



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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House Science Committee Advances "National Interest" Bill and Dyslexia Legislation

On October 8, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee advanced two bills that would impact the National Science Foundation (NSF): the *Scientific Research in the National Interest Act* (H.R. 3293) and the *Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia (READ) Act* (H.R. 3033). [Read on](#) for details.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Budget Talks Progressing Slowly Amid GOP Leadership Vacuum

Only 10 Congressional working days remain between now and the date the U.S. Treasury Department estimates the U.S. will have exhausted its "extraordinary measures" and default on its debt. Originally estimated for November 5, Treasury now says that the U.S. will reach the so-called debt limit by November 3. These developments coupled with the recent surprise withdrawal of Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) as candidate for House Speaker further complicate and likely delay [budget negotiations](#) that many hoped would be well underway at this point. Outgoing Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) may be forced to delay his retirement, originally scheduled for the end of October,

until the House GOP can agree on a new candidate and hold leadership elections. Still pending amid this uncertainty are all 12 annual appropriations bills, which are currently funded by a continuing resolution (CR) until December 11; fiscal year (FY) 2016 officially began on October 1. Given the current situation, it is difficult to see how Congress will complete its work on the FY 2016 appropriations bills before the end of the year.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NIH/AHRQ Announce Policy Changes for Grant Applications

On October 13, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued a notice ([NOT-OD-16-004](#)) outlining policy changes for grant applications, forms, and instructions beginning in 2016. According to the notice, the policy will affect the following areas: rigor and transparency in research, inclusion reporting, research training, data safety monitoring, and biosketch clarification, among others. The changes will occur in two phases. For more information about the changes see the [notice](#).

NSF Seeks Candidates for Division Director of Social and Economic Sciences

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting applications for the position of Division Director for the Social and Economic Sciences (SES) Division within the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE). The Division Director "provides leadership and direction for the support of research and education activities that develop and advance scientific knowledge focusing on political, economic, and social systems and how individuals and organizations function within them." More information on the position can be found in the [Dear Colleague Letter](#) from SBE. Applications may be submitted through [USAJOBS](#).

Census Bureau Marks World Statistics Day

The United Nations has designated October 20 [World Statistics Day](#). To commemorate the day, the Census Bureau has released a new [infographic](#) to highlight the many ways Census data helps fulfill the 2015 Statistics Day theme, "Better Data. Better Lives."

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Academies Report Calls for Better Integration of Social Science into the USGCRP

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has released a new report, [Enhancing Participation in the U.S. Global Change Research Program](#) (USGCRP). The report offers recommendations on broadening participation of federal agencies in the USGCRP by identifying new partnership and enhancing existing ones. As part of its recommendations on better meeting the USGCRP's goal of advancing science related to global change, the report reiterates a call from the [2012 Academies review of the USGCRP's strategic plan](#) that the program "'better integrate the social and ecological sciences' and...move toward 'an integrated observational system that connects observations of the physical environment with a wide variety of social and ecological observations.'" The new report notes that "achieving this expansion presents a grand challenge,

especially considering budget constraints and the fragmented structure of federal research," but suggests a way forward: "For challenges like better integration of social and ecological sciences, one set of promising opportunities for advancing science under the constraints mentioned lies in more fully engaging agencies that already collect data relevant to the USGCRP mission."

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIH: Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Blueprint for Neuroscience Research: Training in Computational Neuroscience, From Biology to Model and Back Again (T90/R90) ([NOT-DA-15-081](#))
- NINR: Personalized Strategies to Manage Symptoms of Chronic Illness (R15) ([PA-16-006](#)), (R01) ([PA-16-007](#)), (R21) ([PA-16-008](#))

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Town Hall Meeting on the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects NPRM](#), Washington, DC, October 20, 2015
- [Census Project Briefing Call on 2020 Operational Plan](#), October 21, 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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American Statistical Association
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Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Evaluation Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
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Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
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
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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

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Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Indiana University
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Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
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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
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Yale University

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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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