



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the House FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill | May 18, 2018

On May 17, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Bill; the bill was marked up in subcommittee on May 9. The CJS bill serves as the vehicle for annual appropriations for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and many other federal departments and agencies. The Senate has not yet released the details of its CJS bill.

At a Glance...

- The House CJS bill includes \$8.2 billion for NSF in FY 2019, which is 5.2 percent above the FY 2018 enacted level and 9.4 percent above the President's request.
- The House bill would provide NIJ with \$44 million and BJS with \$50 million, which is 4.8 and 4.2 percent, respectively, above the FY 2018 enacted level and 22 percent above the President's request.
- The House bill would provide the Census Bureau with \$4.8 billion in discretionary funding for FY 2019. That amount is an increase of \$2 billion compared to FY 2018 and \$1 billion more than the amount requested by the Administration.
- The House bill includes \$99 million for the Economics and Statistics Administration, which houses BEA, flat with FY 2018 and \$2 million below the President's request.

The next step for the bill is consideration by the full House. However, with the August recess quickly approaching, and this being an election year, floor time is extremely limited. It remains to be seen whether/how House leadership will proceed with the individual appropriations bills this year. It is all but certain that FY 2019 will begin on October 1, 2018 under a continuing resolution (CR).

Summarized below are the House Appropriations Committee's proposals for the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the Census Bureau.

The bill, Committee's full report, and webcast of the markup can be found [here](#).

COSSA's coverage of the President's FY 2019 budget request and other funding developments is available [here](#).

National Science Foundation

The House CJS bill includes \$8.2 billion for NSF in FY 2019, which is 5.2 percent over the FY 2018 enacted level and 9.4 percent above the President's request. The Committee enthusiastically rejected the Trump Administration's proposed reductions to NSF, earning the bill bipartisan praise in both subcommittee and full committee markups. Rep. John Culberson (R-TX), chair of the CJS Subcommittee, added during the full

committee markup that the increase to NSF will allow it to fund more of the grant applications it receives and added that “the work that the National Science Foundation does is essential to ensure that the United States continues to lead the world in scientific discoveries and that the peer review process remains non-political and fully-funded so they can continue to discover new things about our universe and life on earth.”

The House bill proposes \$6.7 billion for the Research and Related Activities account, which funds NSF’s six research directorates, a 5 percent increase over the enacted FY 2018 amount. The most notable flat-funding proposed in the bill would be for the Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate, which the committee proposed maintaining at \$902 million in FY 2019. The largest comparative increase proposed for NSF is the Major Research Facilities and Construction (MREFC) account, which the committee recommended receive \$268 million, 47 percent more than enacted in FY 2018. The increase for MREFC includes money to construct three Regional Class Research Vessels.

The House bill does not include any language targeting the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Science Directorate (SBE) for cuts, which we have seen in recent years. The bill as written preserves NSF’s flexibility to fund the very best science across all scientific domains. The absence of language targeting SBE is a significant win for the social science research community and NSF more broadly.

The Committee included some passages of note in the report accompanying the bill, many identical to passages included in the FY 2018 report. The report states that “the Committee believes that strategic investments in the physical science areas are vitally important for the United States to remain the global leader in innovation, productivity, economic growth, and good paying jobs for the future.” However, as noted, it stops short of directing NSF to prioritize funding to the physical sciences at the expense of other disciplines.

In addition, identical to the FY 2018 and FY 2017 reports, the committee includes language citing the *American Innovation and Competitiveness Act* (AICA), which was one of the last bills signed into law by President Obama. Specifically, it cites the broader impacts review criterion stated in the AICA:

“Abstracts and the national interest. —[AICA] directs NSF to apply a broader impacts review criterion to identify and demonstrate project support of the following goals: increasing the economic competitiveness of the United States; advancing of the health and welfare of the American public; supporting the national defense of the United States; enhancing partnerships between academia and industry in the United States; developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development, and improved undergraduate STEM education and instruction; improving public scientific literacy and engagement with science and technology in the United States; or expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.”

