

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (krysta.harden@usda.gov)

The Hon. Thomas Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jamie L. Whitten Building
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (aboyd@doc.gov)

The Hon. Gary Locke
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1400 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 5852
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (elizabeth.king@osd.mil)

The Hon. Robert Gates
U.S. Department of Defense
Pentagon
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (gabriella.gomez@ed.gov)

The Hon. Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
Lyndon Baines Johnson Building
400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 7W301
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (jeff.lane@hq.doe.gov)

The Hon. Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
James V. Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave. SW, Room 7A-257
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (jim.esquea@hhs.gov)

The Hon. Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 120F
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (nelson.peacock@dhs.gov)

The Hon. Janet Napolitano
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,”

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (bernard.b.fulton@hud.gov)

The Hon. Shaun Donovan
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Robert C. Weaver Building
451 7th St. SW, Room 10000
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (christopher_mansour@ios.doi.gov)

The Hon. Kenneth Salazar
U.S. Department of Interior
Stewart L. Udall Building
1849 C St. NW, Room 6156
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (kennedy.brian@dol.gov)

The Hon. Hilda Solis
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Ave. NW, Room S-2018
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (danishgarf@state.gov)

The Hon. Hillary Clinton
U.S. Department of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C St. NW, Room 7226
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (robert.letteney@dot.gov)

The Hon. Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (kim.wallace@do.treas.gov)

The Hon. Timothy Geithner
U.S. Department of Treasury
Treasury Building
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Room 3330
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Geithner:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (joan.evans@va.gov)

The Hon. Eric Shinseki
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Affairs Building
810 Vermont Ave. NW, Room 1000
Washington, DC 20420

Dear General Shinseki:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (ronald.weich@usdoj.gov)

The Hon. Eric Holder
U.S. Department of Justice
Robert F. Kennedy Building
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Room 5111
Washington, DC 20530

Dear General Holder:

With our national debt poised to reach its \$14.3 trillion limit within the very near future, taxpayers expect us to work together to reduce wasteful and unnecessary spending and be more vigilant about how we spend public funds.

It makes sense to begin by examining cuts in spending where federal funding has exceeded the need or ability to spend the amount provided.

Up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year according to a recent financial analysis by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”^[1] “This is a lot of money and much of it is sitting there gathering dust,” notes Stanley J. Czerwinski, GAO’s director for strategic issues.^[2]

Some of these grants, totaling millions of dollars, have remained unspent for decades. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts has received \$135 million in federal funds for bike and pedestrian projects since 1991, of which it has spent little more than \$51 million, according to *The Boston Globe*. That means nearly two-thirds of the funds provided in the last two decades by Congress to the state for such projects remain unspent.^[3]
- San Diego, California has received so much Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) it has

^[1] “GRANTS MANAGEMENT; Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts,” Government Accountability Office, August 2009, Page 10; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08432.pdf> .

^[2] Miles Moffeit, “Unspent federal grants included millions to Colo.,” The Denver Post, January 23, 2009; http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11532743 .

^[3] Alan Wirzbicki, “\$80m in US funds for bike projects unspent in Mass.; State ranks last, tapping 37% of grants since 1991,” The Boston Globe, April 14, 2009; http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/ .

been unable to spend it. “Last year the city got more than \$16 million—but it didn’t spend it. Some of the grant money has been sitting on the books for nearly 20 years,” according to KPBS Public Broadcasting. The report, entitled “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” also noted “the city currently has a \$30 million balance in its federal line of credit.”^[4]

- In Sioux City, Iowa, \$386,429 of a federal Urban Development Action grant awarded in the 1980s remains unspent. “Money in the fund has not been used for five or six years,” according to *The Sioux City Journal*.^[5]
- About \$5 billion of the estimated \$19.5 billion during the eRate program’s first nine years was not spent, according to a 2009 report from the GAO. Some of these funds, intended for schools and libraries, date back as far as 1998.^[6]

We respectfully request that you provide an itemized list of all grant funds, both appropriated and mandatory, provided by the Department in any fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 2002 that remain unspent. For each grant, please provide the amount of unspent funds, the program from which the grant was awarded, and the year(s) in which the funds were provided.

We request that this information be provided to our offices in a searchable electronic format no later than April 4, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper

^[4] Joanne Faryon, “An Unlikely Problem For San Diego: Too Much Money,” KPBS Public Broadcasting, February 2, 2011; <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/feb/02/unlikely-problem-sd-too-much-money-bank/>.

^[5] Lynn Zerschling, “Museum gets \$150K city grant to replace panels,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 16, 2010; http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_55664001-4d1d-5d82-a5ca-cbb047a57b27.html.

^[6] Dennis Pierce, “Unused eRate funding totals billions; More than 25 percent of funding commitments are not claimed, GAO says,” *eSchool News*, May 19, 2009; <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=58762>.