



## Budget Digest – Week of March 21, 2016

### Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication in Government Programs

Since 2011, the Government Accountability Office [GAO] has issued a statutorily required [annual report](#) that identifies fragmentation, overlap, and duplication in Federal programs. Fragmentation occurs when multiple agencies are involved in the same broad area of national need; overlap occurs when multiple agencies have similar goals, strategies and activities that target similar groups; duplication is when two or more agencies provide the same services for the same beneficiaries.<sup>i</sup> The table below shows selected areas where GAO has found that fragmentation, overlap or duplication is occurring.

**How are Congress and the Executive Branch responding to GAO's reports of fragmentation overlap, and duplication?** Since 2011, GAO has identified over 249 actions for the Executive Branch and Congress to eliminate or better manage fragmentation, overlap, and duplication. Of the 29 actions recommended to Congress, 9—or 31% have been addressed; the remainder is partially addressed, unaddressed, or overtaken by other events. For the Executive Branch, GAO recommended 220 actions of which 100—or 45% have been addressed. GAO's next report on fragmentation, overlap, and duplication will be issued in April of 2016.

Areas of Fragmentation, Overlap or Duplication	Number of Programs or Agencies
Consumer Product Safety	20
Diesel Emissions Grants/Loans	14
Domestic Food & Nutrition Assistance	18
Employment for People with Disabilities	45
EPA Laboratories	37
Federal Autism Research	11
FEMA Preparedness Grants	17
Financial Literacy	15
Food Safety	15
Green Building Initiatives	90
Housing Assistance	160
Minority AIDS Initiative	10
Nonemergency Medical Transportation	42
Nuclear Nonproliferation	21
Serious Mental Health Programs	100
Support for Entrepreneurs	53
Transportation for Disadvantaged Persons	80

<sup>i</sup> United States Government Accountability Office. *2015 Annual Report: Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits*. GAO-15-404SP.