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CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE STRENGTHENS RESEARCH MANAGEMENT AT OJJDP

The Human Resources Subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee approved legislation this week that would strengthen the management of research programs in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) by requiring OJJDP to award grants and contracts on a competitive basis. The bill (H.R. 4971) amends and reauthorizes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

The new provision mandating the competitive grants process would also require that OJJDP publicly announce the criteria for selection of applicants and describe the procedures used in reviewing the applications. The need for these changes in the research management process arose because of the concern of Subcommittee Chairman Ike Andrews (D-NC) that OJJDP was awarding large sums of money for research projects that were selected in a non-competitive manner.

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

Roberta Balstad Miller, *Executive Director*

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The Subcommittee made two other changes affecting juvenile justice research. A new provision prohibits funding of research "for any bio-medical or behavior control experimentation on individuals." Members of the Subcommittee are opposed to juvenile justice programs and research that utilize aversive techniques of behavior control on juveniles. COSSA will work with the Subcommittee to make sure there is clarifying report language issued so that legitimate research incorporating behavior modification techniques in juvenile justice research is not precluded from funding. The Subcommittee also voted to abolish the presidentially appointed National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Instead of relying on a National Advisory Committee, the Subcommittee wants to strengthen the State Advisory Groups by adding parents to the required members of these boards.

The companion Senate bill for OJJDP (S.2014) does not make these changes to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. OJJDP may face a difficult time in the Senate, since the Reagan administration has opposed its reauthorization and has requested no funds for it in the FY 1985 budget.

#### SURVEY FINDS INCREASED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE

Evidence from two surveys of American attitudes toward higher education suggests that public support for federal funding of research in the social sciences increased dramatically between 1982 and 1983. The surveys, which were conducted by the Group Attitudes Corporation of New York in the fall of 1982 and 1983, show an increase from 39% to 75% in the proportion of the adult population (over 18 years) favoring continued federal funding for academic social science research. In the same period, the proportion opposing such support dropped from 32% to 19%.

Survey respondents were questioned about whether the federal government should support academic research in five areas: medicine, the physical sciences, the humanities, the social sciences, and the arts. In all areas, public support for federal funding increased in 1983.

In 1982, however, respondents said they favored federal support for research in the physical sciences considerably more often (64%) than they favored such support in the social sciences (39%). By 1983, the social sciences and the physical sciences received nearly equal support (75% and 79%).

Information about the surveys can be obtained from Group Attitudes Corporation, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

KINGSBURY TO HEAD BBS

The White House has announced that Dr. David T. Kingsbury will be nominated to be the Assistant Director for Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences (BBS) at the National Science Foundation, the position formerly held by Dr. Eloise E. Clark.

Since 1981, Dr. Kingsbury has been the scientific director of the Naval Biosciences Laboratory and professor of medical microbiology at the University of California, Berkeley. He has served on the faculty of microbiology and molecular biology biochemistry at the University of California, Irvine. In addition, Dr. Kingsbury spent 1978-1979 as a visiting scientist at the Laboratory of Central Nervous System Studies at the National Institutes of Health. He is the author of numerous publications on microbiology and biochemistry.

The Foundation has not announced when Dr. Kingsbury will assume his new duties. Dr. Robert Rabin is currently Acting Assistant Director of BBS.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: THE FBI BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE UNIT

This is the first in a series of occasional articles which will examine intramural social and behavioral science research programs in federal departments and agencies.

The Behavioral Science Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is one of five academic units located within the FBI Academy, a training facility for law enforcement officers and agents of the FBI. The Unit supports the following disciplines as they apply to law enforcement: psychology, sociology, criminology, police science, and the administration of justice. Faculty of the Behavioral Science Unit are FBI special agents who possess the academic qualifications to serve as adjunct faculty at the University of Virginia.

Although the program of the Behavioral Science Unit is primarily directed toward training, the Unit does conduct research in areas of law enforcement. For example, the Unit is presently engaged in the Criminal Personality Research Project, which is intended to accumulate information about serial murderers through interviews with imprisoned murderers. From this research on criminal behavior, the FBI hopes to devise investigative and law enforcement techniques to "outsmart" criminals.

Behavioral Science Unit Chief Roger Depue stresses that the research of the Unit is conducted from a law enforcement perspective rather than from a traditional behavioral science perspective; however, the Unit works in cooperation with professional behavioral scientists and often conducts research projects with academic consultants.

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REORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The office of International Education Programs of the Department of Education (ED) has been abolished and the Center for International Education created to take over its program functions. This reorganization in the office responsible for administering Title VI of the Higher Education Act and other research and international exchange programs took place at the request of Edward M. Elmendorf, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. He instituted the reorganization because he felt that the Higher Education Programs could better be served by a functional organization than by a programmatic one.

The most significant change effected by the reorganization, which is now in progress, is that staff of the new Center for International Education will now administer only the pre-grant phase of the international education programs. Subsequent site visits, monitoring, and evaluation of research projects will be done by Department of Education staff who are not necessarily experienced in international education.

In addition to the organizational changes and staff reductions, the Teacher Exchange Program and International Education Development Program and their staff are being transferred to the U.S. Information Agency (USIA).

