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FEATURED NEWS

Why Social Science? Highlights the National Academies' SBE Report

The logo for "Why Social Science?" features the words "WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE" in a blue, serif font, stacked vertically. A large, yellow question mark is positioned to the right of the text, with its dot at the bottom right.

This week's *Why Social Science?* post highlights the recent report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, [The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities](#). Produced at the request of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the report assesses the contributions of the social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences to issues of national importance. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

House Releases Draft Ag, CJS Appropriations Bills; Some Details Still Unclear

In the weeks leading up to the Independence Day recess, several House Subcommittees began their work for fiscal year (FY) 2018 in earnest by marking up draft appropriation bills, including the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies ([June 28](#)) and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) ([June 29](#)). While the text of the draft bills has been released, it is unlikely that their accompanying committee reports, which include more detailed information on funding and policy riders, will be made available until just before the bills are marked up by the full Appropriations Committee. Once that information is released, COSSA will produce a full analysis of both bills. Preliminary details on the House FY 2018 CJS and Agriculture bills follow.

The draft [FY 2018 CJS appropriations bill](#), which the subcommittee [marked up on June 29](#), includes \$7.3 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), a \$133 million cut compared to FY 2017 but 10.3 percent more than the amount requested by the Trump Administration. Most of the subaccounts within the NSF budget, including the Research and Related Activities account, would be flat compared to FY 2017. The exception is NSF's Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction account, which would be cut by 62.8 percent compared to FY 2017. The bill's proposal for the Census Bureau would provide it with \$1.507 billion in FY 2018, an increase of \$37 million more than the amount enacted in FY 2017 and \$12.6 million above the Administration's requested amount. Within that amount, \$1.251 billion is provided for Periodic Censuses and Programs, which includes the 2020 Census, an increase of \$51 million compared to FY 2017. The bill would also provide the Bureau's Periodic Surveys and Programs with \$256 million, a \$14 million cut compared to the FY 2017 enacted level.

The House's [FY 2018 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA), which was [approved by the subcommittee on June 28](#), largely accepts the Administration's proposed cuts to USDA statistical agencies (see COSSA's [full analysis of the President's budget request](#)). The bill would provide \$76.8 million to the Economic Research Service (ERS), a roughly \$10 million or 11.5 percent cut compared to FY 2017. This amount is 0.1 percent more than the amount requested by the President. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) would receive a total of \$183.8 million, 1.2 percent less than the amount request by the Administration and an increase of 7.3 percent from FY 2017. NASS will conduct its Census of Agriculture in 2018 and the increase is part of a scheduled ramp-up. While the House bill would provide NASS overall with less than the amount requested by the Administration, it would allocate more of that money to Census of Agriculture activities, leaving even less funding available for NASS' other Agricultural Estimates programs. While the total discretionary funding level proposed for the National Institute of Agriculture (NIFA) is not detailed in the draft legislation, the bill does specify a total of \$830.4 million for NIFA's Research and Education Programs, which include the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). This amount is a 2.3 percent cut from FY 2107, but 7.9 percent more than the President's request.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Thompson Leaves Census Bureau; Acting Director Named

On June 30, John Thompson officially resigned as Director of the Census Bureau, after [unexpectedly announcing](#) his planned departure in May. Effective July 1, Ron Jarmin will

become Acting Director of the Bureau. Jarmin has been with the Census Bureau since 1992 and currently serves as Associate Director for Economic Programs. Enrique Lamas, Associate Director for Demographic Programs, will serve as Acting Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer, a position that has been vacant for several months. In addition, the Department of Commerce announced that Secretary Wilbur Ross has hired Arnold Jackson as a consultant. Jackson oversaw the 2010 Census as Associate Director for the Decennial Census.

NCHS Releases 40th *Health, United States* Report

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has released the 40th edition of one of its flagship publications, [Health, United States](#), the "report card" on the nation's health. *Health, United States, 2016* compiles federal data on a wide range of topics related to morbidity, mortality, health care utilization and access, health risk factors, prevention, health insurance, and personal health care expenditures. The 2016 edition includes a chartbook that highlights long-term trends over the past 40 years related to infant mortality, leading causes of death, life expectancy, poisoning deaths, and smoking. The complete report is available on the [NCHS website](#).

AHRQ Advisory Committee Seeking Nominations

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is accepting nominations for potential new members of the [National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality](#), the scientific advisory body for AHRQ. Candidates should have experience with "(1) the conduct of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations with respect to health care; (2) the fields of health care quality research or health care improvement; (3) the practice of medicine; (4) other health professions; (5) representing the private health care sector (including health plans, providers, and purchasers) or administrators of health care delivery systems; (6) the fields of health care economics, information systems, law, ethics, business, or public policy; and, (7) representing the interests of patients and consumers of health care." More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

Department of Education Issues Request for International Research and Studies Program Applications

The Department of Education issued a request for fiscal year (FY) 2017 applications for the Title VI [International Research and Studies Program](#). The program supports surveys, studies, and development of instructional materials to improve and strengthen instruction in modern foreign languages, area studies, and other international fields. Priorities for funding in FY 2017 include research, surveys, or studies about U.S. school-based dual language immersion programs or about outcomes of international education programs for U.S. postsecondary students. This request for applications marks the first time the International Research and Studies Program has been funded since FY 2011. Applications are due by August 14, 2016. The full Federal Register announcement can be found [here](#).

Health and Human Services Solicits Comments on Healthy People

2030

Every decade, the [Healthy People Initiative](#), part of the Office of Disease Prevention and Promotion of the Department of Health and Human Services, develops a new set of science-based national objectives with the goal of improving the health of all Americans. The Department has started to solicit written comments on the development of *Healthy People 2030*. Comments are sought on the framework, vision, mission, and overarching goals of the initiative. Comments must be submitted by September 29, 2017. The full solicitation can be found [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Academies to Host Public Discussion on SBE Report

The Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will host a public discussion on their report [The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities](#) on July 19. Members of the committee that authored the report will present key findings followed by questions from the audience and a roundtable discussion with experts. [Registration](#) is required.

Nominations Open for AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is seeking nominations for its annual [AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#). The award recognizes scientists and engineers who have "acted to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare; or focused public attention on important potential impacts of science and technology on society by their responsible participation in public policy debates; or established important new precedents in carrying out the social responsibilities or in defending the professional freedom of scientists and engineers." Nominations are due by September 1, 2017. More information is available on the [AAAS website](#).

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COSSA Welcomes National Council on Family Relations and University of Georgia

COSSA welcomes two new members this month. The [National Council on Family Relations](#) (NCFR) has joined as an affiliate member. NCFR is the oldest multidisciplinary professional association focused solely on family research, practice, and education.

COSSA is also pleased to welcome the [University of Georgia](#) (UGA) as a new university member. Located in Athens, Georgia, UGA is a flagship research university, land-grant, Sea Grant, and Space Grant university and is home to the [Owens Institute for Behavioral Research](#). COSSA's full membership list is available [here](#). Information on how to join can be found on the [COSSA website](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [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.

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
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

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
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Georgia
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

Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

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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