



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

NIH Releases Data Science Strategic Plan

On June 4, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released its [first strategic plan for data](#)

[science](#). The strategic plan will serve as a roadmap for modernizing the NIH-supported biomedical data science ecosystem and provide leadership within the broader biomedical research data community. NIH will begin implementing the plan over the next year and focus on usability of NIH-funded biomedical data sets and resources, integration of existing data management tools and development of new ones, and the growing costs of data management. NIH will seek community input during the implementation phase and plans to hire a Chief Data Strategist to help advance data science across the intramural and extramural research communities. Read more [here](#).

COSSA IN ACTION

Letters & Statements

- 6/4/2018: [Census Project Letter to Senate Appropriators on FY 2019 Funding for the Census Bureau](#)
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CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Congress Moves Forward on FY 2019 Spending

With a little less than four months remaining in fiscal year (FY) 2018, Congress is behind schedule but well underway in their work to consider the spending bills for FY 2019. The House Appropriations Committee has approved seven of the twelve annual appropriations bills, [including two important to social and behavioral science research](#). On June 8, the full House of Representatives approved a three-bill package of historically uncontroversial bills, kick-starting what is expected to be a busy summer of votes.

On the other side of the Capitol, Senate appropriators have been slower to consider the FY 2019 appropriations bills, having only passed four bills out of committee. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) has been hesitant to comment on when he expects to see spending bills considered in the full Senate. To provide more time to consider appropriations bills and presidential nominations, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has cancelled most of the Senate's annual August recess, signaling that completing government spending for FY 2019 remains a priority. Read [COSSA's analysis](#) of FY 2019 spending so far and stay tuned for updates on appropriations impacting social and behavioral science research.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Census Issues Request for Comment on Decennial Data Collection

In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act*, the Census Bureau issued a [request for comments](#) on the 2020 Census on June 8. The request provides an opportunity for feedback on the Bureau's proposed information collection activities associated with the 2020 Census, including the addition of a citizenship question (which COSSA [opposes](#)). Comments must be submitted by August 7, 2018. More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

Minerva Initiative Releases 2018 Funding Opportunity Announcement, Topics of Interest

The Minerva Research Initiative, the social science research program administered jointly by the Office of Basic Research and the Office of Policy at the U.S. Department of Defense, has released its [2018 funding opportunity announcement \(FOA\)](#) and [2018 topics of interest](#). The

Minerva Research Initiative supports university-based, unclassified, research in areas of strategic importance to U.S. national security policy. Research topics of interest for 2018 include: sociopolitical (in)stability, resilience, and recovery; economic interdependence and security; alliances and burden sharing; fundamental dynamics of scientific discovery; adversarial information campaigns; automated cyber vulnerability analysis; and security risks in ungoverned and semi-governed spaces.

White papers in response to the FOA are due on June 19 and full proposals must be submitted by August 14. More information can be found on the [Minerva Research Initiative Website](#).

BLS Releases New Data on the "Gig Economy"

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has released [new data](#) on contingent and alternative employment arrangements, the first data of its kind released since 2005. The data includes totals for contingent workers (whose jobs are temporary or otherwise not expected to last), independent contractors, on-call workers, temp workers, and workers provided by contract firms. In addition to this data, BLS is testing questions on short-term work found through websites or mobile apps and expects to release data on this population in September. More information about the release is available on the [BLS website](#).

Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** Census: [National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations](#) (Closes: August 3, 2018)
- **NEW:** CDC: [Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#) (Closes: August 1, 2018)

Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** NIFA: [AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program](#) (Closes: September 30, 2018)
- **NEW:** ED/OPE: [Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program](#) (Closes: July 26, 2018)
- CDC: [NIOSH Mentored Research Scientist Development Award \(K01\)](#) (Closes: July 19, 2018)
- CDC: [NIOSH Small Research Grant Program \(R03\)](#) (Closes: July 19, 2018)
- CDC: [NIOSH Exploratory/Developmental Grant Program \(R21\)](#) (Closes: July 19, 2018)
- CDC: [NIOSH Occupational Safety and Health Research \(R01\)](#) (Closes: July 6, 2018)
- NIH: [BRAIN Initiative: Targeted BRAIN Circuits Projects- TargetedBCP](#) (Closes: July 3, 2018)
- NIH/NIGMS: [Training Modules to Enhance the Rigor and Reproducibility of Biomedical Research](#) (Closes: June 29, 2018)
- ED/OPE: [National Resource Centers Program for Foreign Language and Area Studies or Foreign Language and International Studies and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program](#) (Closes: June 25, 2018)
- ED/OPE: [Language Resource Centers Program](#) (Closes: June 25, 2018)
- **NEW:** DOD: [Minerva Research Initiative FY 2018 Funding Opportunity](#) (White paper due: June 19, 2018; Closes: August 14, 2018)
- NIH: [Improving Patient Adherence to Treatment and Prevention Regimens to Promote Health \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: June 16, 2018)
- Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences: [Broad Agency Announcement for Basic Scientific Research](#) (W911NF-18-S-0001) (Closes: June 15, 2018)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- **NEW:** Census: [Comment Request: 2020 Census](#) (Closes: August 7, 2018)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Request for Information for the Development of the Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research](#) (Closes: June 20, 2018)

