

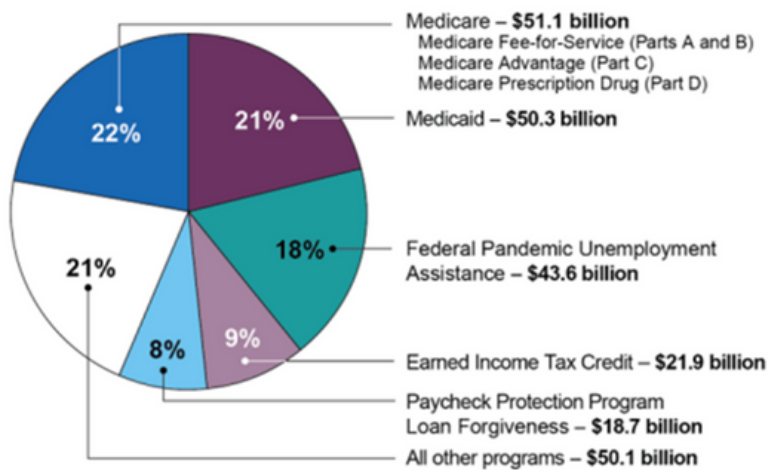


# IMPROPER PAYMENTS

In FY 2023, the federal government spent **\$236 billion** on improper payments, according to GAO. This brings cumulative improper payment estimates since reporting began in 2003 to **\$2.7 trillion**.<sup>1</sup>

A **handful of programs** represent the lion's share of improper payments.

In 2023, **79 percent (\$186 billion)** of improper payments was concentrated in **five areas**:



Source: GAO analysis of Office of Management and Budget Payment Accuracy.gov data. | GAO-24-106927

In FY 2023, **16 programs** had reported improper payment rate estimates of **at least 10 percent**, including:

PPP Loan Guaranty Purchases (SBA)	<b>49.1%</b>
Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (DOL)	<b>35.9%</b>
EITC (Treasury)	<b>33.5%</b>
Additional CTC (Treasury)	<b>14.5%</b>
SNAP (USDA)	<b>11.5%</b>

The House Committee on Budget and the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability have convened a **working group to evaluate challenges and opportunities relevant to curbing improper payments**.

To date, the Working Group has held meetings and roundtables to discuss the issue and **develop legislative and oversight proposals to address improper payments** and better ensure stewardship of taxpayer funds.

<sup>1</sup> The true total is likely higher as that figure excludes some programs that are susceptible to significant improper payments, such as HHS's TANF.