



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

January 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

FROM:  THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Budget Implications for the Department of Justice Workforce

As many of you know, agencies across the Federal Government are facing unprecedented budget challenges. The Government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through March 4, 2011, with funding under the CR limited to last fiscal year's budget. While we do not yet know what actions will be taken to fund the Justice Department for the remainder of this fiscal year (FY), which ends September 30, 2011, there is a realistic prospect that the Department will have to operate for the entire fiscal year at last year's levels. This presents significant budget challenges, as the cost of our operations and staffing is considerably higher this year.

This week, I issued a memorandum to all Component Heads outlining the financial measures that we need to take to ensure the Department can operate through FY 2011 within our budget. Given the Department's vast size and broad responsibilities, the financial restrictions that I announced will be difficult but, given our funding constraints, are required. One of the measures that I announced was a temporary freeze on hiring. I also directed that components immediately curtail non-personnel spending unless it is necessary for essential operations.

I know that Department employees have worked hard and sacrificed much in recent years while striving to do more with less. Your efforts have led to many notable achievements and successes. I am confident that, with your help, we can continue to carry out the Department's mission and meet our critical goals and responsibilities. The actions that I have announced, including the general freeze on hiring, are designed to keep the Department operating as effectively as possible considering the budget constraints. We are taking these steps now in the hope that they will allow us to avoid more severe future measures, such as staff furloughs.

I anticipate revisiting the Department's hiring and staffing situation in the spring, once we know our likely full-year funding level. Meanwhile, I wanted you to know both our fiscal status and the actions that I am taking on behalf of the Department and its workforce. Thank you for your outstanding contributions and ongoing commitment to the Department of Justice, especially in these difficult economic times.