Dr. Kenneth Whitehead, who served as Director of International Education Programs, has been named Acting Director of the new Center for International Education, and Dr. Richard T. Thompson, former Director of the Advanced Training and Research Division, is serving as Acting Deputy Director. Because of the division changes being undertaken, the number of staff specialists is being reduced from approximately 35 to 25. This reduction is in addition to the loss of staff to USIA.

As reported in the February 10 issue of the COSSA Washington Update, the administration has requested zero funding for International Education and Fulbright-Hays programs for FY 1985. Department of Education officials say, however, that they expect Congress to maintain funding for these programs at their FY 1984 level of \$30.8 million.

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Copies of COSSA's analysis of the FY 1985 budget for social and behavioral science research are available upon request from the COSSA office.

NIE ASKS FOR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED COMPETITION

The National Institute of Education (NIE) has published proposed rules for the upcoming competition for Regional Educational Laboratories and Research and Development Centers in the Federal Register.

The proposed rules will govern the upcoming major competitions for NIE laboratories and centers in 1984 and 1985 and will be used for competitions in future years as well. Of particular interest to NIE officials are comments from the research community on an appropriate geographical division of the United States into geographical areas for regional laboratories. At the present time, NIE reports that approximately a third of the states are not served by educational laboratories and some states have two laboratories. NIE is proposing to change the geographical distribution of the laboratories to cover all states. The research community is also asked for its views on what research priorities should be set for NIE research centers.

Public comment on the rules is requested by April 25. Copies of the proposed regulations and a request for comments from the Director of NIE can be obtained by calling the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

ISSUING A PRESS RELEASE

The importance of communicating the results of social and behavioral science research to the public should not be underestimated. Although researchers take great pains to communicate their findings to other scientists, many do not realize that improved public understanding of social and behavioral science research can be nearly as important. Too often, the only information that the public receives about social science research is in the form of "golden fleece" awards and other so-called exposés of research programs. This obviously colors the public perception of social science and influences the political climate within which research budgets are set.

One means of reinforcing the recently reported increase in public support for federal funding of social science research (see "Survey Finds Increased Public Support for Social Science," this issue) is for researchers to share their findings on a regular basis with the public. This can be accomplished by routinely issuing press releases to notify the media of a publication, the completion of a research project, or a scholarly meeting or seminar. If social and behavioral scientists used press releases more frequently, coverage of research in the press would increase.

The following page contains suggestions for writing a press release. For additional information or assistance, call or write Eileen Chotiner in the COSSA office.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING A PRESS RELEASE

1. When writing a press release, use language that is clear and to the point. Use short sentences and, most important, translate technical language into terms the general public can understand.
2. Begin the press release with a statement that will spark the interest of a reporter, such as a quotation from the publication or a statement on the relevance of the research to a current issue. The object is to catch the attention of busy reporters so that they will read further and use your story.
3. Wherever possible, use the active rather than the passive voice. Frequent use of quotations makes the release more interesting and useful to reporters.
4. Keep the release short -- one page if possible. Include only enough information to summarize and convey the importance of your research. If reporters desire more details, they can contact you. The release should be double-spaced, but single-spacing is acceptable if necessary to fit the release on a single sheet of paper. It is better to print a two-sided release than to use more than one piece of paper.
5. Always include the following:
  - a) The name of your association or institutional affiliation. A press release can be printed on letterhead or a special "News Release" form, or simply typed on plain paper.
  - b) Indicate when the press is free to use the information with the words "FOR RELEASE". This can be the date of publication or the date of the meeting or seminar. Use the term "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE" when timing is not a factor. In this case, include the date of mailing at the beginning of the release.
  - c) Information on whom to contact for further details should appear in the upper right corner or at the bottom of the page and should include the word "CONTACT" and the name, address, and phone number of the researcher or the institution's public relations officer.
  - d) The standard closings for a press release are # # # or -30-. Either of these marks should be centered at the end of the text.
6. Plan to have your release arrive a day or two before the release date or two or three days before an event, like a seminar or conference, for which the reporter would have to set aside time to attend.
7. Do not forget to send copies of your press release to radio and television media as well as to newspapers and periodicals.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/  
National Institute on Aging

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), part of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health have created a joint research effort concerning the problems of the elderly and alcohol abuse. NIAAA serves as the lead agency in this cooperative effort and is actively seeking grant proposals on this topic.

Purpose of Program: To study the alcohol-related problems of the elderly

FY 1984 Funds: No budget has been established for the project; successful proposals will be funded through both NIAAA and NIA.

Funding Mechanisms: Grants

Review Process: Proposals will be reviewed by NIAAA peer review panels, with consultants from NIA.

Restrictions on Awards: Guidelines for these awards are the same as for any Public Health Service grant. Maximum grant period is 5 years.

Disciplines Funded: Psychology, sociology, anthropology, statistics, epidemiology, history

Deadline: Grants are funded in three cycles during the year. Deadlines for submitting proposals are March 1, July 1, and November 1.

Contact: Potential applicants are encouraged to submit a concept paper or call the program coordinator listed below.

Dr. Nathan Rosenberg  
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism  
Room 14C-17  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
301/443-4223

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**CONGRESSIONAL RECESS**

The Congress will be in recess from April 13 to April 24. This is a time when most Members of Congress return to their home state or district to meet with voters and gauge voter sentiment on a variety of issues. The recess offers a good opportunity for social and behavioral scientists to meet with their Senator or Representative to discuss the importance of continued federal support for research.

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