

SubjectSequestration Update for OVW Grantees and
:Cooperative Agreements

Date:Thu, 21 Mar 2013 17:01:08 -0400

From:OVW Director (JMD) <OVW.Director@usdoj.gov>

Dear Office on Violence Against Women Grantee:

As a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011, the President signed the budget sequestration order on March 1st, which requires across-the-board reductions to most Federal Government accounts. For the Department of Justice, the total reduction was \$1.67 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, which, by law, must be applied to all Department programs. This reduction will result in serious consequences for the administration of justice for our communities across the Nation. The sequestration cut OVW FY2013 funding levels by \$20 million. We understand these reductions impact all of us, including our grantees and customers in the state, local and tribal justice communities.

As I explained in my February 22nd email to OVW's grantees and cooperative agreement recipients, senior leadership throughout the Department of Justice has been working to determine how we could best manage sequestration budget reductions while protecting the Department's ability to perform its mission, including how we can best position the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to mitigate the impact on our state, local, tribal, and non-profit partners.

Sequestration budget reductions will affect FY 2013 funding levels for OVW programs across the board. Sequestration will not reduce grantee funds received in previous fiscal years.

Providing training and technical assistance to our state, local, tribal, and non-profit partners is part of OVW's core mission. However, in light of the budget environment and concerns over government spending, we have redoubled our vigilance of the expenditure of tax dollars, particularly larger expenditures, at such a critical time. As a result, and due to the restrictions on spending under the sequestration, the ability of OVW's federal staff to travel and participate in grantee meetings and events will be significantly reduced, and possibly eliminated in the near term.

For cooperative agreement recipients, newly proposed state, local, tribal, and non-profit conferences will continue to be carefully scrutinized throughout the review. We continue to strongly encourage grantees and cooperative agreement recipients to consider alternative means to achieve our collective goals, including the use of video conferencing, webinars, and other technologies when feasible. All conference

costs should be kept to the bare minimum needed to support essential business. Large conferences (including training events) with combined expenditures over \$100,000 will likely be postponed except in cases where life and safety or other mission critical needs are at risk without the event taking place at the current time.

On March 21, 2013, Congress passed a continuing resolution bill funding the Government until September 30, 2013. This will now go to the President for his signature. However, the sequestration is still in effect, and OVW remains subject to a \$20 million reduction. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and will share with you information as it becomes available.

We thank you for your work in support of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims and survivors, your partnership, and your understanding in these extraordinarily difficult times.

Sincerely,

Bea Hanson
Acting Director