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**Auditor's Report Shows \$13 Billion in Grants to Local Governments in 2006**

RALEIGH, NC – November 6, 2007

Today, State Auditor Leslie Merritt released a report summarizing the total amount of grant funding, \$13,000,000,000, that went to the local government level in 2006. Working with personnel from the Local Government Commission, the Auditor's report provides information that has not been previously available in an easily accessible format.

"Sometimes getting your hands around the total amount of grants going to local governments is like nailing Jell-O to the wall. Local governments believe that the State is monitoring the grants and the State believes local governments are doing it," said State Auditor Leslie Merritt. "The truth is that in most cases no one is providing the proper scrutiny, but by using this report, local governments, legislators, and private citizens can get a better handle on grant dollars flowing to the local level."

State law requires (GS 143C-6-23) Auditor Merritt to track State and Federal pass-through grants awarded to non-profits with two exceptions: grants going to the University System and grants going to local governments. The University System provides a summary report to the Auditor of its grants, and with today's report on local government grants, the Auditor has both exceptions to the law covered.

"Through nonprofit training and compliance, our staff have brought a high-level of accountability to State grant spending. With our report on grants to local governments, I believe we are one step closer to closing the loopholes and bringing full accountability to grant spending," said State Auditor Leslie Merritt.

Visit [www.ncauditor.net](http://www.ncauditor.net) to view the report and supporting details on grants to local governments.