



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

Congress Moves FY 2018 Spending Bills Ahead of August Recess

The House and Senate have worked in recent weeks to advance as many of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 annual appropriations bills as possible before heading out of town for the typical month-long August recess. Details have been emerging on lawmakers' funding plans for agencies and programs important to the COSSA community.

The House Appropriations Committee approved two bills this month that provide the bulk of funding support for the social sciences. [The Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies \(CJS\) appropriations bill](#), which funds the National Science Foundation, Department of Justice, and Census Bureau, was approved on July 13. The [Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill](#), which funds the National Institutes of Health and other HHS agencies, Department of Education, and Bureau of Labor Statistics, was approved on

July 19. The next step for both bills is consideration by the full House; however, that is not likely to happen until after the August recess when Congress returns following Labor Day. Instead, the House will work this week toward passing a so-called "security mini-bus" that will include the Defense, Energy-Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction-VA appropriations bills; the package is likely to also contain \$1.6 billion for the construction of President Trump's southern border wall, which as one could expect leaves the fate of the FY 2018 appropriations process on touchy ground.

[Read on](#) for more details.

COSSA IN ACTION

The American Political Science Association Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's *Why Social Science* guest post comes from Steven Rathgeb Smith, Executive Director of the American Political Science Association, who writes about how political science helps us understand and engage with our political and social systems and institutions. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

House Budget Committee Approves Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Resolution

On July 12, the House Budget Committee approved a fiscal year (FY) 2018 Budget Resolution, an important first step for Congressional Republicans if they hope to complete work on the FY 2018 spending bills and overhaul the tax code during this Congress. The resolution proposes to increase defense funding by \$72 billion and cut non-defense discretionary spending by \$5 billion. This proposal would bring non-defense discretionary spending, which includes federal science agencies, to 17 percent below FY 2010 funding levels.

The measure passed the Committee on a party-line vote, but is facing an uphill battle as it moves to the House floor, as some of the most conservative members of the House have already voice opposition to the bill. A statement on the proposed budget from NDD United, a coalition working to increase the non-defense discretionary budget allocation, of which COSSA is a member, can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

OMB's FY 2019 Budget Guidance Calls for Major Funding Reforms

On July 7, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), led by Director Mick Mulvaney, issued a [memorandum to federal departments and agencies](#) with guidance on how to approach development of the fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget submission. According to the memo, "the FY 2019 Budget will provide an opportunity to present a comprehensive plan for reforming the Federal Government and reducing the Federal civilian workforce. It also will

reflect the first impacts of the Government reorganization called for by [Executive Order 13781](#) [issued in March]." Budget submissions are expected to continue proposals included in the [FY 2018 budget](#). Initial FY 2019 budget proposals from the agencies are due to OMB by September 11, 2017, even though agencies will not yet know what their FY 2018 budgets will be (see [related article](#)).

As you may recall, the Trump Administration implemented a temporary federal workforce hiring freeze during its first few weeks in office and issued a "[Comprehensive plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce](#)." Agencies' FY 2019 budgets are expected to include "agency reform plans" that make proposals for eliminating activities, restructuring or merging, improving organizational efficiency and effectiveness, and workforce management.

Alongside submission of their budget proposals, agencies are also tasked with submitting draft strategic plans covering FY 2018-2022, a draft FY 2019 performance plan, and agency priority goals for FY 2018-2019. OMB will work with federal departments and agencies over the next several months to prepare the final FY 2019 budget request, which will be delivered to Congress in February 2018.

President Appoints David Muhlhausen to Lead National Institute of Justice

On July 11, President Trump [appointed David Muhlhausen](#) to serve as the Director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Muhlhausen joins NIJ from the [Heritage Foundation's Center for Data Analysis](#) where he is a Research Fellow in Empirical Policy Analysis. Muhlhausen holds a doctorate in public policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and a bachelor's degree in political science and justice studies from Frostburg State University and has served as an adjunct professor at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.

Through NIJ, the Department of Justice works to improve knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science. NIJ supports extramural research at educational institutions, local and state agencies, faith-based organizations, other federal agencies, and federally-funded research and development centers.

Census Science Advisory Committee Seeking Nominations

The Census Bureau has issued a call for nominations for membership to the [Census Scientific Advisory Committee](#). This committee advises the Director of the Census Bureau on data collection, statistical analysis, econometrics, cognitive psychology, and a variety of other scientific areas pertaining to Census Bureau programs and activities. According to the [notice in the Federal Register](#), "Nominees must have scientific and technical expertise in such areas as demography, economics, geography, psychology, statistics, survey methodology, social and behavioral sciences, Information Technology, computing, or marketing." The deadline for applications is August 11, 2017. More information is available in the [Federal Register](#).

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Former Census Director to Lead Statistics Group

John Thompson, who [resigned](#) as Director of the Census Bureau last month, has been [appointed](#) Executive Director of the [Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics](#) (COPAFS), effective July 24. Before being appointed to lead Census in 2013, Thompson was the President and CEO of NORC at the University of Chicago. He succeeds Katherine Smith Evans, who served as Executive Director since October 2012 and has been named the Washington Area Representative for the American Economic Association. COSSA looks forward to continuing to

work closely with COPAFS on issues affecting federal statistical agencies and welcomes Thompson in his new role.

National Academies Releases Sixth Edition of *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*

The Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recently published the sixth edition of its report, [Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency](#), which is released every four years to coincide with presidential terms. The consensus study report provides an explanation of the federal statistical system and offers guiding principles and best practices for federal statistical agencies. According to the report, in order to disseminate relevant, timely, accurate and credible information to the public and policymakers, federal statistical agencies follow four guiding principles: (1) produce objective and relevant information, (2) maintain a credible reputation among data users, (3) build trust among data providers, and (4) remain independent and objective.

This article was contributed by COSSA's summer intern, Shannon Emmett of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

National Academies Event Highlights Recent SBE Report; Rep. Lipinski Adds his Support

On July 19, the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine hosted a [public discussion](#) on a recently released consensus report requested by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The report, [The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities](#), discussed the overwhelming consensus that the social, behavioral, and economic sciences (SBE) significantly contribute to the advancement of NSF's missions, the missions of other agencies, as well as the missions of businesses and industries. For a more detailed summary of the report, refer to COSSA's [summary](#). The public discussion of the report was comprised of an overview of the report, commentary, and roundtable discussion on implementing the report's recommendations, as well as an opportunity for questions from the audience.

[Read on](#) for more details.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [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
- [Economic History Association Annual Meeting](#), September 15-17, 2017, San Jose, 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.

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
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
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

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
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

Executive Director: Wendy A. Naus
Assistant Director for Public Affairs: Julia Milton
Government Relations Associate: Camille Hosman

newsletter@coffa.org

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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