

TOP TEN

DOGE's Craziest Examples of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Uncovered So Far

Matt Lamb

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Following through on a key 2024 campaign promise, President Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have exposed mountains of waste, fraud, and abuse within the federal government. From transgender operas in Colombia to DEI musicals in Ireland, DOGE's findings have shocked and outraged taxpayers. Here are just ten of the craziest spending items uncovered so far.

1

\$382 million in improper unemployment benefits

Americans pay into a federal unemployment program to help them weather the storm when they get laid off—but DOGE has also uncovered massive fraud in the system, confirming longstanding suspicions from conservatives and Republican lawmakers.

DOGE specifically identified \$382 million in improper unemployment benefits since just 2020, with California, New York, and Massachusetts accounting for nearly 80 percent of the fraudulent claims.

According to Musk, those claims included 24,500 people listed as being born before 1910 who claimed \$59 million in benefits, 28,000 people listed as being aged 1–5 who claimed \$254 million in benefits, and nearly 10,000 people whose birth dates were listed as being in the future who claimed \$69 million in benefits.

2

\$59 million on luxury New York City hotels for illegal aliens

It's difficult to blame illegal aliens for wanting to come to the United States when they get to stay in the nicest hotels in New York City—for free.

In February, DOGE revealed that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) spent at least \$59.3 million on hotels, food, and security for illegal immigrants, even as the agency was under fire for its lackluster response to Hurricane Helene in the Southeast. "\$19 million was for direct hotel costs, while the balance funded other services such as food and security," Fox News reported.

3

\$20 million to create an "Iraqi Sesame Street"

A nonprofit called Sesame Workshop received \$20 million from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) for a show called "Ahlan Simsim Iraq." The program, which has been dubbed "Iraqi Sesame Street," ostensibly promotes "inclusion, mutual respect, and understanding across ethnic, religious, and sectarian groups."

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4 **\$2 billion to Progressive Darling Stacey Abrams**

As DOGE uncovered in March, it pays to be an election-denying progressive Democrat. Under the Biden administration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded a \$2 billion grant to “Power Forward Communities,” a left-wing activist group with ties to two-time Georgia Democrat gubernatorial nominee Stacey Abrams.

The grant—which was not distributed until after Election Day—represented a massive jump in funding for the group, which reported just \$100 in revenue the year before getting the money. The EPA, under new commissioner Lee Zeldin, has since clawed back the funds.

6 **\$70,000 for an Irish DEI music festival**

The State Department sent \$70,000 to Ireland for a “live musical event to promote the US and Irish shared values of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.” Needless to say, Americans were none too happy to learn about this use of their hard-earned tax dollars.

9 **Transgender clinics in India**

DOGE’s audit of USAID revealed that American taxpayers were, to at least some extent, funding three “transgender healthcare” clinics in India with an annual budget of around \$30,000 per year.

This project resulted from a partnership between USAID and Johns Hopkins University, using money from the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). While President George W. Bush intended for PEPFAR to address the AIDS crisis, it apparently has turned into a slush fund for transgender drugs and surgeries overseas.

7 **\$32,000 for an LGBT comic book in Peru**

The State Department’s Fulbright Program spent \$32,000 “to cover expenses to produce a tailor-made comic, featuring an LGBTQ+ hero to address social and mental health issues” in Peru. The Trump administration quickly canceled that grant.

10 **Millions on “gender-affirming” procedures for animals**

Animals have also apparently received “gender-affirming care” thanks to American taxpayers, according to DOGE findings, with the National Institutes of Health reportedly spending millions of dollars “to perform transgender experiments on mice.”

This included \$455,000 on “A Mouse Model to Test the Effects of Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy on HIV Vaccine-Induced Immune Responses” and nearly \$300,000 to test “gender-affirming testosterone therapy” on mice.

5

\$1.5 million to promote LGBT inclusion in the Serbian workforce

One of the most outrageous USAID programs that garnered heavy media attention earlier this year was a program “aimed at improving the inclusion of LGBTQ people in the workplace in Serbia, a country of 6.6 million people in Central Europe. American taxpayers shelled out \$1.5 million for that project.

8

\$600,000 for an LGBT group in the United Kingdom

LGBT group Stonewall, based in the United Kingdom, is set to lose \$600,000 due to USAID cuts. The group reportedly relies heavily on American taxpayers and has said the cuts may lead it to lay off much of its staff.

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With Elon Musk projecting DOGE savings to exceed \$150 billion in fiscal year 2026, the scale of reform is just beginning to match the scale of the problem. As the Department of Government Efficiency continues to expose the worst of Washington’s waste, taxpayers can finally see a future where their money is respected—not burned.★