In 2005, the Federal government began providing financial support to state and local governments through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The JAG program is a combination of two older Federal programs: the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) and Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program.

The JAG program aims to control violent crime as well as to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system overall by supporting state and local initiatives related to one of seven program areas:

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution and Court
- Prevention and Education
- Corrections and Community Corrections
- Drug Treatment and Enforcement
- Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement
- Crime Victim and Witness Programs

Congressional appropriations determine the amount of JAG money available each year and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the JAG program (see Hickman, 2005). State JAG awards are based on calculations performed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), using violent crime rates and population figures (See Cooper & Reaves, 2011; Hickman, 2005). Forty percent of a state’s award is set aside for local governments, whose portion of the grant is also based on crime and population totals.

Nevada’s Department of Public Safety (DPS) administers the state JAG award each year. Historically, JAG funding in Nevada has been used predominantly to combat drug-related crimes and gang activity through the support of multi-jurisdictional narcotic and gang task forces. Task forces and other projects/programs are funded through a competitive sub-grant process.

This State Data Brief provides an overview of JAG funding received by the state of Nevada between FY2005 and FY2010. State funding levels in Nevada are compared regionally, as well as to national levels. Local government allocations are also examined and details of programmatic activity and spending in FY2010 are provided.
State Funding, 2005

Nationally, in FY2005, over $481,000,000 was awarded to states and local municipalities under the JAG program (Hickman, 2005). Nevada received nearly 1% of this total, or about $150 dollars for every violent crime recorded in the state and reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program (Table 1).

Comparatively, in FY2005, Idaho received $319, Utah received $279, Oregon received $193, Arizona received $117, and California received $111 in JAG funding per violent crime.

State and Local Funding, 2005-10

On average, between FY2005 and FY2010, Nevada received more than $4.2 million in state and local JAG funds. Figure 1 shows JAG funding awards to state and local governments during this time frame.

In FY2005, Nevada agencies received the first JAG awards totaling $4.7 million. In FY2008, Nevada received 65% less in JAG award money. Since the FY2008 funding cycle, however, JAG allocations to Nevada have steadily increased.¹ For example, between FY2008 and FY2010, state JAG funds for Nevada rose 247% and local funding climbed 226%.

State Funding, 2010

Details of the FY2010 JAG allocation to Nevada are presented in Table 2 and show that the state received more than 1% of all Federal JAG funding or approximately $117 per violent crime in the most recent JAG funding cycle.

Comparatively, in FY2010, Idaho received $287, Utah received $251, Oregon received $197, Arizona received $124, and California received $109 in JAG funding for each violent crime.

Stimulus Funding, 2009

In addition to the standard, annual JAG allocation, in FY2009 states received “stimulus” JAG funding as a result of Congress passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Nevada received about $23 million in additional JAG stimulus money in FY2009, which was more than 3 times the normal FY2009 JAG allocation to the state.

Table 3 provides details of the state and local JAG stimulus allocation to Nevada and shows that the majority of funds provided to local governments went to Clark County/Las Vegas (83%), followed by Reno (12%), Carson City (1%), Nye County (1%), and Lyon County (1%).

Local Funding, 2005-10

From FY2005 to FY2010, the allocation of JAG funds to local governments in Nevada increased 20% (Table 4), outpacing the increase in state funding (16%) over the same time period. Although funding to local governments in Nevada reached a low of about

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¹ For example, between FY2008 and FY2010, state JAG funds for Nevada rose 247% and local funding climbed 226%.
$600 thousand in FY2008, in the most recent funding cycle it exceeded $2 million.

Since population size is a key component of how JAG funding is allocated, the majority of local government funds awarded in Nevada go to Clark County/Las Vegas. For example, in FY2010, Clark County/Las Vegas received 74% of all local government allocations, followed by North Las Vegas (9%), and Reno (8%).

In addition to county, municipal, and joint government awards, JAG funding may be awarded to Tribal governments. Since FY2005, only one Tribal award to Nevada’s Tribal governments has been made. Specifically, in FY2007, more than $13 thousand was allocated to the Washoe Tribe.

