

## **Report on Department of Justice Conference Expenses for Fiscal Year 2013**

The Department of Justice recognizes the importance of using limited tax dollars wisely, and of avoiding wasteful or excessive spending. Accordingly, the Department follows strict guidelines regarding conference expenditures. At the same time, we believe that conferences are often the best method of delivering operational training to federal, state, and local law enforcement and justice professionals and grantee organizations. This training plays an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of their efforts. Conference spending reported for fiscal year (FY) 2013 totaled approximately \$23 million<sup>1</sup>, a decrease of approximately \$34.8 million, or 60 percent, compared to FY 2012. This is in addition to \$7 million saved in FY 2012 as compared to FY 2011.

On June 8, 2012, the Department issued DOJ Policy Statement (PS) 1400.01, "Planning, Approving, Attending and Reporting Conferences," which further imposes controls on conference spending. DOJ PS 1400.01 implements the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-11-35, "Eliminating Excess Conference Spending and Promoting Efficiency in Government," dated September 21, 2011, and OMB Memorandum M-12-12, "Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations," dated May 11, 2012, which remind agencies that they must operate with the utmost efficiency and eliminate unnecessary or wasteful spending. In addition to continuing and refining the senior-level approval requirements, DOJ PS 1400.01 sets spending restrictions on conference space, audiovisual services and equipment, conference planners (logistical and programmatic), and government-provided meals, which helps to keep conference spending within appropriate limits.

In accordance with OMB Memorandum M-12-12, conferences with expenses in excess of \$100,000 are displayed in the report entitled "Department of Justice FY 2013 Conferences With Expenses Over \$100,000." The Department held 27 conferences in excess of \$100,000 in FY 2013 compared to 107 in FY 2012, a decrease of approximately 75%.

Please note the following about the report data:

- The report excludes core law enforcement training conducted at federal training centers or at federal facilities, e.g., entry training for new correctional officers and law enforcement agents.
- The report includes one event using approved estimated amounts, because final certified actual expenses have not been reported.

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<sup>1</sup> Information is for conferences the Department tracks pursuant to our appropriations and authorization acts (i.e. those that cost \$20,000 or more, or that are for predominantly internal DOJ attendees yet use a facility for which payment to a private entity is required). Also, the FY 2013 spending amount of \$23 million includes approximately \$177,000 for an event held in FY 2012 for which final expenses were not available until FY 2013.