



United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

FFY2026 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 (JAG) Program is administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and 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, administration, fiscal oversight, and monitoring of Byrne JAG funding awarded to the State.

Through its Grants Management Bureau (GMB), NMDPS assesses crime trends, stakeholder input, criminal justice resource needs, and statewide public-safety priorities to develop data-informed funding strategies. GMB also provides fiscal oversight, subrecipient monitoring, performance reporting, technical assistance, and compliance guidance to ensure that awarded funds are administered in accordance with federal and state requirements.

Authorized under 34 U.S.C. § 10152, the Byrne JAG provides flexible funding to support state and local criminal justice priorities. In New Mexico, funding supports efforts such as violent-crime reduction, multijurisdictional drug task forces, coordinated enforcement operations, prevention and education initiatives, and other activities that strengthen the criminal justice system. This flexibility enables state, local, tribal, and regional partners to address emerging needs, bridge critical funding gaps, and coordinate resources across jurisdictional boundaries.

The Drug Enforcement Advisory Council (DEAC) serves as New Mexico's governing and advisory body for Byrne JAG funding. Chaired by the NMDPS Cabinet Secretary, the DEAC includes representatives from federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement; prosecution and courts; behavioral health organizations; and multijurisdictional task forces throughout the state. The DEAC provides guidance on statewide priorities, reviews proposed funding strategies and supports coordinated investment of Byrne JAG resources.

The DEAC has adopted the Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Strategy for

the New Mexico region as a guiding framework. The strategy supports the assessment of drug-trafficking and violent-crime trends and helps align New Mexico's Byrne JAG investments with statewide, regional, and national public-safety priorities.

Description of the Issue

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 rural and frontier regions. This geographic distribution creates public safety challenges, particularly in areas with limited law enforcement presence and access to critical resources.

NMDPS seeks to address persistently high rates of violent crime, property crime, drug trafficking, and drug-related mortality that place significant strain on the state's criminal justice system. These challenges are compounded by the state's expansive rural landscape, dispersed population, and proximity to the U.S.–Mexico border. Rural jurisdictions face limited access to personnel, technology, behavioral health resources, training, and investigative capacity.

According to FBI Crime Data¹ reporting in 2025 New Mexico's violent crime rate was approximately 717 incidents per 100,000 people, compared with the national rate of approximately 327.6 per 100,000. Property crime was approximately 2,751 incidents per 100,000 compared with approximately 1,534.8 nationally. The homicide rate remained significantly higher than the national average, and drug overdose rates remain among the highest in the nation, driven largely by fentanyl and methamphetamine.

Albuquerque accounts for a significant share of statewide crime and is identified by the

¹ [CDE](#)

Southwest Border HIDTA Threat Assessment as a major corridor for drug trafficking activity. Firearm-related violence also remains a critical public safety concern. In 2024, New Mexico recorded an estimated 563 firearm-related deaths, approximately 26.6 deaths per 100,000 population.

These conditions increase demands on law enforcement agencies, particularly in under-resourced jurisdictions, and reinforce the need for officer safety, specialized investigative capacity, and coordinated statewide responses. NMSP, supported in part by Byrne JAG funds, assists agencies through multi-jurisdictional task force operations and officer-involved shooting investigations, particularly where local investigative resources are limited. NMDPS, in collaboration with the DEAC, established two primary purpose areas to guide FFY2026 JAG funding: (1) Law Enforcement and (2) Prevention and Education. These areas address the state's significant public safety challenges, including violent crime, drug trafficking, and related criminal activity, while prioritizing limited resources for measurable outcomes and coordinated responses.

A statewide stakeholder survey conducted through the DEAC in November 2025 identified critical gaps in resources and system capacity. Among 48 respondents representing local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, 64.58% identified property crime, 62.50% violent crime, and 62.50% drug-related offenses as significant issues. Respondents also identified drug-related crime (61.70%), opioid and methamphetamine use (59.57%), multi-jurisdictional coordination challenges (47.92%), forensic delays (43.75%), domestic violence (41.67%), equipment needs (39.58%), gun violence (37.50%), and training needs (37.50%).

To address these challenges, NMDPS will utilize Byrne JAG funding across three priority goal areas. Goal 1, Combating Violent Crime, will enhance enforcement capacity through targeted operations, officer overtime, Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces (MJTFs), interagency

coordination, specialized training, and investigative tools. Goal 2, Disrupting Drug Trafficking and Associated Offenses, will expand intelligence-led policing, highway interdiction, joint operations, intelligence sharing, training, equipment, and narcotics investigations. Goal 3, Reducing Gun-Related Crime, will support focused enforcement targeting repeat offenders and illegal firearm activity and strengthen forensic and investigative capacity.

Byrne JAG also supports technology, overtime, training, equipment, and officer safety. These resources are particularly important for rural and underserved jurisdictions with limited capacity. New Mexico prioritizes coordinated strategies through MJTFs and collaboration among local, regional, state, federal, and tribal partners. These efforts improve information sharing, operational alignment, and standardized reporting such as National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Project Design and Implementation

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 finalizing the 2025–2029 update to reflect evolving crime trends, stakeholder needs, and state priorities. The planning process is coordinated with the DEAC and informed by crime and public health data, research on best practices, and assessment of statewide resources.

Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning - NMDPS engages stakeholders through the DEAC and its Strategic Planning Subcommittee, which includes representatives from state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies and partners across the justice fields. Stakeholder participation includes law enforcement, prosecution, courts, corrections, behavioral health providers, and prevention-focused organizations representing Byrne JAG statutory purpose areas. Engagement occurs through DEAC meetings, strategic planning, and statewide

stakeholder surveys, ensuring diverse perspectives are incorporated into funding priorities.

Local communities are engaged through representation on the DEAC, participation in subgrant application processes, and involvement in regional task forces and collaborative initiatives. State and local planning efforts are coordinated through ongoing communication, shared data analysis, and participation in DEAC committees. Coordination challenges are greatest in rural areas with limited resources and capacity; NMDPS addresses these barriers through structured collaboration, technical assistance, and support for multi-jurisdictional initiatives.

Alignment with State and Federal Strategies - The DEAC, in collaboration with the Southwest Border New Mexico Region HIDTA, has adopted the HIDTA Strategy as a foundational framework for statewide priorities. Integrating HIDTA priorities and intelligence products supports intelligence-led, evidence-based practices, interagency coordination, resource allocation, and a unified response to violent crime, drug trafficking, and gun-related offenses.

Coordination with Other Funding Sources - Byrne JAG funds are coordinated with other state and federal funding sources, including HIDTA, state general funds, and additional justice-related grants, to maximize impact, leverage resources, and avoid duplication. Through centralized planning, DEAC oversight, and interagency coordination, NMDPS directs Byrne JAG funds to critical gaps and statewide enforcement, prevention, and behavioral health initiatives.

Funding Approach and Subaward Process - Following release of the federal Byrne JAG solicitation and New Mexico's allocation, the NMDPS, as the SAA, develops the state application and proposed funding plan. Before submission to the BJA, the application is made available for public review, presented at a public hearing to obtain stakeholder and community input, and reviewed by the DEAC.

After accepting the federal award and completing applicable post-award requirements, NMDPS

issues a competitive statewide subrecipient solicitation open to eligible state, local, tribal, and regional law enforcement entities. Priority consideration is given to initiatives that advance Byrne JAG and NMDPS public-safety priorities, particularly multijurisdictional task forces and collaborative projects that coordinate resources and operations across jurisdictional boundaries. The solicitation is published on the NMDPS website and distributed through email lists and required public notices to promote broad statewide participation. The GMB conducts mandatory pre-application workshops and Equal Employment Opportunity training to ensure potential applicants understand the programmatic, fiscal, reporting, and compliance requirements. GMB reviews each application for completeness and eligibility. Qualified applications are evaluated using standardized scoring criteria addressing the identified problem, project design, goals and measurable objectives, anticipated outcomes, performance-data reporting, organizational capacity, and proposed budget.

The DEAC Budget and Funding Subcommittee reviews and ranks the applications and develops funding recommendations. The DEAC reviews and ratifies the recommendations, and the NMDPS Cabinet Secretary makes the final award decisions. Applicants are notified of their status within 30 days of the final decisions, and applicants not selected for funding may appeal through the established appeal process.

After awards are finalized, selected subrecipients must attend a mandatory kickoff meeting covering award conditions, reimbursement procedures, financial and performance reporting, compliance requirements, and grant-administration responsibilities.

When additional funds become available, NMDPS may offer supplemental funding to existing Byrne JAG subrecipients to address emerging or unmet needs. Applicants must demonstrate a documented need and the capacity to manage and expend both existing and supplemental funds

within the applicable period of performance. Requests are evaluated individually for programmatic and fiscal merit, with final approval by the DEAC Chair.

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
September 2026	Preparation of State Byrne JAG Application; public comment period and DEAC review
September 25, 2026	Submission of 2026 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
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

NMDPS has the organizational structure, systems, and experience necessary to administer Byrne JAG funding and oversee subrecipient performance. Financial and programmatic activities are tracked through internal systems using grant- and project-specific codes. These controls allow GMB to monitor expenditures, project performance, available balances, and compliance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200, the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, award conditions, and applicable state

requirements.

Subrecipients submit quarterly financial and performance reports to GMB for review and validation. GMB uses the reported data to complete required submissions through the BJA Performance Measurement Tool and JustGrants, monitor progress toward approved goals and objectives, assess program effectiveness, identify technical-assistance needs, and inform future funding decisions.

NMDPS maintains an ongoing strategic planning process to ensure Byrne JAG investments remain aligned with statewide priorities and emerging public-safety needs. This process is coordinated through the DEAC, which includes representatives from state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement; prosecution and courts; corrections; behavioral health; multijurisdictional task forces; and other criminal justice partners.

NMDPS is updating its 2025–2029 Byrne JAG Strategic Plan using current crime data, stakeholder input, program outcomes, and emerging public-safety trends. Pending DEAC review and approval, established priorities will continue to guide funding decisions. Performance results and lessons learned will inform resource allocation, with continued emphasis on multijurisdictional coordination, data-driven decision-making, and integrated enforcement, prevention, and treatment strategies.

NMDPS has demonstrated the capacity to implement evidence-informed strategies through its support of multijurisdictional task forces, intelligence-led policing, and highway interdiction initiatives. These efforts strengthen coordination among local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; support the disruption of drug-trafficking networks; and contribute to arrests, firearm and narcotics seizures, and enforcement activity along major trafficking corridors and in high-risk areas.