

Reduce Funding for Five Programs in the Department of Justice

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016-2020	2016-2025
\$787	\$790	\$791	\$800	\$819	\$838	\$855	\$879	\$896	\$912	\$3,987	\$8,367

Heritage Recommendation:

The U.S. Department of Justice has numerous departments and programs with budgets that should be reduced. Specifically:

1. The Civil Rights Division's FY 2014 appropriation of \$144 million should be reduced by 20 percent.
2. The Environmental & Natural Resources Division's FY 2014 appropriation of \$107 million should be reduced by 20 percent.
3. The Community Relations Service's FY 2014 appropriation of \$12 million should be reduced by 50 percent.
4. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives' (ATF's) FY 2014 appropriation of \$1.179 billion should be reduced by 20 percent.
5. The Discretionary Grants Programs should have a 20 percent reduction from the FY 2014 levels of \$2.096 billion.

These reductions would save \$787 million in 2016, and \$8.4 billion over 10 years.

Rationale:

A recent report by the Justice Department Inspector General described the Civil Rights Division as a dysfunctional division torn by "polarization and mistrust." It is a division that has waged a war on election integrity and filed abusive lawsuits intended to enforce progressive social ideology in areas ranging from public hiring to public education. Its budget should be significantly cut. For similar reasons, the budget of the Environmental & Natural Resources Division should also be cut, given its collusion in "sue and settle" lawsuits with extremist environmental groups.

The budget of the Community Relations Service (CRS) should be entirely eliminated. Rather than fulfilling its mandate of trying to be the "peacemaker" for community conflicts, the CRS has raised tensions in local communities in recent incidents such as the Zimmerman case in Florida. The ATF's budget should also be decreased to eliminate resources that could be used for reckless operations similar to Operation Fast & Furious. And the Discretionary Grants Programs should be significantly reduced. The Justice Department should concentrate on enforcement of federal law, not act as a budget source or substitute for state and local government or nonprofit organizations with the exception of promising, innovative state programs with measurable results in reducing crime. For similar reasons, the budget of the Office of Justice Programs should also be cut.

Additional Reading:

- Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, "Review of the Operations of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division," March 2013.
- J. Christian Adams, *Injustice: Exposing the Racial Agenda of the Obama Justice Department* (Regnery Publishing, 2011).
- John Fund and Hans von Spakovsky, *Obama's Enforcer: Eric Holder's Justice Department* (HarperCollins/Broadside, 2014).



Calculations:

Savings are expressed as budget authority and were calculated by using the FY 2014 enacted spending levels as found in Department of Justice, “Summary of Budget Authority by Appropriation,” May 26, 2014, <http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/jmd/legacy/2014/05/26/ba.pdf>. The proposed savings equal the difference between current spending and proposed spending cuts. All spending levels were increased at the same rate as growth in discretionary spending, according to the CBO’s most recent August 2014 baseline.