

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051  
Minority (202) 225-5074

August 11, 2009

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

The Committee staff has been investigating the involvement of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (“ACORN”) in various federally funded programs. Recently, I released a staff report entitled, “*Is ACORN Intentionally Structured As a Criminal Enterprise?*” (“ACORN Report”) revealing that ACORN has evaded taxes, obstructed justice, engaged in racketeering, and created a conspiracy to defraud the United States.

ACORN and its affiliates have received over \$53 million of taxpayer dollars from 1994 to the present.<sup>1</sup> President Obama’s \$75 billion “Making Home Affordable” program would extend more federal resources to ACORN.<sup>2</sup> As I understand it, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) has disbursed at least \$11,011,175 in grants to ACORN affiliates between 2000 and 2007.<sup>3</sup>

So the Committee can better understand the relationship of ACORN and ACORN-affiliated entities with HUD, please provide the following information and documents:

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin Mooney, *ACORN got \$53 million in federal funds since 94, now eligible for up to \$8 billion more*, WASH EXAMINER, May 6, 2009, available at <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/special-editorial-reports/ACORN-got-53-million-in-federal-funds-since-94-now-eligible-for-up-to-8-billion-more-44406217.html> (last visited May 8, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> Renae Merle, *More Homeowners Getting Aid, but Demand Keeps Rising*, WASH. POST, May 14, 2009, available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/13/AR2009051303440.html> (last visited June 9, 2009).

<sup>3</sup> OMB WATCH, available at: [http://www.fedspending.org/faads/faads.php?reptype=r&detail=-1&datatype=T&sortby=t&database=faads&recip\\_id=10661&fiscal\\_year=2006&record\\_num=f500](http://www.fedspending.org/faads/faads.php?reptype=r&detail=-1&datatype=T&sortby=t&database=faads&recip_id=10661&fiscal_year=2006&record_num=f500) (last visited June 9, 2009).

Mr. Shaun Donovan

August 11, 2009

Page 2

1. Identify all grants provided by HUD to ACORN Housing or any other ACORN-affiliated organization from January 2004 to the present, including the name of the grantee, the purpose of the grant, the amount, the date the funds were awarded, and name of the HUD employee charged with administering and overseeing the grant.
2. For each grant an ACORN-affiliated entity received from January 2004 to the present, please provide a brief explanation about the criteria considered by HUD for rendering the grant reward.
3. For each grant an ACORN-affiliated entity received pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, please produce all documents relating to the awarding of the grant.
4. For each grant an ACORN-affiliated entity received pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, please provide the Committee with HUD's oversight plan to ensure that grant funds are spent in a manner consistent with the legislation.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X.

We look forward to your response on or before August 20, 2009. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Daniel Epstein of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman