

WHAT CENSUS CAN'T TELL YOU (ANYMORE)

Until it was discontinued after the release of the fiscal year (FY) 2010 report, the *Consolidated Federal Funds Report* provided annual, state-by-state data on the flow of federal funds to states. Specifically, it tracked four types of federal revenues flowing to states:

1. Grants
2. Direct payments to individuals
3. Wages and salaries
4. Federal procurement

The sum of these flows represented “federal spending traceable to states” and gave states a good sense of where they stood in their fiscal relationship with the federal government over time, among the various types of federal spending, and relative to other states.

No more. A few years ago, the Obama administration proposed eliminating funding for the report—as well as its companion, *Federal Aid to States*—and Congress went along with the recommendation. Ostensibly, the federal government’s website, USASpending.gov, would be improved so that it would provide the information no longer reported by the Census Bureau.

It hasn’t turned out that way. While USASpending.gov is ambitious in theory, in fact it has been a disappointing replacement for the old reports. It fails to report on federal wages in any way, while the quality of its data on grants, procurement and direct payments is sufficiently weak that analysts do not consider it a comprehensive or accurate source of such information.

This leaves a gaping hole in the reporting of intergovernmental fiscal flows, only a piece of which is addressed in the table at right. Specifically, the table shows estimates of each state’s per capita federal funding for the bulk (but not all) of federal grants that flow to state and local governments.

Per Capita Federal Spending on Selected Grants, FY 2013

Rank	State	Amount
1	District of Columbia	\$4,815
2	Alaska	3,637
3	Wyoming	3,509
4	New York	2,774
5	New Mexico	2,754
6	Vermont	2,745
7	Mississippi	2,552
8	West Virginia	2,522
9	Rhode Island	2,371
10	Louisiana	2,264
11	Maine	2,256
12	Montana	2,147
13	Tennessee	2,140
14	Arkansas	2,135
15	Delaware	2,112
16	Kentucky	2,068
17	Massachusetts	2,039
18	Oregon	2,025
19	Puerto Rico	2,024
20	California	2,000
21	Hawaii	1,996
22	North Dakota	1,985
23	Arizona	1,970
24	Ohio	1,956
25	Michigan	1,932
26	Missouri	1,907
27	Connecticut	1,904
28	Alabama	1,901
29	South Dakota	1,893
30	Pennsylvania	1,877
	U.S. Average	1,871
31	Idaho	1,839
32	Oklahoma	1,837
33	Indiana	1,815
34	Iowa	1,793
35	North Carolina	1,733
36	Minnesota	1,729
37	Wisconsin	1,713
38	Illinois	1,697
39	South Carolina	1,680
40	Georgia	1,640
41	Texas	1,629
42	Maryland	1,540
43	New Jersey	1,540
44	Florida	1,514
45	Nebraska	1,501
46	Washington	1,470
47	Utah	1,410
48	Kansas	1,389
49	Colorado	1,333
50	Virginia	1,248
51	New Hampshire	1,229
52	Nevada	1,187