



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## **FEATURED NEWS**

### **President Rolls Out FY 2017 Budget Request, Kicks Off Annual Funding Battle**

The Obama Administration has started releasing details of its final budget request to Congress. Full details of the request for fiscal year (FY) 2017 will continue to roll out over the coming days. COSSA

is preparing an in-depth analysis of the request as it pertains to social science programs across the federal government. It is important to note that the President's request for FY 2017 includes *new mandatory* spending at several agencies, which would largely account for the increases to these agencies.

Details so far include:

- The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** would receive nearly **\$8 billion in FY 2017** (including \$400 million in mandatory spending), **an increase of 6.7 percent**. Without the mandatory spending, the increase would be only 1.3 percent. The Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate would see a 6.1 percent increase when accounting for new mandatory funds; the increase would be 0.1 percent-or flat-without the additional funds. Similarly, the Education and Human Resources Directorate would be increased by 8.3 percent with mandatory funds, 2.1 percent without.
- The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** would receive a **total budget of \$33.1 billion**, of which \$1.8 billion is directed to support Administration-designated initiatives, including:
  - ◦ \$910 million for Alzheimer's disease research;
  - ◦ \$680 million for the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot initiative;
  - ◦ \$300 million (a \$107 million increase) for the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI); and
  - ◦ \$195 million (a \$45 million increase) for NIH's contributions to the BRAIN Initiative.
- The **National Institute of Justice** would receive **\$48 million, a 33 percent increase**, and the **Bureau of Justice Statistics** would receive **\$58 million, a 42 percent increase**.
- The President's budget proposal would use mandatory funding to **double the size of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**, the Department of Agriculture's competitive grants program housed within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). AFRI's budget would increase from \$350 million FY 2016 to **\$700 million**. Without the mandatory funds, the agency would still see a \$7.1 percent increase to \$375 million.
- Funding for the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** would be restored to its FY 2015 level of **\$363.7 million**, undoing the effects of a an 8.2 percent cut in FY 2016. Of those funds, \$83.5 would come from transfers under the *Public Health Service Act* (sometimes called the "evaluation tap"), a particularly unpopular funding mechanism on the Hill. This amount doesn't include already-enacted mandatory transfers from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund, which should total \$106 million in FY 2016.

## **Preliminary Agenda Released for COSSA Annual Meeting; Rates Increase February 15!**

Registration rates for the 2016 COSSA Annual Meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day on March 15-16 will increase on February 15. In addition, the hotel block for out-of-town attendees closes on February 15. [Register and make your reservation today!](#) **Note:** Individuals who work for [COSSA member organizations](#) are eligible for a members-only registration rate. Email [jmilton@cossa.org](mailto:jmilton@cossa.org) for details on how to get your member discount.

A [preliminary agenda](#) for the meeting is now available. Several sessions are still under development-- check back soon for a complete listing of speakers and topics.

ABOUT THE COSSA MEETING -- The COSSA Annual Meeting brings together representatives from throughout the social and behavioral science community for a day of discussion on federal issues

impacting social and behavioral science research. It provides an opportunity for COSSA members to engage directly with leaders of federal science agencies, Congressional staff, and colleagues from other associations and institutions. This year, discussions will highlight the many ways social and behavioral science research serves the national interest. Come be part of the conversation.

## **NEW! University Rankings for Social Science Funding**

COSSA has produced a new resource that shows how U.S. colleges and universities rank in total social and behavioral science research funding awarded each year by the federal government. We use federally collected R&D data for social science-related funding categories to present an accurate listing of the state of social science research funding. [Check out](#) how your university stacks up.

## **COSSA IN ACTION**

### **Not Yet a COSSA Member? Join the Team!**

Do you enjoy receiving your copy of the *COSSA Washington Update* and want to do more to promote social and behavioral science research? [Become a member of COSSA today!](#) COSSA membership is institutional, meaning once your organization/institution/association joins, anyone at the organization can receive our member benefits, including discounted rates for the COSSA Annual Meeting and Social Science Advocacy Day.

To learn more about what COSSA has to offer, download our list of [member benefits](#). And if you are already a member, check out the list to make sure you are getting the most out of your membership.

### **COSSA Updates State SBS Funding Fact Sheets**

COSSA has released new versions of its [state-by-state funding fact sheets](#) for federal social and behavioral science (SBS) funding. The new fact sheets use information for fiscal year (FY) 2014, the most recent currently available federal data. The fact sheets use these data to demonstrate the local economic impact of federal investment in the social and behavioral sciences by providing detailed information on how much funding states receive, where it comes from, and where it goes. They are available for all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Click [here](#) to see how much funding your state receives.

