

Report on Department of Justice Conference Expenses for Fiscal Year 2020

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, tribal and local law enforcement and justice professionals and grantee organizations. This training plays an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of their efforts. Due to COVID-19, conference spending reported for fiscal year (FY) 2020 totaled approximately \$9 million¹, a decrease of approximately \$22.2 million compared to FY 2019. Further, there were no conferences that exceeded \$500,000.

On June 8, 2012 (including subsequent amendments), 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, audio-visual services and equipment, conference planners (logistical and programmatic), and government-provided meals, which helps to keep conference spending within appropriate limits. The Department has reviewed OMB issued Memorandum M-17-08 on November 25, 2016, "Amending OMB Memorandum M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations," and M-17-26 on June 15, 2017, "Reducing Burden for Federal Agencies by Rescinding and Modifying OMB Memoranda", and incorporated the updated guidance starting in FY 2018.

In accordance with OMB Memorandum M-12-12 and M-17-08, the Department is making available its report entitled "Department of Justice FY 2020 Conferences With Expenses Over \$100,000." The Department held 21 conferences in excess of \$100,000 in FY 2020 compared to 57 in FY 2019.

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.

¹ 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.