



EQUITABLE SHARING WIRE

July 30, 2014

New Use of Funds Section for Guide to Equitable Sharing

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Equitable Sharing Program is pleased to release interim policy guidance regarding the use of equitable sharing funds. Effective immediately, the policies posted on our the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section (AFMLS) [website](#) replace the existing policies included in the DOJ *Guide to Equitable Sharing for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies* (2009) (*Guide*) Section VIII.A.1 and 2. These policies will be incorporated into the next edition of the *Guide*.

Below are highlights of some of the more significant policy changes. Click [here](#) for further details on these highlights and for other changes in the revised new Section V.

Joint Law Enforcement/Public Safety Operations – funds may now be used to construct public safety facilities and purchase multi-use public safety equipment, such as 911 call center equipment, defibrillators, and search and rescue boats that will be used by both law enforcement and non-law enforcement personnel. This provision does not include equipment to be used solely by non-law enforcement personnel, such as fire and EMS vehicles. See V.B.1.c and e

Community-based Programs – the amount of equitable sharing funds used to support community-based programs whose missions are consistent with and supportive of law enforcement efforts will no longer be based on 15 percent of the funds received within the last two fiscal years. Instead, agencies may use up to a total of \$25,000 annually to support such programs and agencies may now transfer cash to the community-based programs instead of directly purchasing or reimbursing with an itemized receipt for items. See V.B.1.1

Salaries – funds can no longer be used to pay the first year salary and benefits for positions. However, equitable sharing funds may now be used to pay overtime and match federal salary grants for non-sworn personnel. See V.3

These policy changes are only applicable to DOJ equitable sharing funds and are effective immediately. However, if an agency has committed to funding an expenditure based on policies in the April 2009 *Guide*, the expenditure will be permitted through the end of the agency's current fiscal year. Please contact the Department of the Treasury for guidance on the use of its equitable sharing funds. For questions regarding these policy changes, please send an email to afmls.aca@usdoj.gov.

We hope you find the new section more comprehensive and expansive. AFMLS continues to work with our state and local partners to ensure flexibility in spending while maintaining and promoting integrity, accountability, and transparency.

Key Contacts

Permissible Use of Funds
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Websites

Department of Justice Equitable Sharing Program
www.justice.gov/criminal/afmls/equitable-sharing/

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Treasury Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture

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