### Programmatic Activity, 2010

Local law enforcement and state agencies that receive JAG sub-awards from Nevada’s DPS are awarded funds within one of the seven categories described above. Historically, Nevada has largely allocated funds to law enforcement programs focused on combating drug and gang problems, as well as to prevention and training programs. A portion of Nevada’s funding has also been used to fund drug courts within the state. JAG-funded programmatic activity in FY2010 is provided by quarter in Table 5 and is summarized in the following sections.  

#### Law Enforcement

In FY2010, 21 of the 26 JAG sub-awards issued by Nevada’s DPS (Appendix A) funded projects within the Law Enforcement program area. Generally,
these funds are used to hire/retain personnel, develop and implement state/local law enforcement initiatives, train law enforcement personnel, and to purchase equipment and supplies (DPS, 2011).

For example, more than six-dozen law enforcement personnel were hired/retained during FY2010 with JAG sub-award money (Table 5). In addition, nearly $60 thousand were spent on training and nearly $200 thousand were used to purchase equipment and supplies.

**Prosecution and Courts**

Churchill County received the only FY2010 JAG sub-award ($100,000) aimed at supporting prosecution and court programs (DPS, 2011). In FY2010, the JAG funds received by Churchill County were used to hire/retain two employees.

**Prevention and Education**

Carson City’s District Attorney received the only FY2010 JAG sub-award ($14,757) aimed at supporting prevention and education programs (DPS, 2011). These funds were used primarily to provide technical assistance. Specifically, more than $11 thousand were used to provide technical assistance to the community in the form of events and manuals.

**Corrections and Community Corrections**

In FY2010, Nevada’s Department of Corrections (DOC) received the only JAG sub-award ($100,000) aimed at supporting corrections and/or community corrections programs. These funds were used to hire/retain personnel, develop and implement state/local corrections and community corrections initiatives, and to purchase equipment and supplies (DPS, 2011).

Specifically, in FY2010, five employees were hired/retained through the JAG sub-award to Nevada’s DOC. In addition, more than 130 state and local initiatives were supported and nearly $10 thousand
thousand worth of equipment and supplies were purchased in FY2010 with JAG funds.

**Drug Treatment and Enforcement**

The Ridge House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit social service organization in Reno, Nevada. The Ridge House employs a community-based solution to the issues of reentry designed to change the behavior of offenders, prevent future offending, and make the community safe. The Ridge House received the only FY2010 JAG sub-award ($45,000) aimed at drug treatment and enforcement (DPS, 2011).

In FY2010, more than 40 employees were hired/retained as a result of the drug treatment and enforcement JAG sub-award and more than 80 state/local initiatives were supported.

**Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement**

A single FY2010 JAG sub-award totaling $300,000 was issued to Clark County/Las Vegas. This award was intended to support planning, evaluation, and technology improvements; however, the program did not become operational until the third quarter and limited performance measure data was available at the end of the 2010 fiscal year (DPS, 2011).

**Task Force Activity, 2010**

As noted above, the large majority of JAG funding in Nevada supports drug and gang task force activities. JAG-funded task force activity in FY2010 is provided by quarter in Table 6 and is summarized in the following sections.

**New Investigations and Arrests**

Each quarter during the current fiscal year, JAG-funded task forces initiated hundreds of new investigations aimed at addressing problems related to gangs and drugs in Nevada’s communities (DPS, 2011). At the end of FY2010, JAG-funded gang and drug task forces had initiated more than 3,100 new investigations (Table 6). These investigations resulted in 1,411 felony and 305 misdemeanor arrests, including nearly 140 arrests of gang members alone.
Drug and Firearm Seizures

During the current fiscal year, JAG-funded task forces in Nevada seized large quantities of drugs, including more than 18,000kg (1kg=2.2lbs) of commercial grade marijuana, more than 900kg of methamphetamine, and nearly 64kg of ecstasy (DPS, 2011). Smaller quantities of heroin (2.4kg) and crack (1.6kg) were seized by JAG-funded drug task forces during FY2010.

