

Department of Labor Conference Report Fiscal Year 2014

Through a review process that involves the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, and the Office of the Solicitor, DOL cleared 172 request packages which had total costs of over \$5.7 million to the Department for the 2014 Fiscal Year. Within the 172 packages were 34 blanket requests that contained two or more similar conferences.

DOL hosted a variety of conferences and trainings throughout the year ranging from:

- Prevailing Wage Seminars that provide outreach and compliance assistance to stakeholders who are unfamiliar with the prevailing wage rates practices.
- Workforce Information Council Meetings to plan, guide, and oversee the nationwide workforce information system.
- National Leadership Meetings designed to set the stage for the agency's significant initiatives for the next fiscal year, including organizational and management goals that are critical for the agency's successful implementation of its operating plan.

If there are any questions concerning this reporting, or if additional information is required, please contact Robert Balin, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, at Balin.Robert@dol.gov.

Department of Labor Conferences over \$100,000 in costs to the Department

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration

Conference Title: Managers' Conference

Conference Expenses: \$223,698.57

Location: Atlanta, GA

Date: April 28 - May 2, 2014

Explanation: The purpose of the conference was to ensure that EBSA could effectively achieve our outcome goal of "improving health benefits and retirement security for all workers" in support of the Secretary's strategic vision of promoting and protecting opportunity. The event provided EBSA a mechanism to discuss administrative, technical and legal issues with its managers, and it assisted the agency in accomplishing the goals established in the FY 2014 Operating Plan. EBSA devotes considerable resources to ensuring that its management cadre is (1) knowledgeable about the varied aspects of administering a very complicated financial regulatory statute and (2) well-versed in techniques/approaches for managing a large organization-and this annual training conference was a key part of that effort. The topics planned for the conference were clearly directed at supporting the agency's strategic goal, achieving production goals and improving both mission accomplishment and individual performance.

Total Number of Participants: 196

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General

Conference Title: Continuing Professional Education Conference

Conference Expenses: \$224,873

Location: National Conference Center, Leesburg, VA

Date: 8/11/2014-8/15/2014

Explanation: This conference provided 40 hours of Continuing Professional Education to Office of Inspector General (OIG) auditors and staff for just over \$1,828 per participant. This professional training requirement is mandated by GAO's Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) for the OIG to maintain its audit accreditation.

Total Number of Participants: 123

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division
Conference Title: National Planning Leadership Team Meeting
Conference Expenses: \$380,382.88
Location: Kansas City, MO
Date: May 19-23, 2014

Explanation: The National Planning Leadership Team Meeting is a critical component of the (WHD) planning and evaluation cycle for establishing agency priorities and activities for the upcoming fiscal year. The May planning meeting will serve the following purposes: reinforce the Agency Head's vision for the organization; establish the implementation plan of the Operating Plan for fiscal year 2015 which incorporates Departmental expectations for performance goals, planning and evaluation; evaluate the agency's performance against the fiscal year 2014 commitments; and roll out the agency's significant enforcement initiatives for the next fiscal year including organizational and management goals that are critical for the agency's successful implementation of its operating plan. In addition, WHD is launching a major modernization effort which will entail evaluating and revamping business processes across the organization. This meeting will be an opportunity to fully present on this effort to the entire agency management team.

Total Number of Participants: 252

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division
Conference Title: Basic II Training
Conference Expenses: \$135,418.01
Location: Virginia Beach, VA
Date: May 12 – May 23, 2014

Explanation: This training is a required course intended for investigators who have accumulated at least 12 months of investigative experience following the Basic I Training. Investigators complete a series of pre-Basic II activities before attending the class. This final face-to-face training enables participants to conduct investigations beyond provisions covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Facilitated by agency experts, the training focuses on advanced regulatory knowledge and investigative skills. The curriculum addresses Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, the Service Contract Act, Agriculture-related Acts, provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act. The training also addresses outreach and education practices that support compliance of WHD enforced labor laws.

Total Number of Participants: 55

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division
Conference Title: Basic I Training
Conference Expenses: \$288,019.77
Location: Virginia Beach, VA
Date: January 27 – February 14, 2014

Explanation: This required training is for new WHD investigators who have completed 12-weeks of pre-class course work comprised of online modules, readings, and on-the-job training. With a focus on enforcing provisions outlined in the Fair Labor Standards Act, this course provides classroom instruction from agency experts who provide a nationally standardized training experience. During the training, new investigators are given an opportunity to receive immediate feedback on enforcement and regulatory questions prior to their conducting of independent investigations. Trainees also complete two simulated investigations that reinforce proper investigative procedures under the close supervision of experienced facilitators.

Total Number of Participants: 89