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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

October 7, 2009

RUSSELL SULLIVAN, STAFF DIRECTOR KOLAN DAVIS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

> Peter Orszag, Director The Office of Management and Budget 725 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Orszag:

I am writing to express my concern about federal agencies' processes and procedures for awarding grants, particularly as they relate to grants to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) and all of its related entities. In 2006 and 2007, ACORN stated to me that it did not receive government funds. Yet, many of its related entities did receive grants or contracts from the federal government.

I was troubled to learn that one related entity, ACORN Institute, just last month received an almost \$1 million grant for fire prevention as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program. According to FEMA's "Official Site for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program",

http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/award/08/ this grant is listed as being for fire prevention.

On its 2006 and 2007 Forms 990, The ACORN Institute stated the following as its Primary Exempt Purpose: "To provide information concerning rights and opportunities and training concerning how to act upon information concerning rights and opportunities in low income communities". On the same forms, it stated the following under Program Service Accomplishments: "Amounts collected were used for outreach with lower income youth to encourage community involvement and exercise of voting rights." It would appear from these statements that the ACORN Institute is not involved in fire prevention or safety. Since all other recipients of these grants appear to be nonprofits involved in fire prevention and safety research, state and local government entities, or fire departments, I would like to understand how the ACORN Institute was awarded this grant. Please provide copies of all correspondence between FEMA and the ACORN Institute, including the Institute's application and all e-mails, as well as documentation explaining FEMA's reasons for awarding this grant.

In addition, please provide a list of all federal grants and contracts, including the amount and purpose of the grants and contracts, awarded to ACORN and all related entities for the past three fiscal years. Entities include, but are not limited to, those in the attached spreadsheet.

Finally, given that both the Internal Revenue Service and the Census Bureau have severed ties with ACORN, I would expect that all federal agencies are following suit. Please indicate what guidance has been provided to all other federal agencies regarding existing and future grants to, and contracts with, ACORN and its related entities.

Please provide responses in electronic format by October 23, 2009. Please contact my staff to receive an electronic copy of the spreadsheet. You can reach them at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,

Chuck Grassley Ranking Member

	FY09				FY08		FY07			
	Agency	Amount	Purpose	Agency	Amount	Purpose	Agency	Amount	Purpose	
4415 San Jacinto										
Street Corporation										
Acorn Associates										
Acorn Beneficial										
Association										
Acorn Beverly LLC										
Acorn Campaign				•		•				
Services										
Acorn Campaign to										
Raise the Minimum										
Wage					,					
Acorn Center for					*		•			
Housing Acorn Children's		•								
Beneficial										
Association										
Acorn Community										
Labor Organizing										
Center										
Acorn Cultural										
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Acorn Fair Housing										
Acorn Fund										
Acorn Housing 1 Associates L.P.										
Associates L.P. Acorn Housing 2										
Associates L.P.										
Acorn Housing 3										
Associates L.P.										
Acorn Management				-						
Corporation										
Acorn National										
Broadcasting										
Network					-					
Acorn Services										
Acorn Tenants Union										
7/110/11										
American Workers										
Association		٠								
Austin Organizing										

Federal Grants & Contracts

	FY09				FY08		FY07		
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Baltimore		·							
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Support Center									
Chicago Organizing									
and Support Center									
Chief Organizing			•						
Fund									
Citizens Consulting,									
Inc.									
Citizens Services,									
Inc.									
Crescent City									
Broadcasting									
Corporation									
Desert Rose Homes									

Elysian Fields Partnership Fifteenth Street Corporation Franklin Acorn Housing Greenwell Springs Corporation Houston Organizing and Support Center Living Wage & Labor Peace Massachusetts Acorn Housing Corporation Metro Technical Institute Montana Radio Network New Mexico Organizing and Support Center New Orleans Community Housing Organization

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Housing										
SEIU Local 100										
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Site Fighters										
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Support Center										
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Association Wal-mart Workers										
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Corporation								•		
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Development Fund										
Corporation										
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ACORN's website under About Us										
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American Environmental										
Justice Project Inc. American Institute										
for Social Justice Arizona Acorn										
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Rose Homes LLC per AZ ACORN Form 990, Part VI,										
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Community Housing										
Corporation Association for the										
Rights of Citizens										

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Network										
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