The report also encourages NSF to use its Industrial Innovation and Partnerships program to continue research into the U.S. steel industry, to continue supporting neuroscience research, and commends NSF’s Big Ideas initiative that identifies long-term research and process ideas that identifies areas for future investment at the frontiers of science and engineering.

	Enacted FY 2018	Request FY 2019	House FY 2019	House vs. FY 2018	House vs. Request
National Science Foundation	7767.4	7472.0	8174.9	5.2%	9.4%
Research and Related Activities	6334.5	6150.7	6651.5	5.0%	8.1%
Education and Human Resources	902.0	873.4	902.0	0.0%	3.3%
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	182.8	94.7	268.0	46.6%	183.2%
Agency Operations and Award Management	328.5	333.6	333.6	1.6%	0.0%
National Science Board	4.4	4.3	4.4	0.0%	1.2%
Office of the Inspector General	15.2	15.4	15.4	1.0%	0.0%

National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics

The House bill would provide the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) with \$44 million and \$50 million, respectively. This would represent a substantial 22 percent increase for both NIJ and BJS from their FY 2018 levels. The report accompanying the bill includes some notable language. NIJ is encouraged to increase funding for research on human trafficking, support comprehensive research on opioid fatalities, and to provide a report to the committee on cybercrime against individuals. The Committee’s report encourages BJS to develop data collection processes to accurately count deaths and injuries from police pursuit and high-risk vehicles, to disaggregate the race and ethnicity portion of the National Crime Victimization Survey, and to coordinate with the Census Bureau to better include Puerto Rico in BJS data products.

	Enacted FY 2018	Request FY 2019	House FY 2019	House vs. FY 2018	House vs. Request
Bureau of Justice Statistics	48.0	41.0	50.0	4.2%	22.0%
National Institute of Justice	42.0	36.0	44.0	4.8%	22.2%

Census Bureau

The House’s proposal would provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$4.8 billion for FY 2019, which is \$2 billion above the level enacted in FY 2018 and \$1 billion more than the amount requested by the President. The bill would maintain flat funding for the Bureau’s Current Surveys and Programs at \$270 million, which the Administration had proposed to cut. The Periodic Censuses and Programs account, which includes the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey, would receive a total of \$4.5 billion.

In order to provide the Bureau with increased funding flexibility as it enters the peak phase of operations for the 2020 Census, the bill allows for the funding provided to be used through the first quarter of FY 2020. The FY 2018 omnibus bill also included this provision, allowing FY 2018 funds to be used for early FY 2019 spending. Several clauses in the Committee report are intended to provide increased oversight over potential cost overruns related to the 2020 Census and request additional information.

As it has in previous years, the Committee’s report includes language criticizing the “burdensome nature” of the American Community Survey (ACS), but does not include language that would make the survey voluntary. The report states:

“American Community Survey (ACS).—The Committee is very concerned about the burdensome nature of the ACS and directs Census to focus on its core, constitutionally mandated decennial Census activities. The Bureau shall continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on efforts to ensure the necessity of all the questions on the ACS; on efforts to ensure that nonresponse follow-up is conducted in the least intrusive manner; and on congressional outreach conducted by the Respondent Advocate.”

The Committee report directs the Census Bureau to conduct a study on the feasibility of including Puerto Rico in its own surveys of the U.S. population, as well as those produced by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The study should also address ways to improve the Census Bureau’s data collection capacity in Puerto Rico.

During the markup of the bill, Raking Member Jose Serrano (D-NY) and Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) proposed an amendment that would prevent funds in the bill from being used to add a question on citizenship to the 2020 Census. It failed along party lines.

	Enacted FY 2018	Request FY 2019	House FY 2019	House vs. FY 2018	House vs. Request
Bureau of the Census	2814.0	3797.0	4799.7	70.6%	26.4%
Current Surveys and Programs	270.0	249.1	270.0	0.0%	8.4%
Periodic Censuses and Programs	2544.0	3547.8	4529.7	78.1%	27.7%

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