



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

April 6, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS

FROM:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *[Signature]*

SUBJECT:

Guidance for FY 2002 Budget Cycle

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has informed the Department that the Administration will be delivering a baseline budget submission to the Congress for FY 2002. This means that no policy-related increases will be presented at that time. Decisions on the policy-related resource requests will be left for the next Administration. While abiding by OMB's decision, I would like to provide the President a budget proposal that lays out the key criminal justice and public safety needs of the Department. To this end, I want to share with you my priorities for FY 2002, and my vision for where I see the Department of Justice heading the next few years.

★ In the near-term, as well as the future, cybercrime and counterterrorism (CT) are going to be the most challenging threats in the criminal justice area. Nowhere is the need for an up-to-date human and technical infrastructure more critical. As you know, I am currently working with our law enforcement components, as well as the Congress, to create a 5-year cybercrime plan. We all must think strategically to coordinate our resources to prevent and respond to cyber-attacks and prosecute cyber-criminals. Similarly, for CT, I consider the 5-year CT plan to be a working document for this Department and other agencies to build on. Both of these plans are a first step in acquiring adequate human and technical defenses against terrorism and cyber-crime.

In addition, over 550,000 convicted offenders return to their communities each year; many of these prior offenders are ill-prepared to live their lives free of crime. Historically, 66 percent of prior offenders commit crimes within 3 years. Furthermore, over 70 percent of prisoners have a history of drug abuse. These are truly frightening numbers. We must channel our energy and resources towards what the Federal Government can do as a matter of public safety to help communities deal with this enormous problem.

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Base funding among many components has been a lingering problem. I know that most of you could use more staff. But, presenting staffing levels for which we have no funding is not good budgeting. Our goal is to submit a budget that includes base positions and workyears that components can fully fund with base resources. Positions that cannot be funded should be eliminated from the budget. Therefore, I expect you to take this opportunity to review your base budgets. I will also direct the Assistant Attorney General for Administration to focus his staff's efforts to ensure that component base budgets accurately reflect programs and resource levels. Presenting an accurate budget to the Congress, and adhering to that budget once appropriations are enacted, is the basis for sound financial management.

I strongly encourage you to limit your requests to only those items that are truly priorities. The crosscutting budget exercise should help you avoid budgetary overlap and define the highest priorities that merit funding. Experience has shown that, of the long lists of requests we generally present to OMB each year, only a few items are ultimately funded. Limiting your requests will highlight what we really need, and will allow your staff to spend its time on managing the resources that you have already been provided, and on developing thorough justifications for priority enhancement requests.

We will not have formal budget hearings this summer, but I look forward to discussing your FY 2002 requests in the coming months at the crosscutting initiative briefings and at regularly scheduled component meetings. By articulating our needs for FY 2002, we will establish a strong foundation for the policy-related requests of the next Administration, and we can set the stage for criminal justice improvements for the years to come.