Recent Reports

- NEW: NIH: [Strategic Plan for Data Science](#)

Open Positions

- NEW: GAO: [Senior Social Science Analyst \(current or former federal employees\)](#) (Closes: June 20, 2018)
- NEW: GAO: [Senior Social Science Analyst \(all other applicants\)](#) (Closes: June 20, 2018)

Fellowships & Professional Development

- NEW: DOJ/OVC: [FY 2018 Victim Assistance Fellowship Program: Translation and Dissemination of Statistical Data](#) (Closes: July 9, 2018)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

NASEM Report Outlines Future of Graduate STEM Education

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) recently released a new consensus study report on [Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century](#), which outlines ways to better to prepare students from all backgrounds for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The study was written by a committee chaired by Alan Leshner, CEO Emeritus of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, the Institute of Education Sciences, and the Spencer Foundation.

The report describes an ideal system of STEM graduate education and outlines core competencies for master's and doctoral STEM degrees. The report makes a number of recommendations to achieve this vision, including funding for research on graduate STEM education; rewarding effective teaching and mentoring; collecting national and institutional data on students and graduates; ensuring diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environments; career exploration and preparation for graduate students; changes to the structure of doctoral research activities; and stronger support for graduate student mental health services. The full report is available to download for free on the [NASEM website](#).

New NASEM Report Identifies "Indicators for Monitoring Undergraduate STEM Education"

On May 21, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) hosted a webinar to mark the release of a new report, [Indicators for Monitoring Undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(STEM\) Education](#). The goal of the report was to improve undergraduate STEM education by developing metrics by which it can be measured. To do this, NASEM conducted a consensus study of indicators that would allow STEM education quality to be tracked over time. The report found that improving the quality and impact of undergraduate STEM education would require progress towards: (1) "increasing students' mastery of STEM concepts and skills," (2) "striving for equity, diversity, and inclusion of STEM students and instructors," and (3) "ensuring adequate numbers of STEM professionals by increasing completion of STEM credentials." The objectives and their corresponding indicators in this study each fall under one of these three goals.

The report concludes that to monitor the status and quality of undergraduate STEM education, national data systems need to not only track both full- and part-time students' paths across and within institutions, but must also include more demographic characteristics to ensure progress towards equity, diversity, and inclusion. There is a need for recurring longitudinal surveys of instructors and students, and, due to the limited availability of data for the study's indicators, new data collection is needed for many of them. The report contains several proposals for how the indicator system could be implemented, including national student data systems, expanding current federal institutional surveys, and developing a national representative student sample, each supplemented with expanded surveys of students and instructors. The complete report is available to download on the [NASEM website](#).

This article was contributed by COSSA's summer intern, Catherine Cox of the University of Michigan.

Recent Reports

- NEW: NASEM: [Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century](#)
- NEW: NASEM: [Indicators for Monitoring Undergraduate STEM Education](#)

Open Positions

- NASEM: [Senior Program Officer \(social sciences\) - Gulf Research Program](#)

Fellowships & Professional Development

- NASEM: [Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program](#)
(Closes: September 7, 2018)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [The Lab @ DC: Anchor Management: Using Behavioral Science to Encourage Families to Meet Program Deadlines](#), June 14, 2018, Washington, DC
- [The Lab @ DC: Performance Metrics: Magic Bullets or Source of New Problems?](#), June 21, 2018, Washington, DC
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), July 26-29, 2018, Portland, OR
- [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), July 28-August 2, 2018, Vancouver, Canada
- [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), August 9-12, 2018, San Francisco, CA
- [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 11-14, 2018, Philadelphia, PA
- [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), August 31-September 2, 2018, Boston, MA

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.

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

Centers and Institutes

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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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