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6-25-2021

### About GAO

United States: Government Accountability Office (GAO)

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## About

This year, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) celebrates [100 years](#) of making the government work better for you. GAO, often called the "congressional watchdog," is an independent, non-partisan agency that works for Congress. GAO examines how taxpayer dollars are spent and provides Congress and federal agencies with objective, non-partisan, fact-based information to help the government save money and work more efficiently.

For example, we identified about \$77.6 billion in financial benefits in fiscal year 2020—a return of about \$114 for every \$1 invested in us. We also identified 1,332 other benefits that led to program and operational improvements across the government. Most recently, GAO has been evaluating the largest response to a national emergency in US history, the \$2.6 trillion [COVID-19](#) response legislation, and making recommendations about how to improve its effectiveness in dealing with public health issues and the economy.

To learn more, read our [press release](#) about our fiscal year 2020 performance.



[Transcript](#)

### What GAO Does

Our processes for reports, testimonies and legal decisions; how we serve Congress; and our roles as an audit institution.

## Comptroller General

Get to know the Comptroller General, head of the GAO, and learn how he interacts with Congress to serve the American people.

## Careers


Learn about our role in the government, plus our history, performance, mission and legal authorities.


## Connect With Us


Have a question? Need an expert? Connect with us here.

## Contact Info

For general inquiries:

 Government Accountability Office  
441 G St., NW  
Washington, DC 20548

 (202) 512-3000

 [contact@gao.gov](mailto:contact@gao.gov)



## Our Mission

We support Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities, and help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government. We provide Congress with timely information that is objective, fact-based, nonpartisan, nonideological, and balanced.

Download our About GAO brochure (PDF) in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), or [Arabic](#).

## Our Authority

The Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 formed GAO to investigate all matters related to the use of public funds. The act also requires us to report on our findings and recommend ways to increase economy and efficiency in government spending.

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