers of crime, while promoting efficiency, accountability, and sustainability in program implementation.

Funding Approach and Subaward Process

New Mexico uses a structured and transparent approach to distribute Byrne JAG funding, ensuring resources reach the agencies and programs best positioned to address the state's most pressing public safety challenges.

Funding is first distributed through a competitive application process. Priority is given to state, local, tribal, and regional law enforcement agencies that align with Byrne JAG priorities, with

particular emphasis on MJTFs and agencies actively engaged in collaborative, cross-jurisdictional work.

For example, FY 2024 Byrne JAG funds supported a range of partners across the state, including regional MJTFs (Farmington and Clovis), multiple county sheriff's offices (Bernalillo, Dona Ana, Torrance and Valencia), municipal police departments (Silver City and Bloomfield, and Truth or Consequences), and key state agencies such as the New Mexico State Police, Department of Corrections, and Department of Game and Fish. This diverse distribution reflects New Mexico's commitment to strengthening public safety at every level—from rural communities to larger jurisdictions.

When additional funding becomes available, New Mexico provides a supplemental funding opportunity to address emerging or unmet needs. Agencies seeking these funds must clearly demonstrate both a strong need and the ability to effectively manage and expend existing funding. Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with final approval granted by the DEAC Chair. This process ensures that supplemental funds are used strategically and contribute directly to the goals of the state's Byrne JAG Strategic Plan.

The annual subaward process begins with the release of the federal Byrne JAG solicitation and New Mexico's funding allocation. Before submission, the state application is shared publicly and presented at a public hearing, allowing stakeholders and community members to provide input. The application is also reviewed by the DEAC to ensure alignment with statewide priorities. NMDPS then releases the state's subrecipient solicitation through its website, email distribution lists, and public notice. To support applicants, the GMB conducts mandatory pre-application workshops and Equal Employment Opportunity training. These sessions help ensure that

applicants understand both programmatic expectations and fiscal requirements, improving the overall quality and competitiveness of submissions.

Applications are reviewed for completeness and evaluated using a standardized scoring process that considers the problem being addressed, project design, goals and objectives, expected outcomes, data reporting, and budget. The DEAC Budget and Funding Sub-Committee then ranks proposals and makes funding recommendations, which are reviewed and ratified by the full DEAC. Final award decisions are made by the Cabinet Secretary of NMDPS.

All applicants are notified of their status within 30 days, and those not selected have the opportunity to appeal. Once awards are finalized, subrecipients participate in a mandatory kickoff meeting covering grant requirements, reporting expectations, and compliance standards.

Overall, this process is designed to be fair, transparent, and competitive—ensuring that Byrne JAG funds are awarded to programs that are data-driven, evidence-based, and capable of delivering meaningful public safety outcomes for communities across New Mexico.

Programs to Be Funded (4-Year Grant Period)

Over the four-year grant period, Byrne JAG funds will support a coordinated selection of programs aligned with statewide priorities, including:

Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces (MJTFs): Supporting intelligence-driven enforcement and coordinated operations targeting violent crime and drug trafficking.

Violent Crime Reduction Initiatives: Targeted enforcement, officer overtime, and investigative support in high-crime areas.

Drug Enforcement and Interdiction: Narcotics investigations, highway interdiction, and coordinated efforts to disrupt trafficking networks.

Gun Violence Reduction Efforts: Enforcement targeting illegal firearm activity and repeat offenders, and support for firearm-related investigations.

Training, Equipment, and Technology: Investments to enhance investigative capacity, data-sharing, and officer safety.

Prevention and Education Programs: Initiatives addressing substance abuse, community risk factors, and demand reduction.

These investments prioritize evidence-based and data-driven approaches and emphasize coordination among local, state, tribal, and federal partners. Collectively, the subaward process and program strategy ensure that Byrne JAG funding is effectively deployed to address critical public safety needs, strengthen system capacity, and achieve measurable outcomes across the State of New Mexico.