### **COSSA Joins the Call for OAR Working Group on HIV/Substance Use Disorders Research**

COSSA joined organizations representing the "range of scientific, professional, and patient organizations committed to the elimination of substance use disorders and addiction through education, advocacy, and the promotion of broad public and private support for HIV/AIDS and substance use research agendas of the National Institutes of Health [NIH]" on a [letter](#) to Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in response to the fiscal year [\(FY\) 2016 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research](#). The letter expresses concern "that the priorities overall and those specific to behavioral and social sciences, in particular, downplay the critical importance of reducing drug abuse to prevent the spread of HIV infection." The letter's signatories "strongly urge the OAR [NIH Office of AIDS Research] to establish a Working Group

under the auspices of the OAR Advisory Council to develop guidelines for prevention and treatment of HIV in this ever-growing high-risk population" of individuals with substance use disorders. The NIH released its new HIV/AIDS Research Priorities and Guidelines for Determining AIDS Funding in August 2015 (see Update, [December 15, 2015](#)).

## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

### "National Interest" Bill Heads for House Vote

The [Scientific Research in the National Interest Act](#) (H.R. 3293), sponsored by Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX), is legislation that seeks to set a definition for federally-funded research conducted in the "national interest." The language of the bill was derived from Sec. 106 of the [America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015](#) (H.R. 1806), which passed the House in May despite strong and vocal opposition from the broad scientific research community. Smith has argued that his bill is intended to ensure that the National Science Foundation (NSF) is funding "only high priority research." While the bill text itself is rather benign, the intent of the legislation, as exemplified by the [press release](#) issued alongside it, is to continue singling out grants that Smith deems unworthy of taxpayer support, many in the social sciences. The bill will head to the House floor a vote this week. Companion legislation does not exist in the Senate.

COSSA issued a [statement](#) in July calling out the ideological motives behind the bill and urging that political review not become part of NSF's merit review process.

### Dyslexia Research Bill Heads to the President's Desk

Last week, the Senate passed the *Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act* or READ Act (H.R. 3033). The bill, originally introduced in the House by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), requires that the National Science Foundation include in its annual budget request to Congress \$2.5 million to study the science of dyslexia. An additional \$2.5 million is authorized for research on other learning disabilities. The final bill was amended to allow for this flexibility in funding; the original bill earmarked \$5 million entirely for dyslexia research. The bill now heads to the President's desk for signature.

## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

### White House Announces National Cancer Moonshot Task Force

On February 1, the White House announced a new \$1 billion initiative to jumpstart the new national "moonshot" initiative announced by President Obama in his 2016 State of the Union Address. The President established the White House Cancer Moonshot Task Force via a presidential memorandum, which will be led by [Vice President Biden](#). The goal of the initiative is "to eliminate cancer as we know it." The Task Force's membership will include the leadership of the Departments of Defense (DOD), Commerce (DOC), Health and Human Services (HHS), Energy (DOE), Veterans Affairs (VA), and the Office of Management and Budget, National Economic Council, Domestic Policy Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Food and Drug Administration (FDA),



Photo Credit: The White House

National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Science Foundation, among others as designated. NIH is directed to provide "funding and administrative support" for the Task Force. Additionally, the presidentially-appointed [National Cancer Advisory Board](#) (NCAB) is directed to also serve on the Task Force and is "strongly encouraged to establish a working group consisting of a Blue Ribbon Panel of scientific experts." The Task Force is charged with producing a detailed set of findings and recommendations and delivering a report to the President before December 31, 2016.

[Read on](#) for more details.

## **Human Subjects Advisory Committee Seeking New Members**

The [Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections](#) (SACHRP), the advisory body to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary and the [Office of Human Research Protections](#) (OHRP), is soliciting nominations to fill four vacancies in 2016, including the position of Chair. SACHRP provides scientific expertise and recommendation on matters related to the protection of human subjects in scientific research. The Committee will likely play an important role as OHRP finalizes its announced revisions to the Common Rule ([see COSSA's coverage](#)). Experts are sought from fields including "public health and medicine, behavioral and social sciences, health administration, and biomedical ethics." Nominations must be received no later than March 21, 2016. More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

## **OBSSR Convenes Expert Panel to Provide Input into Strategic Plan**

On January 19-20, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) convened an expert panel to provide input into the Office's strategic planning process as it works to update the [2007 strategic plan](#) for FY 2016-FY 2020. The meeting follows a series of internal meetings and a November 2015 request for information (RFI) ([NOT-OD-16-018](#)) seeking the broad input of the scientific community and the public, including academia, industry, health care professionals, patient advocates and advocacy organizations, scientific and/or professional organizations, and other federal agencies regarding the scientific priorities that should be considered in the update strategic.

In a January 26 [blog post](#), OBSSR Director William Riley noted that he and the OBSSR staff were "energized and encouraged by the passion and urgency" the panel provided and highlighted some of the key messages observed during the meeting. A summary document will be developed based on the meeting discussions followed by a draft strategic plan, which will be made available for public comment. In addition, OBSSR plans to consult with relevant stakeholder groups to solicit feedback through an RFI and develop the proposed final plan to submit for final approval by the NIH director.

## **NIDDK Publishes Annual Report of Recent Advances and Emergent Opportunities**

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently released its 16<sup>th</sup> annual compilation of the research and programs it supports. The report reflects the Institute's broad research responsibilities. Included among the advances highlighted by director Griffin Rodgers in his introductory message is the finding that "overweight or obese preschoolers participating in Head Start programs were more

likely to reach healthier weights by kindergarten age than other groups of overweight and obese children." The full report is available on NIDDK's [website](#).

## **NSF Releases 2016 Science & Engineering Indicators**

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) has released the 2016 edition of [Science and Engineering Indicators](#). The congressionally-mandated report is produced under the guidance of the National Science Board (NSB) presents a collection of data "relevant to the scope, quality, and vitality of the science and engineering (S&E) enterprise." The full report and additional resources are available on the S&E Indicators [website](#).

## **FDA Tobacco Regulatory Science Fellowship Accepting**

The Center for Tobacco Products within the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is accepting applications for its [Tobacco Regulatory Science Fellowship](#). The year-long fellowship is open to mid-career professionals who have an advanced degree in fields including (but not limited to) behavioral science, communications, economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, public health, and public policy. Fellows work within the Center to "regulate the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products and educate the public about tobacco products and their dangers." Applications are due on March 1, 2016.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- NIA: Small Business Alzheimer's Disease Research (R43/R44) ([PA-16-091](#)), (R41/R42) ([PA-16-092](#))
- [HHS Office of Minority Health: Communities Addressing Childhood Trauma](#) (ACT) ([MP-CPI-16-002](#))
- RWJF: [Policies for Action: Policy and Law Research to Build a Culture of Health](#)
- RWJF: [Awards for Health Equity](#)

## **COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **AAPSS Inducts 2016 Fellows**

The [American Academy of Political and Social Science](#), a COSSA member, announced its 2016 class of Fellows. They include economists Esther Dunflow (MIT) and James J. Heckman (University of Chicago); Sherman A. James, a social psychologist at Duke University (emeritus) and Emory University; NYU social historian Thomas J. Sugrue; and Philip Tetlock, a psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania. COSSA congratulates these distinguished individuals on their achievement. Click [here](#) to read more about the 2016 class.

### **SPSSI Accepting Applications for Summer Minority Policy Fellowship**

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) is seeking applications for its [Dalmas A. Taylor Memorial Summer Minority Policy Fellowship](#). The fellowship honors Taylor, a SPSSI president instrumental in establishing the Minority Fellowship at the American Psychological



Association (APA). It is administered in conjunction with APA's Minority Fellowship Office. The fellowship provides an opportunity for a graduate student of color to work on public policy issues in Washington, DC. Applications are due March 1. Information on applying is available on the [SPSSI website](#).

## EVENTS CALENDAR

- [American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#), Denver, CO, March 9-12, 2016
- [COSSA Annual Meeting & Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day](#), Washington, DC, March 15-16, 2016
- [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), Las Vegas, NV, March 22-27, 2016
- [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, March 23-26, 2016
- [Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting](#), San Francisco, CA, March 28-April 2, 2016
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), Denver, CO, March 29-April 2, 2016
- [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, March 20-April 2, 2016
- [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, March 31-April 2, 2016
- [Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference](#), Seattle, WA, March 31-April 3, 2016
- [Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting](#), Baltimore, MD, March 31-April 2, 2016
- [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), Chicago, IL, April 7-10, 2016
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, April 8-12, 2016
- [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Atlanta, GA, April 13-17, 2016

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@coffa.org](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

**COSSA's [2016 Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day](#) will take place on March 15 & 16.  
[Register today!](#)**

## Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

### Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
American Economic Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Criminology  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Law Schools  
Law and Society Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Political Science Association  
National Communication Association  
Population Association of America

### 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

Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Society for Research in Child Development

## Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Association of Geographers  
American Evaluation Association  
American Historical 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  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council on Social Work Education  
Economic History Association  
History of Science Society  
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  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council  
Vera Institute of Justice

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  
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, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
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  
Virginia Tech  
West Virginia 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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