

Report on Department of Justice Conference Expenses for Fiscal Year 2012

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) 2012 totaled approximately \$58.7 million¹, a decrease of approximately \$7 million, or 11 percent, compared to FY 2011. This is in addition to \$26 million saved in FY 2011 as compared to FY 2010.

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 we expect will help to keep conference spending within appropriate limits.

In accordance with Memorandum M-12-12, conferences with expenses in excess of \$100,000 are displayed in the report entitled "[Department of Justice FY 2012 Conferences With Expenses Over \\$100,000.](#)"

Please note the following about the report data:

- The report excludes core law enforcement training conducted at federal training centers or at federal facilities.
- The report includes seven events using approved estimated amounts, because final certified actual expenses have not been reported.
- The number of DOJ attendees reflects those DOJ participants who incurred travel and/or conference-related expenses. However, cost figures may include expenses incurred by non-DOJ federal participants or non-federal participants who incurred travel and/or conference-related expenses. At this time, the Department does not have information at the level of detail to distinguish costs for the two categories of participants.

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). Also, the FY 2012 spending amount of \$58.7 million includes approximately \$2.9 million for events held in FY 2011 but final expenses were not available until FY 2012.