Proposed Timeline (Contingent on Federal Award)

| Timeframe | Event |
|--|--|
| April 2026 | Preparation of State Byrne JAG Application; public comment period and DEAC review |
| April 17, 2026 | Submission of 2025 Byrne JAG Application to DOJ/BJA |
| TBD (Federal Award) | Byrne JAG Award Issued to NMDPS |
| Within 60 days of award | Pre-Application Workshop held at NM Law Enforcement Academy (Santa Fe, NM) |
| Within 30–45 days of award | New Mexico Byrne JAG Solicitation & Application Released |
| Concurrent with solicitation release | “Notice of Funding Availability” published (e.g., Albuquerque Journal and other outlets) |
| 30 days after solicitation release | Sub-grant Applications Due to NMDPS |
| Within 2–3 weeks of application deadline | NMDPS GMB Completeness and Compliance Review |
| Within 30 days of application deadline | DEAC Budget & Funding Sub-Committee Review, Scoring, and Ranking |

| Timeframe | Event |
|--|---|
| Within 2 weeks of committee review | DEAC Meeting to Review and Ratify Recommendations |
| Within 1–2 weeks of DEAC approval | Final Approval by NMDPS Cabinet Secretary |
| Within 30 days of final approval | Written Notification of Award/Non-Award to Applicants |
| Immediately following award notification | Sub-grantee Kickoff Meetings and Start of Grant Cycle |

Capabilities and Competencies

The NMDPS is committed to promoting a safe and secure environment through intelligence-led policing, advanced scientific and technical support, relevant training, and innovative leadership. NMDPS continuously evaluates and strengthens its operations to ensure the delivery of ethical, effective, and accountable public safety services statewide.

The NMDPS-GMB, as the State Administering Agency (SAA), serves as the applicant and fiscal agent for this project and maintains primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with all federal and state requirements. The GMB administers grant funds, collects and reports performance data, and ensures that all programmatic and financial requirements are met. The GMB currently manages approximately \$31 million in federal funding, in addition to state and local awards, and has over 30 years of experience administering U.S. Department of Justice grants.

GMB maintains a strong organizational structure to ensure accountability and oversight, including dedicated grant analysts, financial coordination, and executive leadership. Financial transactions are subject to multi-level review to ensure compliance with 2 CFR Part 200 and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide. All expenditures are reviewed, reconciled, and processed through established internal controls in coordination with the NMDPS Accounting Division.

To ensure subrecipient accountability and program success, GMB implements a comprehensive monitoring framework that includes formal risk assessments, annual monitoring plans, and both on-site and desk reviews. Ongoing communication, technical assistance, and regular check-ins support subrecipients in meeting programmatic and fiscal requirements. Monitoring activities assess performance, financial management, procurement practices, and compliance, with corrective action plans implemented as needed to address any deficiencies.

GMB also provides structured training opportunities, including pre-award workshops, post-award kickoff meetings, and ongoing training focused on compliance, financial management, and performance reporting. These efforts strengthen subrecipient capacity and promote consistent understanding of federal and state requirements across all funded agencies.

Financial and programmatic activities are tracked through internal systems using project-specific codes, allowing for real-time monitoring of expenditures, performance, and compliance.

Performance data is collected and reported through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Performance Measurement Tool (PMT), with subrecipients required to submit quarterly reports that are reviewed and validated by GMB staff. These data are used not only for reporting purposes but also to inform program management, assess effectiveness, and guide strategic funding decisions.

Ongoing Strategic Planning Efforts

The NMDPS engages in ongoing strategic planning and coordination with a broad network of criminal justice partners to ensure that Byrne JAG funding aligns with statewide priorities and evolving public safety needs. These efforts are led through the DEAC, which includes representation from state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as stakeholders including prosecution, corrections, and behavioral health partners.

The NMDPS is currently in the process of revising its 2025–2029 Byrne JAG Strategic Plan, which will be submitted during this funding cycle following review and approval by the DEAC Board. Until the updated plan is finalized, the NMDPS will continue to operate under the 2020–2024 Strategic Plan, ensuring continuity in priorities while incorporating updated data, stakeholder input, and emerging trends into funding decisions.

The NMDPS has successfully implemented several evidence-informed strategies that continue to guide current and future investments. Notably, the use of MJTFs has proven effective in supporting intelligence-led policing and coordinated enforcement efforts across local, state, and federal agencies. These task forces have contributed to increased arrests, firearm seizures, and the disruption of drug trafficking networks, particularly in high-risk regions and along major trafficking corridors.

Additionally, the NMDPS has implemented intelligence-led policing and highway interdiction strategies, aligned with HIDTA priorities, to target high-level offenders and disrupt the flow of illicit drugs. These approaches rely on data analysis, coordinated operations, and cross-agency collaboration, and have demonstrated measurable outcomes in narcotics seizures and enforcement actions.

Lessons learned from these efforts continue to inform strategic planning and funding priorities, reinforcing the importance of multi-jurisdictional coordination, data-driven decision-making, and integrated approaches that combine enforcement, prevention, and treatment. These principles will remain central as New Mexico implements Byrne JAG priorities under the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan.