

POSSIBLE PROGRAM TERMINATIONS & CONSOLIDATIONS

GENERAL MISMANAGEMENT

Unneeded and Unused Property

The federal government currently owns 55,557 buildings that are “not utilized or underutilized,” with a collective value of \$96 billion, according to OMB. A 2007 OMB study found that the value of unused federal buildings is roughly \$18 billion. Taxpayers must pick up the cost to maintain these properties that serve no purpose. In addition to the millions of dollars in unnecessary maintenance costs, billions of dollars in revenues could be generated simply by selling off these unnecessary holdings.

Wasteful Printing and Publication

Thousands of copies of the Congressional Record are printed every day. Every member of the Senate receives numerous copies every morning, many of which are never opened or read. It will cost more than \$28 million this year to publish the Congressional Record, even though it is publicly available online. Congress spends more than \$4 million on other publications every year, such as the House and Senate Journals. These represent just a fraction of the cost of publications printed by the federal government that could be reduced by limiting the number of copies produced. In addition to mass produced government publications, civilian federal employees spend about \$440 million for printing considered to be “unnecessary,” which amounts to more than \$1 million a day.

Bogus Bonuses for Failed Contractors

Every year, federal agencies award billions of dollars on bonuses, or “award fees,” to federal contractors for projects that go over budget or fail to meet basic performance requirements. The Department of Defense alone paid \$8 billion in unwarranted bonuses to contractors for programs with severe cost overruns, performance problems, and delays between 1999 and 2004. Likewise, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pays more than \$312 million per year in bonuses to nursing homes that provide below average care and have past violations of health-and-safety regulations. Prohibiting the payment of bonuses and award fees to contractors for shoddy work could save billions of dollars every year.

Unpaid Taxes Owed by Federal Employees

Federal employees have failed to pay \$3 billion in federal taxes. This includes nearly \$2.5 million owed by employees of the U.S. Senate. It is commonsense to require federal employees to act responsibly with their taxpayer-funded salaries and comply with the law by fully paying their taxes.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Action Program (\$5 million)

The Forest Service administers the Economic Action Program provides technical and financial assistance to forest communities. The president’s FY 2010 budget called for the elimination of the program, as it duplicates existing USDA programs (Urban and Community Forestry) and has been poorly managed.

Foreign Market Development Program (\$24 million)

The Foreign Market Development Program works with agricultural trade associations and groups representing the commodity sellers to market their goods in foreign countries. The program is duplicative of the Foreign Agriculture Service’s Market Access Program, which also works to market American goods in foreign countries. In addition, elimination of the fund was included in the president’s FY 2010 federal budget.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Telecommunications Facilities Grant Program (\$18 million)

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Grant Program (PTFP) is intended to help public broadcasting stations construct telecom facilities. Since the transition to digital broadcasting has been completed, there is no need for this program according to the president, who recommended in his FY 2010 and FY 2011 budget eliminating PTFP. According to OMB, the program's primary purpose has become obsolete and funding public broadcasting would be duplicative. Yet, last year, this program received \$18 million in appropriations. This program is duplicative of other federal efforts including USDA's grants to rural public broadcasting stations, the Department of Commerce's new \$5 billion Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, and the federal funding given to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for various activities to promote and stabilize public broadcasting.

Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (\$125 million)

The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (HMEP) is intended to improve the performance of U.S. businesses. HMEP is nothing more than a corporate welfare program founded to offer "services that are also provided by private entities" through non-profit extension centers to help manufacturers. Elimination of the program was included in the Congressional Budget Office's August 2009 Budget Options, which stated, "Proponents of this option question whether it is appropriate or necessary for the government to provide technical assistance such as that offered by the HMEP program... The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has noted that survey results from the Modernization Forum indicate that about half of the partnership's clients believe the services they obtained from HMEP are available other places, although at a higher cost." The program is also duplicative of the Small Business Administration's Small Business Development Centers, which are meant to service small businesses in achieving economic success with consulting advice they may not be able to afford.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Eliminate DOD-Run Commissaries, Provide Grocery Allowance (\$157 million)

DoD currently administers separate agencies that sell groceries and retail goods on military bases. The Defense Commissary Agency operates grocery stores (commissaries), while retail goods are sold by the Army and Air Force Exchange, the Navy Exchange, and the Marine Corps Exchange. Since these agencies are separate but perform similar functions, they each operate duplicative overhead headquarters and staff. Consolidation of the commissaries and exchanges is estimated to save millions per year, a portion of which would be paid to members of the Armed Forces as an additional cash benefit (grocery allowance), to be spent at the new agency or in their local community at commercial grocery and retail stores or online.

National Guard Local Anti-Drug Enforcement Activities (\$15 million)

The Army and Air National Guard work with local law enforcement agencies on interdiction and anti-drug activities. These programs range from the utilization of helicopters to aid in interdiction of drug transport and sale to mentorship programs by soldiers and airmen to give an anti-drug message to youth. This program duplicates the work of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), funded at more than \$1.5 billion in FY 2010, and providing \$6 million to local law enforcement to enforce drug laws and interdict drug trafficking.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ready-to-Learn Television (\$25 million)

Despite receiving a 2004 PART assessment of *Results Not Demonstrated* – the most recent PART available –

Ready-to-Learn Television received over \$25 million in FY 2009. This program supports educational television programming for preschool and early education students, and the development of complimentary support materials and services. According to the PART assessment, “The program has not been able to measure results. It lacks an efficiency measure and long-term performance measures, as well as performance targets and data.” The president’s FY 2011 budget did not provide funding for this program, calling for the elimination and consolidation of duplicative Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs.

Civic Education Grants (\$35 million)

The Department of Education awards grants to the Center for Civic Education to facilitate civic education within the United States and foreign countries, primarily through the *We the People Program* and the *Cooperative Civic Education and Economic Exchange Program*. The president called for the elimination of this program in both his FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets. While well-intentioned, this program is a liability to the federal government, to the extent that a November 2009 Department of Education Inspector General recommends that the Department consider designating the program as a “high-risk” grantee. The report found that the Center for Civic Education did not administer the program in compliance with the law governing grant awards and “did not have a financial management system that met required standards for administering federal education grants.”

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Science to Achieve Results Grant Program (\$60 million)

Funded at over \$60 million annually, the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant program funds scientific and engineering research at academic and nonprofit institutions. This research duplicates the billions of federal dollars for research throughout the university system. Eliminating STAR was included in the Congressional Budget Office’s August 2009 Budget Options document, which stated “STAR’s research on water quality, land use, and wildlife is similar to work done in other federal agencies.” OMB also found that the program’s coordination with other EPA offices and other agencies was inadequate to ensure that the agencies had access to research findings; [and] that the program had not shown “adequate progress toward achieving long-term goals.”

Consolidate Vehicle Technology Programs (\$273 million)

The Department of Energy administers the Vehicle Technologies program funded at \$273 million in 2009 and \$334 million in 2010. This program seeks technology breakthroughs to reduce highway transportation petroleum use by developing technologies for hybrid, plug-in hybrid, fuel cell, and advanced efficiency vehicles. The program duplicates other DoE efforts, including the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loans Program, funded at \$7.51 billion in FY 2009, and the Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, funded at \$43 million in FY 2009. Also, the stimulus provided \$6 billion additional funds to support \$60 billion in loan guarantees.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Improvement Facilities and Other Projects Program (\$338 million)

HHS operates a non-competitive, highly earmarked program through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for “health care facilities and activities.” The program significantly duplicates existing efforts within both HRSA and HHS. During a review in 2005, the Office of Management and Budget found the program is “highly duplicative of other Federal, state, and private efforts,” and provides funding to “organizations that also receive funds for the same purpose through other HRSA programs, Medicare and Medicaid capital payments, NIH, the Federal Housing Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.”

Community Transformation Grants (\$220 million)

The recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act authorized a new grant program to “establish community makeover plans” that include “a detailed plan that includes the policy, environmental, programmatic, and infrastructure changes needed to promote healthy living.” Many pointed out that instead of real health reform, these funds would pay for sidewalks and jungle gyms. Just recently, the Senate appropriations committee set aside \$220 million for these grants in their version of the FY 2011 Labor/HHS appropriations bill. The program is duplicative of a myriad of other government programs, and the authority for these grants is written very broadly, likely allowing for questionable uses of taxpayer funding.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Emergency Operations Center Grant Program (\$60 million)

Funded at \$60 million annually, the Homeland Security’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program was originally designed to support local emergency preparedness efforts, targeting areas of specific need in each state and locality. Unfortunately, the earmarking of EOC funds has significantly reduced the program’s effectiveness in enhancing our national security. In addition, the program is duplicative of other Homeland Security efforts, including the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program, which allows funds to be used for the construction of Emergency Operations Centers across the country. The president’s FY 2010 budget called for the program’s termination, stating that its “focus was compromised, and by 2009, 60 percent of the EOC grant funds were congressional earmarks not allocated by merit-based criteria.”

Citizens Corps Program (\$12.5 million)

The Citizen Corps Programs is designed to bring community and government leaders together to coordinate community involvement in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery. The program is duplicative of numerous other federal and state efforts, including the State Homeland Security Program, funded at \$950 billion in FY 2010, which can be used by state and local governments to coordinate community involvement in preparedness and response efforts.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Brownfields Economic Development (\$17 million)

The Brownfields Economic Development Initiative is a grant program that provides funding to cities for economic development of buildings in industrial districts. The program is duplicative of numerous federal programs providing billions of dollars to states and cities for economic development, including the Community Development Block Grant and the EPA’s Superfund Development, which is funded at over \$1 billion annually. The president’s FY 2010 budget proposed the termination of this program, stating, “While these are very important objectives, the program is very small, and local governments have access to other public and private funds. ...By terminating this program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is also able to reduce the administrative workload associated with managing a small and duplicative program.”

NeighborWorks America (\$183 million)

The NeighborWorks America program is a public nonprofit organization tasked with managing a group of locally initiated and operated organizations working on low-income housing and neighborhood revitalization. The program was included in the CBO 2009 Budget Options, which outlines that “the federal government should not fund programs that primarily benefit local communities, [and] it is a relatively minor source of funding for NeighborWorks Organizations.” Also, federal funding for this effort is duplicative of other HUD programs and government initiatives dedicated to community development, low-income housing assistance and revitalization.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Preserve America Grant Program (\$5 million)

Established in 2003, the Preserve America Grant Program funds tourism and education related to preserving America's heritage, as well as historic preservation planning. The Department of the Interior, however, oversees multiple, overlapping historic preservation programs. Additionally, *every* federal agency is required to maintain a historic preservation program and must appoint a historic preservation officer and comply with the National Historic Preservation Act. In his FY 2011 budget, the president called for eliminating the program, stating the program has not demonstrated how it contributes to national historic preservation goals and lacks the oversight and performance metrics needed to determine its effectiveness.

Abandoned Mine Land Discretionary Grants Program (\$20 million)

This program was established to help clean up abandoned mines. The program was targeted for a reduction in the president's FY 2010 budget because it duplicates other federal efforts. According to OMB's analysis, these activities "can now be done by states and tribes using new federal mandatory funding, making these discretionary funds duplicative and no longer needed." In 2006, funding was dramatically increased for the Abandoned Mine Land program for States and Tribes, including new mandatory funding reclamation grants, totaling \$369 million in 2010, an increase of 183 percent, over 2007 levels. While only \$3.5 million was appropriated for this grant program for FY10, \$14 million in carryover funds from the previous year's appropriation of \$20 million was added to this appropriation.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Weed and Seed (\$25 million)

The federal "Weed and Seed" program provides funding to local communities for the purpose of reducing crime and "improving the neighborhood." While well-intentioned, the program is duplicative of numerous other DOJ efforts including the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program, Community Oriented Policing Services, and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, all of which provide billions of dollars to communities to help address local crime. In addition, program funding is often used by grant recipients for questionable purposes that have not demonstrated results, such as rafting trips, dance classes, and nutrition workshops. For example, in North Carolina, a free "Shred-a-thon," where locals were invited to bring up to one box load of old bank statements, bills, and outdated personal papers to be transformed into mulch for the local community. While many of these events may have been fun or even educational recreational events for children, adolescents, and teenagers, it is difficult to demonstrate how these differ from activities funded by other federal grants or how they may have actually had a positive impact on reducing crime in an area.

National Drug Intelligence Center (\$44 million)

Every year, millions of dollars for our national defense are siphoned away from the military's budget to pay for a single congressional earmark administered not by the Pentagon, but by the Department of Justice. This funding is directed to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), which the DOJ has asked Congress to shut down. DOJ believes the drug center's operations are duplicative and that reassigning NDIC's responsibilities would improve the management of counter-drug intelligence activities, allowing for funds to be spent on hiring additional drug enforcement officers.

NDIC has drained more than half a billion dollars to date from national defense, even though it has little to do with national defense and is administered by the DOJ. It is unacceptable to misuse or misdirect defense dollars needed to protect our nation and our men and women in uniform to pay for unnecessary and duplicative projects.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics' International Labor Comparison (\$2 million)

The International Labor Comparison program compares international statistic in the areas of employment, compensation, and productivity, for purposes of producing compensation studies based on their international comparisons. The president's FY 2011 budget called for the elimination of the program, stating that its papers and reports are not widely utilized.

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (\$84 million)

This program provides training and other employment development services to low-income youth and families who are migrant and seasonal farmworkers. It is highly duplicative of other federal efforts and has the same purpose as the \$18 million Migrant Education's High School Equivalency Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Education, which helps migratory and seasonal farmworkers (or children of) obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma and subsequently gain employment or being postsecondary education or training. In addition to these programs, the Department of Education also administers numerous programs aimed at developing the education and skills of migrant youth: Migrant Education—Basic State Formula Grants; Migrant Education—College Assistance Migrant Program; Migrant Education Coordination—Grants and Contracts; Migrant Education Program—Even Start; and Migrant Student Information Exchange.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Asia Foundation (\$16 million)

The Asia Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in the 60s to strengthen civil society in Asia. The Asia Foundation funds exchanges where Americans live and work in Asia, as well as a Congressional Fellowship Program. Clearly this is no longer a federal priority or even necessary as the United States has an excellent relationship with many countries in Asia.

Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Program (\$20 million)

Taxpayers lose \$20 million a year for tropical forest and coral conservation funding. This act forgives debts owed the United States by developing countries in exchange for the preservation of significant tropical forests and coral reefs in other countries.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Enhancement Grants for Scenic Beautification and Landscaping Projects (\$212 million)

While highways and bridges across the country are crumbling, the Government Accountability Office found that from 2004 to 2008, \$850 million in federal transportation funds were spent on "Enhancement Grants" for 2,772 landscaping and other scenic beautification projects. These projects include flowers, museums, bike trails, and road-kill reduction projects and are intended to "enhance the transportation experience." These expenditures were made at the same time that the Highway Trust Fund is being drained and critical infrastructure continues to be in disrepair. Prohibiting federal highway funds to be spent on these projects, or at least giving states the option to not fund these projects, would likely save over \$200 million and allow scarce highway trust funds to be spent on highways and bridges in poor condition.

Rail Line Relocation Program (\$34 million)

The Rail Line Relocation Program was intended to provide funding to communities along moving rail lines to be used for "community quality of life," safety efforts, and economic development. The president has repeatedly called for the elimination of this program, outlining that it "play a relatively minor role in improving rail safety," as it is duplicative of a \$220 million annual funding stream dedicated to improving highway-rail grade crossings—part of a \$1.4 billion highway safety program. In addition, funds used for economic

development are duplicative of numerous other community development programs spread across several agencies.

MISCELLANEOUS

Congressional Pilot Program for Postcard Mailings (\$500,000)

In the FY 2010 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, Congress approved \$500,000 for a pilot program for postcard mailings by senators “for the purpose of providing notice of a town meeting by a senator in a county at which the senator will personally attend.” This is certainly not a priority in a time of budget shortfalls and Congress must be willing to look at its own budget and lead by example in cutting excessive spending.

Political Science Division at NSF (\$11 million)

The National Science Foundation spent \$112 million over the last 10 years on political science and \$325 million last year alone on social studies and economics. These funds could have been directed to other higher-priority NSF efforts, such as the study of biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. Most of the projects funded through the political science division are simply not appropriate uses of federal taxpayer funding.

