



HHS Spends \$123.2 Million Per Year on ‘Email Services’

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The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) spends roughly \$123.2 million per year to provide “email services” for its 70,000 employees, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Buried in a footnote of a recently released GAO [report](#) on the agency’s coordination with the nonprofit group Enroll America, the congressional watchdog detailed the high operating costs associated with running the department’s email.

“HHS told us that HHS pays \$146.64 per month per user for email; that this charge covers connectivity, storage, and other e-mail services; and that this charge is independent of the number of emails that are sent or received,” the GAO said.

According to the Cato Institute, HHS employs approximately [70,000](#) people.

Assuming each employee has a government email address, the agency pays \$10,264,800 per month for its email services. The cost per year runs to \$123,177,600.

The report also noted that HHS pays \$10.44 each month “per telephone line” for the HHS secretary, though it is unclear how many government lines [former](#) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius had.

“Each phone call, whether local or long distance, is charged at a unit cost of \$0.014 per minute,” the GAO said.

The report revealed that Sebelius, along with a White House official, [solicited donations from private health care companies](#) to promote Obamacare, which may have violated federal law.