FY 2016 SOCIAL *and* BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE TALKING POINTS:

FEDERAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES

The Value of Social & Behavioral Science Research

- Social and behavioral science research is supported across the federal government, including at the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, federal statistical agencies, and many other departments and agencies. This support helps us as a nation better understand and address complex, human-centered questions, such as:

    – How to convince a community in the path of a tornado to seek cover; or
    – Ways to slow the HIV/AIDS epidemic; or
    – How to thwart cybercrime and protect Americans' privacy and security in an increasingly connected world.

- Funding for the social, behavioral and economic sciences not only advances science, but is contributing to local economies.

Federal Statistical Agencies

- Accurate, objective, representative, timely, reliable and accessible data and statistics are necessary ingredients to the conduct of evidence-based analyses of federal programs.

- Statistics from the Census Bureau and a dozen other statistical agencies measure progress in our nation and gauge, among other things, the state of:

    – The American economy (BEA and Census in Commerce; BLS in Labor; IRS Statistics of Income)
    – Employment, retirement, and the labor force (BLS; ORES in the Social Security Administration)
    – Health of the American people (NCHS in HHS)
    – Health care costs, utilization, and availability (NCHS, Census)
    – Educational attainment and progress (NCES in Education; NCSES in NSF)
    – Agriculture, farming, and food in the U.S. (ERS and NASS in USDA)
    – Energy and natural resources (EIA in Dept. of Energy; ERS)
    – Our transportation network (BTS in Dept. of Transportation)
    – Crime and the justice system (BJS in DOJ)

- Statistics from the Census Bureau and other federal statistical agencies are necessary for a range of activities affecting the American people, including:

    – Allocating fairly, to whom and where needed, over $400 billion in federal funds to states, cities and local governments for public health and safety, education, housing, poverty and other services.
    – Developing a Homeland Infrastructure Protection Plan.
    – Producing the economic indicators the Federal Reserve Board uses to determine interest rates.
    – Measuring the nation's food security.
    – Drawing school district boundaries.
    – Establishing and enforcing fair lending practices.
    – Helping small businesses make good business decisions.

- Statistical agencies have been underfunded for at least the last three years, causing some of them to stop producing certain measures and jeopardizing the confidence with which others can provide the statistics that help the country, its businesses, and communities run efficiently and effectively.

- We urge your support for the levels requested in the President's FY 2016 budget request for all statistical agencies. These levels will restore lost capabilities of those agencies to accomplish their core responsibilities.

	FY 2015 (current year)	FY 2016 President's Request	FY 2016 COSSA's Request
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)	$100 million	$110 million	$110 million
Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)	$41 million	$61.4 million	$61.4 million
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)	$592.2 million	$632.7 million	$632.7 million
Bureau of the Census	$1.08 billion	$1.5 billion	$1.5 billion
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)	$26 million	$29 million	$29 million
Economic Research Service (ERS)	$85.4 million	$86 million	$86 million
Energy Information Administration (EIA)	$117 million	$131 million	$131 million
Statistics of Income (within IRS)	$36 million	$38 million	$38 million
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)	$172.4 million	$180.3 million	$180.3 million
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)	$103.1 million	$124.7 million	$124.7 million
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)	$155.4 million	$160.4 million	$160.4 million
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)	$50.8 million	$54.3 million	$54.3 million
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES, within Social Security Administration)	$30 million	$27 million	$27 million