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STATE AUDITOR LESLIE MERRITT INCREASES ACCOUNTABILITY OF NON-PROFITS

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State Auditor Leslie Merritt announced a new web-based tool to increase non-profit organizations' compliance with State reporting standards. The State Auditor's office has begun posting on its website a list of all non-profit organizations receiving State grants (grantees) that are not in compliance with reporting requirements.

"Taxpayers expect grantees who spend taxpayer money to comply with a schedule of public reports that lends itself towards an open accounting," State Auditor Leslie Merritt said. "But we've found that once grantees understand the rules, and that they're being enforced, they have done a good job at complying," Merritt added.

The Office of State Auditor Leslie Merritt can be found on the web at www.ncauditor.net and the list of grantees in non-compliance can be found in the upper left-hand corner of the main home page. This information includes the name of the grantee and the funding agency, the dollar amount of the grant and the specific reason for non-compliance. The grantee list will be updated at the end of every month.

Over the past few years, the number of grantees that have complied with the reporting requirements has been improving. In State Auditor Leslie Merritt's first full fiscal year (2005-2006), the number of non-compliant grantees who were placed on the official suspension list has decreased from 437 to 91, that represents an approximately 80% increase in compliance.