



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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White House SBS Team Issues Inaugural Report; President Signs Executive Order

On September 15, President Obama signed an [Executive Order](#) calling on federal agencies and departments to use "behavioral science insights" to "design government policies to better serve the American people." The order comes as the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Team](#) (SBST), a team of about a dozen behavioral scientists within the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), issued its first annual report. SBST was established in 2014 as a mechanism for testing and applying social and behavioral science interventions to make government programs more efficient and more accessible. The team is chaired by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) with participation by a dozen federal agencies, departments, and White House offices.

[Read on](#) for more details.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Advocates Call for Budget Deal as End of Fiscal Year Nears

One week out from the start of fiscal year (FY) 2016 and Congress has yet to decide on a path forward for funding the government that will not result in a government shutdown come October 1. A continuing resolution (CR) must be enacted in the next week to allow Congress the time it needs to complete the 12 outstanding FY 2016 appropriations bills.

Language of a short term CR could surface in the Senate as early as today. Even still, with the arrival of Pope Francis in the nation's capital this week and a short Congressional break to observe Yom Kippur, only a handful of days separate Congress from a shutdown. Work is almost certain to continue into the weekend. And there are no guarantees that a "clean" CR floated by the Senate could pass the House, which has members still clamoring for action to defund Planned Parenthood.

Getting to October 1 is just the start; Congress must still complete the FY 2016 appropriations process in some way. But first, lawmakers on both sides are calling for broader budget negotiations to reverse sequestration. Until that happens, the FY 2016 funding bills remain in limbo. One possible outcome is that Congress will be unable to broker a broad deal and we will end up with a yearlong CR that funds the government at FY 2015 levels, thereby locking in sequestration (the tight budget caps currently in effect) for yet another year.

On September 10, COSSA joined 2,500 national, state, and local organizations on a [letter to Congress](#) urging relief from sequestration in FY 2016 by taking a balanced approach to deficit reduction. In particular, the letter notes the cuts that have already been taken to nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs, which include research funding.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NSF Seeks Nominations of Early-Career Researchers for Waterman Award

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting nominations for the 2016 [Alan T. Waterman Award](#), which is given to an outstanding young researcher each year. Nominees are accepted from any field of science supported by NSF and must be under 35 or within 7 years of completing his or her PhD. Candidates "should have demonstrated exceptional individual achievement in scientific or engineering research of sufficient quality, originality, innovation, and significant impact on the field so as to situate him or her as a leader among peers." The recipient of the award receives a grant of \$1 million over five years for research or advanced study in any NSF-supported field of science. Nominations are due by October 23 and may be submitted [here](#).

Senior Leadership Changes Occurring at NIH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) have been experiencing a turnover in the leadership over the past month as several long-term directors have decided to retire and/or move on to new endeavors. As was announced in August, Alan Guttmacher, director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), will retire at the end of September. And on September 15, NIH Director Francis Collins announced that National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) director Thomas Insel would be stepping down on November 1, 2015. Insel will be joining the Google Life Sciences (GLS) team at Alphabet (formerly Google) to lead a new effort that will focus on mental health.

[Read on](#) for more details.

NIH Releases Precision Medicine Initiative Framework for Cohort of One Million

On September 17, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) presented its recommended design [framework](#) for building a national research participant group, or "cohort," of one million or more Americans, that would be part of the President's proposed Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI) (see Update, [April 21, 2015](#) and [June 15, 2015](#)).

In a statement accepting the ACD's recommendations, NIH Director Francis Collins pointed to the need to remain nimble and adaptable as the Initiative progresses. The agency intends to move quickly to build the necessary infrastructure so that participants can begin enrolling in the cohort in 2016. The long-term goal is to enroll at least 1 million participants in three to four years.

[Read on](#) for more details.

Perez-Stable Joins NIMHD, Participates in First Advisory Council Meeting

Just two weeks into his new position, newly appointed National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) director Eliseo Perez-Stable presided over his first meeting of the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD) on September 17. Perez-Stable was appointed by National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis S. Collins in April (See Update, [May 4, 2015](#)).

Perez-Stable shared his excitement to be at the NIH and his appreciation for the opportunity to work on a topic that he is passionate about. As a resident, he was interested in Latino health care, particularly patient-doctor communication styles, which guided him down his professional path.

[Read on](#) for more information.

Census Releases New ACS Estimates

The Census Bureau has released a new set of annual data from the [American Community Survey](#) (ACS). The 2014 1-Year estimates provide information for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico on the dozens of economic, housing, social, and demographic topics covered by the ACS. The new [data](#) can be accessed here.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Social Science Teams among 2015 Golden Goose Winners

Recipients of the 2015 [Golden Goose Award](#) were honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC on September 17. The Golden Goose Award recognizes researchers whose federally funded work may have seemed odd or obscure when it was first conducted but has resulted in significant benefits to society. COSSA is a supporter of the Award. The 2015 recipients included a [group of psychologists](#) whose work on delayed gratification in children (the "marshmallow test") had far-reaching

implications for our understanding of human behavior, education, and health. The Golden Goose Award also honored two scientists whose collaborative research on "[hypographic demography](#)" (the study of how the population is distributed with respect to altitude) that has had impacts on areas from manufacturing to cancer research.

The ceremony featured remarks for several congressional supporters of the Golden Goose Award, including Representative Jim Cooper (D-TN), who helped found the awards, Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), and Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Randy Hultgren (R-IL), and Robert Dold (R-IL). Sen. Coons applauded the Award for highlighting the "crucial and unpredictable" insights research can provide. Rep. Dold acknowledged the responsibility of Congress to ensure adequate research funding and suggested legislators should be thinking about doubling the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) once more.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIH: [Click here for a list of recent funding opportunities](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Building Strength in Numbers: How Do Early Interventions in Math Instruction Add Up?](#) Washington, DC, September 25, 2015
- [Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), Denver, CO, October 15-18, 2015
- [Evaluation 2015](#), Chicago, IL, November 7-15, 2015
- [North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting](#), Portland, OR, November 11-14, 2015
- [Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference](#), Miami, FL, November 12-14, 2015
- [Social Science History Association Annual Meeting](#), Baltimore, MD, November 12-15, 2015
- [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention](#), Chicago, IL, November 13-15, 2015
- [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), Denver, CO, November 18-22, 2015
- [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, November 18-21, 2015
- [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015
- [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), San Francisco, CA, November 19-22, 2015

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@cossa.org.

Save the date!
COSSA's 2016 Annual Meeting will take place on March 15 & 16.

**Consortium of Social Science Associations
Members**

Governing Members

American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Historical Association
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Law and Society Association
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Midwest Political Science Association
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Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

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Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
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Economic History Association
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Justice Research and Statistics Association
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Institute for Women's Policy Research
NORC at the University of Chicago
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia
Population Reference Bureau
RTI International
Social Science Research Council
Vera Institute of Justice

Colleges and Universities

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Boston University
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Carnegie Mellon University
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Fielding Graduate University
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Indiana University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
New York University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Stony Brook University, SUNY
Texas A&M University
The George Washington University
The Ohio State University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
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University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.

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