**1. Justice Department (1870)**

**Represents the US in the Legal System**

* The mission of the Department of Justice (DOJ) is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law;
* To ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic;
* To provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime;
* To seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior;
* And to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.
* The world's largest law office and the central agency for the enforcement of federal laws.

**Led by the Attorney General**- Eric Holder

* He is the chief law enforcement officer of the federal government.
* The Attorney General represents the United States in legal matters, advises the President and the heads of the executive departments of the government,
* And occasionally appears in person before the Supreme Court.

The DOJ is comprised of 40 component organizations, including these.

* **FBI: investigate violations of Federal la**ws
  + **Bureau of Prisons**
* **ATF: US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms**
* **DEA: Drug Enforcement Administration**

**2. Interior Department (1849)**

**Manages our nation’s lands and resources**

* the nation's principal conservation agency. Its mission is to protect America's natural resources, offer recreation opportunities, conduct scientific research
* DOI manages 500 million acres of surface land, or about one-fifth of the land in the United States

Agencies within the DOI include:

* **National Parks Service**
  + **Manages millions of acres of national parks**
* **Fish and Wildlife Services**
* **Bureau of Indian Affairs**
* One responsibility of the DOI is to honor our trust responsibilities to American Indians

**3. Department of Agriculture (1862)**

**Helps farmers and consumers of agricultural products**

* Develops and executes policy on farming, agriculture, and food.
* Its goals include meeting the needs of farmers and ranchers, promoting agricultural trade and production, assuring food safety, protecting natural resources, fostering rural communities, and ending hunger in America and abroad.

It consists of 17 agencies including:

**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**Food and Nutrition Service**

**Agricultural Research**

**Farmer’s Home Administration**

**Soil Conservation**

**Forest Service**

**4. Department of Commerce (1903)**

**Promotes the economy and business interests of the nation**

* Government agency tasked with improving living standards for all Americans by promoting economic development and technological innovation.
* The department supports U.S. business and industry through a number of services including:
  + Gathering economic and demographic data,
  + Issuing patents and trademarks,
  + Improving understanding of the environment and oceanic life,
  + And ensuring the effective use of scientific and technical resources.
  + The agency also formulates telecommunications and technology policy, and promotes U.S. exports by assisting and enforcing international trade agreements.

**Census Bureau**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**Bureau of Standards**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**National Weather Service**

**5. Department of Labor (1913)**

**Protects the interests of laborers and employers in the nation**

- mission is to foster and promote the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees

- oversees federal programs for ensuring a strong American workforce. These programs address job training, safe working conditions, minimum hourly wage and overtime pay, employment discrimination, and unemployment insurance.

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**: promotes the safety and health of America's working men and women.

**Unemployment Insurance**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**: federal government's principal statistics agency for labor economics

**6. Department of Health and Human Services (1953)**

**Works for the well being of the public**

* government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.
* Agencies of HHS conduct health and social science research, work to prevent disease outbreaks, assure food and drug safety, and provide health insurance.

**Medicare and Medicaid**

**Medical care for the elderly and the poor**

- together provide health insurance to one in four Americans

**Public Health Service**

**Center for Disease Control**

**Food and Drug Administration**

**7. Department of Housing and Urban Development (1965)**

**Deals with special problems faced in urban areas**

* Responsible for national policies and programs that address America's housing needs, that improve and develop the nation's communities, and that enforce fair housing laws. The Department plays a major role in supporting homeownership for lower- and moderate-income families through its mortgage insurance and rent subsidy programs.
* Offices within HUD include:
  + The Federal Housing Administration, which provides mortgage and loan insurance;
  + The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, which ensures all Americans equal access to the housing of their choice;
  + And the Community Development Block Grant Program, which helps communities with economic development, job opportunities, and housing rehabilitation. HUD also administers public housing and homeless assistance.

**Mostly distributes federal funds to urban areas in order to:**

**Rebuild slums**

**Improve neighborhoods**

**Build low-income housing**

**8. Department of Transportation (1966)**

**Manages and oversees the nation’s transportation**

* Ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people.

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

**National Transportation Safety Board**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**9. Department of Energy (1977)**

**Manages the nation’s energy resources and tries to promote wise usage of energy**

* Promotes America's energy security by encouraging the development of reliable, clean, and affordable energy.
* It administers federal funding for scientific research to further the goal of discovery and innovation — ensuring American economic competitiveness and improving the quality of life for Americans.

**Regulates energy related industries**

**Oversees nuclear power industry**: The DOE is also tasked with ensuring America's nuclear security, and with protecting the environment by providing a responsible resolution to the legacy of nuclear weapons production.

**10. Department of Education (1979)**

**Offers advise and assistance to states**

* The mission of the Department of Education is to promote student achievement and preparation for competition in a global economy by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access to educational opportunity.
* administers federal financial aid for education, collects data on America's schools to guide improvements in education quality, and works to complement the efforts of state and local governments, parents, and students.

**Gives grants and funds projects designed to improve education**

**No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Race to the Top**

**Federal regulations concerning the measurement of school performance**

**11. Department of Veteran’s Affairs (1988)**

**Manages the system of benefits for the veterans of our armed forces**

* Responsible for administering benefit programs for veterans, their families, and their survivors. These benefits include pension, education, disability compensation, home loans, life insurance, vocational rehabilitation, survivor support, medical care, and burial benefits.
* There are about 25 million veterans alive today
* About a quarter of the nation's population — approximately 70 million people — are potentially eligible for V.A. benefits and services because they are veterans, family members, or survivors of veterans.

**Veteran’s Hospitals**

**12. Department of Homeland Security (2003)**

**Purpose is to protect the security of America from threats**

* prevent and disrupt terrorist attacks; protect the American people, our critical infrastructure, and key resources; and respond to and recover from incidents that do occur.
* The third largest Cabinet department
* DHS was established largely in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
* The new department consolidated 22 executive branch agencies, including the U.S. Customs Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Secret Service, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**Secret Service**

**Coast Guard**

**Immigration**

**Customs**

**Transportation Security Administration**

**FEMA**