



GAO Finds More Than \$400 Billion Spent Each Year On 1,500 Duplicative, Fragmented, Inefficient Programs

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its annual report on government duplication today. This is the second year of a three-year process, during which the GAO will comprehensively review the federal government to identify duplication, fragmentation, and waste. Since the review's inception, GAO has found **66 areas of duplication** encompassing **over 1,500 individual programs**.

This year, GAO identified **32 new areas of duplication** and **19 additional areas of waste and inefficiency**. The report cites duplication in almost **a thousand individual programs, costing taxpayers over \$300 billion per year**. This is on top of more than \$100 billion identified in last year's report. Examples include:

- **\$3 billion** spent on over 200 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education programs. GAO stated that since 2005, when it first looked at this issue, **“the majority of [STEM] programs have not conducted comprehensive evaluations of how well their programs are working.”**
- **37 uncoordinated EPA laboratories** and **94 “green building” programs** for which costs cannot be determined because “information agencies provided was incomplete and unreliable.”
- **\$736 million** spent on 14 different diesel emissions programs and federal funding for 55 surface freight transportation programs.
- **160 various housing assistance programs** at a cost of **\$170 billion annually**.

Massive Waste From Last Year's Report Ignored

GAO also issued an accompanying assessment of progress in eliminating duplications identified last year. This report shows that **only 8 percent** of the items in last year's report have been successfully addressed. Items outstanding include:

- **82 duplicative teacher quality programs**. One year later, none of the identified programs have been consolidated or eliminated.
- **18 duplicative domestic food and nutrition programs** where **“no executive action [has been] taken,”** at total cost of **\$62.5 billion**.

Last Year's Identified Waste, Mostly Unresolved