In addition to several kilograms of drugs, dozens of firearms were seized as a result of JAG-funded task force activities this fiscal year. Specifically, since July 2010, Nevada’s JAG-funded task forces seized 263 firearms.

Forfeitures

Legally, forfeiture is the loss of a criminal defendant’s rights to property, which is confiscated by the government when the property was used in the commission of a crime. The seizure by law enforcement officers of an automobile used in the transportation of illegal narcotics, for example, is a criminal forfeiture. During the current fiscal year, JAG-funded task force activities resulted in 64 federal/state forfeitures, including over $1.2 million in cash forfeitures alone.

Data Source and Limitations

Data used in this State Data Brief were obtained from the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) state allocation comparison tables and performance measure data reported to Nevada’s Department of Public Safety as part of JAG sub-award requirements.

Performance measure data were accessed online through BJA’s Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Sub-award grant recipients establish performance measures as part of their JAG grant application. Performance measures are reported quarterly throughout the fiscal year. Performance data reported in this State Data Brief do not represent all of the performance data contained in the PMT.
### Appendix A. FY2010 JAG sub-award distributions by program area and recipient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area/Recipient</th>
<th>Project Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Law Enforcement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson City Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$270,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson City Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson City Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$126,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPS-Investigation Division</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$111,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elko Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$159,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elko Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallon Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt County Sheriff's Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lander County Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovelock Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon County Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesquite Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nye County Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$149,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reno Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reno Police Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washoe County Sheriff's Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washoe County Sheriff's Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California</td>
<td>Oct 1, 2010 - Mar 30, 2011</td>
<td>$4,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Pine County Sheriff's Department</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prosecution and Courts</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchill County</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention and Education</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson City District Attorney</td>
<td>Oct 1, 2010 - Jun 30, 2011</td>
<td>$14,757</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Corrections and Community Corrections</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Nevada Department of Corrections</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation and Technology Improvement Planning</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark County</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drug Treatment and Enforcement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ridge House</td>
<td>Jul 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2013</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: As of July 1, 2011, twenty-six sub-awards were funded with the FY2010 state JAG allocation (2010-DJ-BX-0105). These sub-awards represent $2.60 million of the $3.36 million awarded to the state.
END NOTES

i. The increase in JAG FY2009 and FY2010 funding was a result of increased Congressional appropriations for the JAG program overall, and was not due to an increase in Nevada's crime rate or a decrease in the state’s population.

ii. Programmatic and task force activities are based on information obtained from the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) online Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). As part of all JAG-sub awards, grantees must identify, collect, and report performance measurement data on activities funded by their award through the PMT.

References

Department of Public Safety (2011). Online data access to the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) retrieved on various data from https://www.bjaperformancetools.org/


This report is part of the “Research in Brief” series produced by the Center for Crime and Justice Policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Center is housed in the Department of Criminal Justice, which is located in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Research in Briefs are modeled after the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ Special Reports and Bulletins.

The Briefs provide summaries of various criminal justice system practices in Nevada over time, and highlight differences between Nevada and other states. These reports cover all aspects of the criminal justice system, including trends in crime and arrests, police practices, prosecution, pretrial activities, adjudication, sentencing, and corrections. Although Research in Briefs typically focus on criminal justice issues within Nevada, these reports may focus on national issues as well.

Research in Briefs are designed to provide members of the general public, local officials, community organizations, and media outlets a concise and objective profile of current crime and criminal trends in Nevada and elsewhere. These briefs may serve as a foundation for informed discussions of future crime control policies and practices.

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Arson Trends in Nevada, 1997-2006
Auto Theft in Nevada, 1994-2008
Capital Punishment in Nevada, 1977-2008
Clearance Rates in Nevada, 1998-2009
Communication Intercepts Authorized in Nevada, 1997-2008
Comparison of Different On-Line sampling Approaches for Generating National Samples
Deaths in Custody in Nevada, 2001-2006
Impact of Foreclosures on Neighborhood Crime in Nevada, 2006-2009
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program in Nevada, 2005-2010
Nevada vs. U.S. Residents Attitudes Towards Surveillance Using Aerial Drones
Patterns in School Violence in Nevada
Public Attitudes about Aerial Drone Activities: Results of a National Survey
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