GAO’s mission is to support Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people. GAO provides nonpartisan, objective, and reliable information to Congress, federal agencies, and to the public and recommends improvements, when appropriate, across the full breadth and scope of the federal government’s responsibilities.

GAO’s work supports a broad range of interests throughout Congress. In FY 2013, GAO received requests for our work from 95 percent of the standing committees of Congress and almost two-thirds of their subcommittees. Additionally, senior GAO officials testified at 114 hearings on national and international issues, before 60 committees and subcommittees that touch on virtually all major Federal Agencies. GAO remains one of the best investments in the federal government, and GAO’s dedicated staff continues to deliver high quality results. In FY 2013 alone, GAO’s work yielded $51.5 billion in financial benefits—a return of about $100 for every dollar invested in GAO. Since FY 2003, GAO’s work has resulted in:

- over ½ trillion dollars in financial benefits; and
- about 14,500 program and operational benefits that helped to change laws, improve public services, and promote sound management throughout government.

GAO is requesting a budget of $525.1 million to preserve its staff capacity and continue critical information technology and building infrastructure investments.