

# NEWS

FROM THE GRANT DOCTORS® LLC

## GONE ACT FALLS SHORT OF ITS INTENTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, Tuesday, September 20, 2016**—The Grants Oversight and New Efficiency Act (GONE Act) was signed into law on January 28, 2016<sup>1</sup> in response to the excessive amount of expired federal grants, with unspent balances, in the Department of Health and Human Services' grants management system. As of September 30, 2015, the federal government is sitting on approximately \$994 million in expired grants according to the Government Accountability Office<sup>2</sup>—up from \$600 million in 2003.

Expired grants are those beyond a project's end date but not yet officially closed by the federal government due to delays by either the grantee or the awarding agency. Until grant accounts are closed, the funds are unavailable for other projects.

Instead of accelerating the closure of grants and increasing accountability, the GONE Act maintains the status quo for at least three years while Congress continues to study the issue. The GONE Act's only requirements are three reports to Congress.

Dave Farley, CEO of The Grant Doctors said, "Federal grants are supposed to be closed within one year after a grantee submits their final report. More than 3,000 grants are three or more years past their end date and they still haven't been closed. That's almost 500 million dollars that could be used in communities across the U.S. Congress had an opportunity to fix this problem but it came up short. It's disappointing."

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### **About The Grant Doctors® LLC**

The Grant Doctors® is a full service federal grants consulting and governmental relations firm for urban and rural local educational agencies, municipalities, nonprofit corporations and healthcare providers. Our professionals have secured over \$199 million and managed \$350 million in federal grants. For more information, please visit: [www.thegrantdoctors.com](http://www.thegrantdoctors.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Public Law 114-117 (January 28, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> *Grants Management: Actions Needed to Address Persistent Grant Closeout Timeliness and Undisbursed Balance Issues*, GAO-16-362, April 14, 2016.