Presidential Election Campaign Fund (\$52 million)

The Presidential Election Campaign Fund uses taxpayer funding to pay for the presidential candidate nominating conventions. These week-long parties, which are now almost entirely ceremonial and not actually needed because of early primary voting, are held every four years to announce each party’s presidential nominee. Elimination of the fund was included in the Congressional Budget Office’s August 2009 Budget Options document, which stated, “Supporters of this option also dispute the need to give public funding either to the already well-financed major parties and their candidates or to the minor parties and candidates, which historically have little chance of success.”

DUPLICATION IN THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

The federal government operates nearly 70 programs costing tens of billions of dollars annually that provide domestic food assistance, many of which overlap and are inefficient and without evidence to demonstrate their effectiveness, according to a review conducted by GAO.¹

There are over 14 programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education related to foreign exchanges and designed to increase opportunities for students to study abroad.²

According to GAO, to the tune of \$30 billion, the federal government funds more than 44 job training programs, administered by nine different federal agencies across the federal bureaucracy.³

The federal government administers at least 20 federal programs across 12 different federal offices and agencies, dedicated to the study of invasive species.⁴

There are at least 17 offender reentry programs across five different federal agencies, costing taxpayers over \$250 million annually.⁵

¹ Government Accountability Office, “Domestic Food Assistance: Complex System Benefits Millions, but Additional Efforts Could Address Potential Inefficiency and Overlap Among Smaller Programs,” April 2010, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10346.pdf>

² Office of Senator Coburn, Department of Education Duplication, Page 4: http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=9bff5007-4e83-4f55-ac10-dfad373f6611.

³ Government Accountability Office, “Multiple Employment and Training Programs: Funding and Performance Measures for Major Programs,” April 2003, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03589.pdf>

⁴ Office of Senator Coburn, Department of Interior Duplication, Page 2, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=7dbc4b34-4c68-4c73-b9dd-2a188b6060f9.

According to GAO report found 69 early education programs administered by nine different agencies.⁶ A 2005 GAO review of this report found 69 early education programs exist, the same number as in 2000, but the programs are now administered by 10 different agencies.⁷

A May 2007 report of the Academic Competitiveness Council revealed there are at least 105 federal programs supporting science, technology, education, and math education, with aggregate funding of \$3.12 billion in FY 2006.⁸

There are at least nine federal programs tasked with researching and developing biofuels, costing taxpayers nearly \$300 million annually, and over \$800 million was included in the Stimulus bill for these initiatives.⁹

The federal government oversees at least 12 different preservation programs, costing taxpayers nearly \$100 million annually.¹⁰

OTHER RESOURCES

For more detailed examples of government waste, federal duplication, and potential budgetary savings, please visit the following links.

[The Pork Report: Billions of Dollars in Examples of Wasteful Government Spending](#)

[Oversight Reports, including “Party at the DOJ,” “Bad Medicine,” and The Stimulus Checkups](#)

[Federal Waste, Mismanagement, and Duplication, by Government Agency](#)

[President’s FY 2011, Terminations, Reductions, and Savings](#)

[CBO Budget Options, August 2009](#)

⁵ Office of Senator Coburn, Page 1, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=e29a3472-3703-40d7-b8f9-b088ee145a5f.

⁶ Government Accountability Office, “Early Education and Care: Overlap Indicates Needs to Assess Crosscutting Programs,” April 2000, <http://www.legistorm.com/showFile/L2xzX3Njb3JlL2dhby9wZGYvMjAwMC80/ful30911.pdf>.

⁷ Government Accountability Office, “GAO Update on the Number of Prekindergarten Care and Education Programs,” June 2005, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05678r.pdf>.

⁸ Report of the Academic Competitiveness Council, May 2007, <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/acc-mathscience/report.pdf>

⁹ Office of Senator Coburn, Department of Agriculture Duplication, Page 2, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=3ddef553-bd28-4bf7-bd15-17779b7d06f0.

¹⁰ Office of Senator Coburn, Department of Interior Duplication, Page 1, http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=7dbc4b34-4c68-4c73-b9dd-2a188b6060f9.