

# Duplication & Cost Savings

A 2017 Overview

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GAO-17-491SP



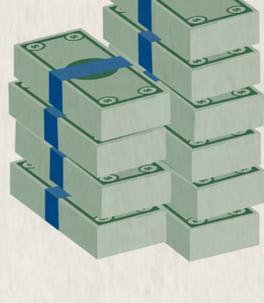
## IMPROVING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS IS IMPORTANT.

Since 2011, GAO's annual reports have identified 724 opportunities to improve federal programs or activities.

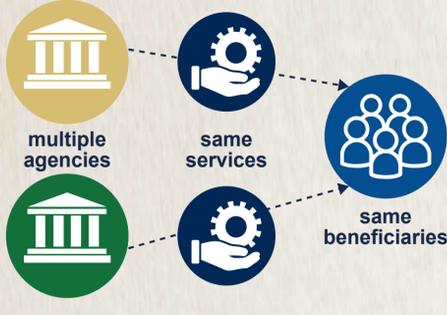
The government has already addressed over half of the opportunities we identified in our first 6 reports—

**RESULTING IN \$136 BILLION IN FINANCIAL BENEFITS.**

We estimate that billions more dollars could be saved by fully implementing our unaddressed actions.



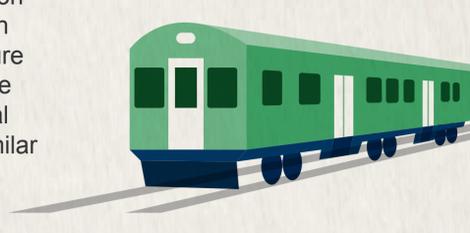
## DUPLICATION



Duplication occurs when two or more agencies/programs are working on the same activities or providing the same services to the same beneficiaries.

## REDUCING DUPLICATIVE FEDERAL SPENDING ON TRANSIT PROJECTS COULD SAVE MONEY.

Example: The Federal Transit Administration gave \$3.6 billion in funding to 40 projects in 2014 to help transit systems withstand future disasters in the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. However, if FTA considers potential duplicate funding by other agencies for similar projects, it may find that spending money on some projects is not necessary.



## OVERLAP

Overlap occurs when multiple agencies/programs have similar goals or are providing similar services.



## IMPROVING COORDINATION OF FEDERAL GRANTS COULD REDUCE OVERLAPPING FUNDING.



Example: Some agencies, like the National Institutes of Health, have a formal process in place to review their grant applications for overlap in funding. But others, like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), do not—which could result in a grantee getting multiple CDC grants for the same research program.

## FRAGMENTATION



Fragmentation is when more than one federal agency (or multiple organizations within the same agency) are working on different parts of the same goal. Working more efficiently would help them reach that goal faster.

## BETTER MANAGING VIRTUAL COMBAT TRAINING COULD SAVE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

Example: The Army and Air Force could better integrate virtual devices into their training programs to maximize available resources. For example, the Army acquired 18 of one type of virtual driver training device for \$12 million, but only used them for 435 hours of training in fiscal year 2015— although they were available for 33,222 hours of training.



## COST SAVINGS

These are opportunities for the government to cut costs or better target resources.



## MORE EFFICIENTLY MANAGING DOD'S COMMISSARIES COULD SAVE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.



Example: If the Department of Defense operated its supermarkets (commissaries) using the more cost-effective business practices that commercial grocery stores use, it could save up to \$2 billion.

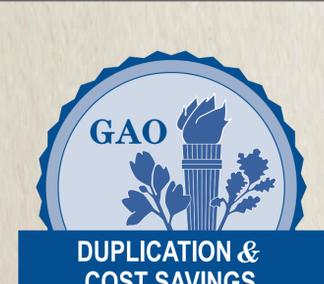
## REVENUE ENHANCEMENT



Revenue enhancement includes ways for the government to collect additional revenue by taking actions to encourage payment.

## ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE INLAND WATERWAYS FUEL TAX COULD RAISE REVENUE.

Example: If the Internal Revenue Service accessed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proprietary data, it could better assess whether commercial vehicles are paying the appropriate amount of inland waterways fuel tax.



**FIND OUT MORE IN THE DUPLICATION & COST SAVINGS SECTION OF GAO.GOV.**