



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 22, 2013

To State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies:

The fiscal year (FY) 2013 budget environment is proving to be one of the most challenging ever encountered by the Asset Forfeiture Program, and the fiscal situation for FY 2014 will likely be similarly difficult. As I said in the March 5, 2013, notification regarding the potential impact of sequestration on the Program, Senior leadership throughout the Department of Justice (DOJ) has been working to achieve budget reductions while preserving the Department's ability to perform its mission by minimizing the impact on state, local and tribal partners.

Having considered all available alternatives while working to ensure the continued financial health of Assets Forfeiture Fund (AFF), the Department determined that effective May 24, 2013, and continuing for the remainder of the federal government's fiscal year (September 30, 2013), equitable sharing paid through the DOJ AFF will be reduced by 10 percent of the awarded amount. Computation of equitable shares will remain the same and determinations will be made under our pre-existing policies and guidelines.

At present, we do not anticipate that sequestration and related fiscal pressure will affect the Program's ability to reimburse expenses in joint law enforcement operations during FY 2013.

Despite this difficult time, the Department of Justice is committed to the Program and to the State, local and tribal law enforcement community that has helped to make this Program so successful. The Department remains committed to minimizing the impact on our programs and our partners to the greatest extent possible. As always, your thoughts and concerns are welcome. Please direct any correspondence to AFMLS.aca@usdoj.gov. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaikumar Ramaswamy".

Jaikumar Ramaswamy, Chief
Asset Forfeiture and Money
Laundering Section