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# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## **In This Issue**

### **FEATURED NEWS**

[FY 2018 Funding Bills Off to a Slow Start](#)

### **COSSA IN ACTION**

[The Crime and Justice Research Alliance Answers "Why Social Science?"](#)

### **CONGRESSIONAL NEWS**

[Senate Subcommittee Discusses FY 2018 NIH Budget, Pledges Support](#)

### **FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

[Agriculture Research Board Seeking Representatives from Social Science Associations](#)

[National Endowment for the Arts Releases Program Solicitation for Research Labs](#)

### **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

[Podcasts Highlight the Impact of Congressional Wastebooks on Researchers](#)

### **COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

[Society for Research in Child Development Announces Next Executive Director](#)

### **EVENTS CALENDAR**

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## **FEATURED NEWS**

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### **FY 2018 Funding Bills Off to a Slow Start**

The House and Senate are heading down different paths as they attempt to kick-start the fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations process before the new fiscal year begins on October 1. As [previously reported](#), the annual appropriations process is significantly delayed this year with the President's budget request having been transmitted to Congress just last month (it is usually due in early February).

Appropriations subcommittees in both chambers have begun holding their annual hearings to discuss the budget requests for agencies under their purview (see [related article](#) on the NIH budget hearing). Some subcommittees have begun writing their appropriations bills, even without knowing what their spending allocation-- the topline budget they are allotted for their bill--is for next year. Some have chosen to write their bills using current FY 2017 funding levels, while others are assuming small increases.

Given that there are less than 40 working days left before the next fiscal year begins, House

leaders have expressed an interest in foregoing regular order altogether and instead crafting a catch-all omnibus appropriation bill. To accomplish this, however, subcommittees would need to start marking up and passing their bills out of committee over the next several weeks so they can be compiled into a 12-bill package before September 30.

The Senate, on the other hand, is taking a more deliberate approach and would prefer to advance each of the appropriations bills individually through the committee process before September so that they can be in a good negotiating position with the House when it comes time to finish up the bills later this fall.

Either way, we may start to see details of the appropriations bills of interest to the research community emerge following the July 4 recess.

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## COSSA IN ACTION

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### The Crime and Justice Research Alliance Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's "Why Social Science?" guest post comes from Nancy La Vigne, Chair of the Crime and Justice Research Alliance and Director of the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, who writes about how findings from criminology help us answer crucial questions about crime and our justice system. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

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## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

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### Senate Subcommittee Discusses FY 2018 NIH Budget, Pledges Support

On June 22, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) to discuss the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget request for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Appearing before the committee were NIH Director Francis Collins and six institute and center directors, including Douglas Lowy of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Gary Gibbons of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Anthony Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Richard Hodes of the National Institute of Aging (NIA), Nora Volkow of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and Joshua Gordon of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

As [previously reported](#), the Trump Administration's budget request for NIH seeks a cut of \$7 billion or about 22 percent from current levels. The proposed reduction came at the same time Congress was putting the finishing touches on its \$2 billion increase for the agency in FY 2017. NIH funding has long been one of the rare instances of unified, bipartisan support in Congress. In fact, at the outset of the hearing, LHHS Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO) criticized the President's request, stating that he "fundamentally disagree[s] with the proposed reduction." While over the last two years Congress has worked to increase the NIH budget by more than 13 percent, the Administration offers a budget that would result in the loss of 90,000 jobs and \$15.3 billion in economic activity, stated the chairman. Subcommittee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) added that the proposed cut would represent the lowest funding level for the agency since 2002. Other Subcommittee members expressed their objection to the request and pledged their support for increased NIH funding again in FY 2018.

## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

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### Agriculture Research Board Seeking Representatives from Social Science Associations

The [National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics \(NAREEE\) Advisory Board](#) is seeking nominations to fill nine vacancies, including a slot reserved for a representative from a national social science association. The NAREEE Advisory Board is comprised of 25 members, each representing a core stakeholder group for agricultural research, extension, education, and economics, and advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and priorities related to those domains. In addition to seeking to fill a vacancy for the National Social Science Association category, the Board is seeking nominations for the National Food Science Organization, National Nutritional Science Society, and 1862 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities categories, among others. Nominations should be submitted by July 31, 2017. More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

### National Endowment for the Arts Releases Program Solicitation for Research Labs

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has [released a program solicitation](#) for its Research Labs program. NEA Research Labs extend the research agenda of the NEA by cultivating transdisciplinary research partnerships, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, to produce insights about "the arts for the benefits of arts and non-arts sector alike". The deadline for proposal submissions is July 18, 2017. The complete solicitation and instructions can be found [here](#).

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## PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### Podcasts Highlight the Impact of Congressional Wastebooks on Researchers

A recent episode of the new PRI podcast [Undiscovered](#) (from the team behind Science Friday) focuses on how the publication of Congressional "wastebooks" affects the researchers whose grants are ridiculed. The episode, entitled "[The Wastebook](#)," features the 2016 event, "*Wasteful? Research? Looking Beyond the Abstract*," during which researchers whose grants were singled out by wastebooks had the opportunity to more fully explain their research to Members of Congress and their staff. The event was hosted by the Coalition to Promote Research (which COSSA co-leads) and the Coalition for National Science Funding (more information is available [here](#)). The podcast episode highlights Duke University biologist Sheila Patek, whose National Science Foundation grant was featured in a 2015 wastebook published by Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ). During the "'Wasteful' Research" event, Patek had the opportunity to explain the value of her research to Sen. Flake himself, and the podcast describes how that meeting went. The episode was also adapted into an [episode](#) of the NPR podcast [Planet Money](#).

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## COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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### Society for Research in Child Development Announces Next Executive Director

The [Society for Research in Child Development](#) (SRCD), a COSSA Governing Member, has

[announced the appointment of Laura L. Namy, Ph.D.](#) as its next Executive Director. Namy served for 19 years in the Psychology Department and Linguistics Program at Emory University where she founded and supervised the Language and Learning Laboratory and directed the interdisciplinary Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture. She will begin her tenure at SRCD on September 5, replacing Lonnie Sherrod who has served in the position since 2007.

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Hotspot Policing: Results from Colombia - The Lunch @ DC with Don Green](#), July 6, 2017, Washington, DC
- [How Evidence Can Transform the Fight Against Poverty - The Lunch @ DC with Jim Sullivan](#), July 20, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), July 27-30, 2017, Columbus, OH
- [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), July 28-August 3, 2017, Baltimore, MD
- [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), August 3-6, 2017, Washington, DC
- [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 12-15, 2017, Montreal, Canada
- [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), August 31-September 3, 2017, San Francisco, CA

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

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

### Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Association of Geographers  
American Council of Learned Societies  
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

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Clark University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Fielding Graduate University  
Florida State University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University, The  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Howard University  
Indiana University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
North Carolina State University  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University, The  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Stanford University  
Texas A&M University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles

Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
Council on Social Work Education  
Economic History Association  
History of Science Society  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council on Family Relations  
North American Regional Science Council  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Prevention Research  
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

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 Nebraska, Lincoln  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Texas, San Antonio  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

### Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Political and Social Science  
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  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

### COSSA

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*The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.*

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