



WASHINGTON UPDATE

March 13, 2015 Volume 34, Issue 4

In This Issue

COSSA IN ACTION

[COSSA Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day Attracts Over 100](#)

[COSSA Resources Illustrate Value of Social Science Research](#)

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

[Science Subcommittee Discusses FY 2016 NSF Budget, Social Science Funding](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

[Nominations Sought for National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation](#)

[FDA, OHRP Seek Comment on Proposed Guidance on Electronic Consent](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

NEXT COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day Attracts Over 100

More than 100 social and behavioral scientists from across the country attended the [2015 COSSA Annual Meeting](#) and related events on March 9-10. This week's meeting featured a new format for the annual event, which included moving of the meeting from the fall when it had historically been held, to the spring in order to align with Congressional calendar. As part of the meeting on March 10, more than 60 COSSA members descended on Capitol Hill for the first-ever Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day. Advocates



met with 84 different offices in the House and Senate to discuss the value of social science research and the critical role the federal government plays in supporting this research. Check out the next issue of the COSSA Washington Update for summaries of the meeting's sessions.

A big thanks our Annual Meeting sponsors: American Educational Research Association, American Evaluation Association, American Sociological Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Princeton University, SAGE, and West Virginia University.

COSSA Resources Illustrate Value of Social Science Research

COSSA has developed a series of resources to help its members articulate the value of social and behavioral science research to policy makers and the public. These resources include:

- [State-by-state funding fact sheets](#)
- [Contributions of Social and Behavioral Science to Issues of National Significance](#)
- FY 2016 Funding Request One-Pagers for [NSE](#), [NIH](#), [DOJ](#) and [Federal Statistical Agencies](#)
- [FY 2016 Funding Request Talking Points](#)
- [Analysis of the President's FY 2016 Budget Request for Social and Behavioral Science Research](#)
- [COSSA Handbook for Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy](#)
- COSSA's [TAKE ACTION](#) page

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Science Subcommittee Discusses FY 2016 NSF Budget, Social Science Funding

On February 26, the House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Research Technology held an [oversight hearing](#) to discuss the fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The hearing featured testimony from NSF Director France Córdova and Daniel Arvizu, Chairman of the National Science Board.

Freshman Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (R-VA) is the new chair of the Research and Technology Subcommittee. In her opening remarks, she noted that policy makers wish to be strong advocates for science, but that in the current budget environment, just keeping budgets flat is a challenge, adding that "research dollars need to be spent as effectively and efficiently as possible." With that in mind, Chairwoman Comstock expressed her interest in learning how NSF plans to prioritize research funding in FY 2016.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), a strong proponent of NSF's social science research activities, maintained his support by noting NSF as the only federal agency that funds research across all fields of science and engineering, "including social and economic sciences."

Chairman of the full Science Committee, Lamar Smith (R-TX), was curious why NSF's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorates was slated for a 7.5 percent increase in FY 2016 while the other directorates dealing with engineering, biological sciences, and physical sciences, would receive less. However, Smith also commended NSF for the steps the agency has taken to develop a new transparency and accountability policy to better articulate to lay audiences the value of the research it funds.

Ranking Member of the full Science Committee, Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), spoke in support of the NSF budget request, noting that she hopes "Congress will have the wisdom to fund it." With regard to inquiries over the last year into individual grants the majority identified as "less worthy" of NSF funding, many in the social sciences, Rep. Johnson stated that Congress "[should] not presume to have the expertise to make that determination." She called on her colleagues to trust the merit review process and the experts to make those decisions, adding that it is important to keep the merit review process from becoming a "political review" process.

When pressed by a number of Republican subcommittee members about why NSF funds projects

on topics such as "the gambling habits of monkeys" or "teaching lions to run on treadmills," Dr. Córdova explained that while some projects may seem obscure, they often lead to groundbreaking results, adding that NSF's new transparency policy should better articulate the value of such grants to the national interest.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Nominations Sought for National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation

Nominations are currently being accepted for the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The [National Medal of Science](#) is awarded by the President to individuals deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding cumulative contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, engineering, or behavioral or social sciences, in service to the nation. The [National Medal of Technology and Innovation](#) is awarded to individuals, teams, companies, or divisions of companies for contributions to America's economic, environmental, and social well-being.

Nominations for the National Medal of Science are due on April 27, 2015. More information on the nomination process is available [here](#). Nominations for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation must be received by June 1, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

FDA, OHRP Seek Comment on Proposed Guidance on Electronic Consent

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released [draft guidance](#) on using electronic media and processes to obtain informed consent in FDA-regulated clinical investigations. The guidance covers how and when electronic informed consent information should be presented, how to ensure subjects' understanding of the information, how to maintain confidentiality and security, and how to keep appropriate documentation of the consent process.

FDA is seeking public comment on the draft guidance by May 8, 2015. Instructions and more information are in in the [Federal Register notice](#).

The Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) is soliciting comments on whether the FDA's draft guidance is appropriate for research under the Office's purview (regulated under 45 CFR 46). As part of an effort to harmonize agencies' regulations and guidance for human subjects research, OHRP is considering issuing the final guidance as a joint FDA-OHRP document. The Office will consider comments received from the public in its decision making.

Comments to OHRP are also due on May 8, 2015. More information and instructions are available in a separate [Federal Register notice](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

[American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#), Savannah, GA, March 18-21, 2015

[Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting](#), Philadelphia, PA, March 19-21, 2015

[Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), New Orleans, LA, March 25-29, 2015

[Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference](#), Chicago, IL, March 26-29, 2015
[Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Kansas City, MO, March 26-29, 2015
[Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), Denver, CO, April 8-11, 2015
[American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, April 16-20, 2015
[Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2015
[Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, April 21-25, 2015
[Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions](#), San Antonio, TX, April 22-25, 2015
[Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), San Diego, CA, April 30-May 2, 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@coossa.org.

NEXT COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

The next *COSSA Washington Update* will be published on Tuesday, March 24 and biweekly thereafter.

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
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
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 Finance Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of Research Libraries
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Clark University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
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

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
The Brookings Institution
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

University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Yale University

COSSA

Executive Director: Wendy A. Naus
Deputy Director: Angela L. Sharpe
Assistant Director for Public Affairs: Julia Milton

Address all inquiries to COSSA at newsletter@coffa.org. Telephone: (202) 842-3525

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.

ISSN 0749-4394.