Subject: Potential Budget Sequestration

Dear Office of Justice Programs Grantee:

I expect you have been monitoring the possible impacts of the potential sequestration on the future availability of federal funds. I wanted to let you know that senior leadership throughout the Department of Justice has been working hard to determine how we might best manage possible sequestration budget reductions while protecting the Department’s ability to perform its mission, including how we can best position the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to mitigate the impact on our state, local, tribal, and non-profit partners and workforce.

Should a sequestration order go into effect March 1st, over $1.6 billion would be cut from the Department’s current Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 funding level, resulting in serious consequences for the administration of justice for our communities across the Nation. The sequestration would cut OJP funding levels by about $107 million.

For grant programs, the sequestration budget reductions will affect FY 2013 funding levels for OJP programs across the board. Sequestration will not affect existing grants or cooperative agreements awarded in previous fiscal years, and we do not currently anticipate the termination of existing programs. However, we do want to make you aware of the funding reductions our grant programs may face.

I know this situation is very difficult. I want you to know that we are committed to minimizing the impact on our programs and grantees to the extent possible. I value the important work that you do, and I appreciate your dedication more than you can know. As always, your thoughts and concerns are welcome. We thank you for your work and your partnership in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Leary
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs