

Government Accountability & Oversight

Once a program is created or funds are secured, it is imperative that interested organizations stay involved to guarantee that agencies and departments are engaging in proper administration. Without the active participation of stakeholders, a program can be sidetracked or lose direction. In addition, accountability for government funds is a two-way street: credibility with Members of Congress depends on good stewardship.

When the **CFIDS (Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome) Association of America** became concerned about how the Centers for Disease Control was spending money on chronic fatigue syndrome, The Sheridan Group helped craft a strategy that led to an Inspector General's audit of the program and touched off an agency-wide probe into its financial operations. Working with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, The Sheridan Group helped recover \$12.9 million for the chronic fatigue syndrome program and brought about greater congressional oversight of the CDC's financial systems.

For several years, The Sheridan Group has worked with **MDL Plaintiff's Committee**, which represents women who have suffered health problems due to breast implants. Drawing attention to the Food and Drug Administration's oversight of medical device manufacturers and the problems associated with good manufacturing practices, adverse event reporting and clinical studies, The Sheridan Group has garnered bipartisan support for legislation and an investigation by the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee into the agency's regulatory enforcement.