

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 Karen G. Mills
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Mills:

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.¹ As I understand it, in 2006, the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) disbursed \$25,000 in grants to ACORN affiliates between 2000 and 2007.²

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

1. Identify all grants provided by SBA to any 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 SBA employee charged with administering and overseeing the grant.

¹ 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).

² OMB WATCH, available at: http://www.fedspending.org/faads/faads.php?reptype=r&database=faads&record_id=9383621&detail=3&datype=T&sortby=i (last visited June 9, 2009).

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 SBA 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 SBA'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