



WASHINGTON UPDATE

September 3, 2019 Volume 38, Issue 17

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FEATURED NEWS

White House Outlines FY 2021 R&D Budget Priorities

On August 30, Acting Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Russell Vought, with Kelvin Droegemeier, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), issued a joint memorandum to federal agency and department heads on "[FY 2021 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities](#)." The memo lays out five key White House priorities as agencies begin working on their budget submissions for the next fiscal year and five "high-priority crosscutting actions" for agencies to maximize success in

the science and technology enterprise. This is the first set of R&D priorities released under the leadership of Dr. Droegemeier, who was confirmed as OSTP director in January.

The FY 2021 memo shares priorities with previous Administration guidance, including acknowledging the important role of science and technology to America's global leadership and emphasizing national security, American energy and environmental leadership, medical innovation, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and space exploration as research and development priorities. While the priorities are similar to those included in the FY 2019 and FY 2020 memos, the FY 2021 memo includes more details about ongoing Administration activities, including [The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide](#), [National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan](#), and the [Federal Data Strategy](#).

The memo also includes five actions for agencies to take in order to maximize success in the science and technology enterprise. These direct agencies to build and leverage a diverse, highly skilled American workforce; create and support research environments that reflect American values; support transformative research of high risk and potentially high reward; leverage the power of data; and build, strengthen, and expand strategic multisector partnerships.

Additional details can be found in the [memorandum](#).

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA & AESIS to Partner on Upcoming Conference on the Societal Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities

COSSA is excited to be partnering with the Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science ([AESIS Network](#)) on an international conference on the [Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society](#) in Washington, DC this October 18-19. AESIS is an international, open community for various types of professionals working on stimulating and demonstrating the impact of science on economy, culture and well-being. The Washington event will be the third of its kind organized by AESIS to discuss ways to optimize the impact of research and scholarship specifically in the social sciences and humanities. COSSA is a sponsor of the conference.

The conference will bring together researchers, policy makers, professional societies, evaluators, funders, private sector players, and a variety of stakeholders to tackle questions such as:

- How to define the social impact of social sciences and humanities;
- How to measure this impact;
- How engaging with government, industry and the public as a whole may stimulate the impact of social sciences and humanities.

Registration for the conference is [open now](#). A draft conference program is available [online](#). Organizations interested in sponsoring the event can find more details [here](#).

September's Headlines Webchat to Feature Deep Dive with SBE Assistant Director

COSSA members are encouraged to sign up for the [monthly COSSA Headlines webchat](#) on Thursday September 12, in which COSSA staff will recap the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month and answer participants' questions. The September chat will feature a deep dive discussion with Dr. Arthur Lupia, Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) at the National

Science Foundation (NSF). Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).

Arthur Lupia Answers "Why Social Science?"

WHY
SOCIAL
SCIENCE?

The latest *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Arthur Lupia, Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation, who writes about the breadth of impacts the social sciences have on our lives. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

Share Your Story with COSSA!

COSSA is always looking for tangible examples from the social and behavioral sciences to help make the case that federal investment in these sciences is not only a wise use of taxpayer dollars, but that this research yields results that make the nation and world healthier, safer, and more prosperous. If you have a social science story-- a research success, an example of how social science is being used effectively in your community, an educational experience or teacher who shaped the trajectory of your social science career, or any other experience or activity that showcases the many positive impacts the social and behavioral sciences make to all aspects of life-- share it with COSSA by filling out the [form on our website](#).



CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

State of Play: FY 2020 Appropriations for Social Science Research

Both chambers of Congress will be back in Washington next week and will have only a few weeks to make progress on the fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations bills before FY 2019 ends on September 30. At the time of this writing, 10 of the 12 appropriations bills have been passed by the full House of Representatives. However, the Senate had deferred its consideration of any spending bills (even in subcommittee) until a compromise was reached to provide reprieve from budget caps set in place by the *Budget Control Act of 2011*.

On August 2, President Trump signed a [two-year budget agreement](#) that provides federal programs relief from these automatic spending cuts. The deal allows Congress to appropriate increases for defense and non-defense discretionary programs, including for research, healthcare, and the upcoming 2020 Census. However, the House bills, as currently written, total about \$15 billion more in nondefense spending than the final budget cap negotiated for FY 2020, meaning the House will need to revisit some of its bills when they return September 9 and in some cases make adjustments.

The passage of the budget deal clears the way for Congress to pass FY 2020 funding bills when it returns. We expect the Senate to hit the ground running on appropriations bills in early

September. However, with no appropriations bills currently introduced in the Senate and the end of the fiscal year looming on September 30, time is the most critical factor; Congress could face yet another government shutdown unless bills or a continuing resolution (CR) are passed by both chambers and signed by the President before the end of the fiscal year. We predict a CR will be passed to allow policymakers additional time to complete work on FY 2020.

COSSA has been reporting on the status of the FY 2020 House appropriations bills over the last several months. Check out our [consolidated analysis](#) of the FY 2020 bills for details.

Sen. Schatz, Rep. Dean Introduce Legislation to Reestablish Science Advisory Board at the Department of Justice

On July 25, Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Representative Madeleine Dean (D-PA) introduced S. 2286 and [H.R. 3989](#), the [Improving Justice Programs through Science Act](#). If enacted, the bill would reestablish a Science Advisory Board at the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) within the Department of Justice to better integrate scientific knowledge to inform crime reduction nationwide and provide scientific backing and evidence-based policies in the OJP's programs and activities, including grants.

The Board was originally chartered by the Obama Administration in 2010 and since then provided OJP with guidance in several proactive criminal justice reform efforts, including: the importance of trauma-informed care, procedural justice and building trust between police and communities, and youth brain development and implications for juvenile justice programs.

On September 3, COSSA released a [statement](#) in support of the bill, which can be read in full on the COSSA website.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

IES Director Seeks Input on Topic Areas, Announces Possible Request for Applications

Mark Schneider, the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the research, evaluation, and statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Education, announced in [a blog post](#) on August 13 that he is considering three new topic-specific requests for applications (RFAs) and seeking comment on the topics around which IES research is structured.

The three proposed off-cycle RFAs are "using state longitudinal data systems to measure long-term outcomes," "using NAEP [National Assessment of Educational Progress] process data," and "systematic evaluation of widely used math and reading programs." The blog post includes more details about the proposed RFAs and a request that the community provide input into whether they are worthwhile and whether the challenges that come with these large questions are surmountable.

Additionally, Schneider is seeking input on the [13 topic areas](#) within the National Center for Education Research (NCER) and the [12 topic areas](#) within the National Center for Special Education Research. In particular, he is interested in whether any of the topic areas are no longer necessary to be funded, and if any other topic areas are missing from the two centers.

Input should be sent directly to the IES director at Mark.Schneider@ed.gov. The blog post can be read on the [IES website](#).

Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** ED: [National Assessment Governing Board](#) (Closes: October 18, 2019)
- NSF: [Vannevar Bush Award](#) (Closes: September 27, 2019)

- NSF: [Public Impact Award](#) (Closes: September 27, 2019)
- NEW: NIH/NINDS: [Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee](#) (Closes: September 23, 2019)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH/NCI: Participant Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing ([PE-CGS\): Research Centers \(U2C Clinical Trial Optional\)](#), ([PE-CGS\): Coordinating Center \(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (LOIs Due: September 30, 2019; Closes: October 30, 2019)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- NEW: NIH: [ECHO Cohort Data Collection Protocol v1.2](#)

Fellowships & Professional Development

- NIH/NCI: [Statistical Analysis, Measurement, and Informatics Fellowship in Cancer-Related Behavioral Research](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

National Academies Release Report on Strengthening Support Systems for Military Families

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) released [a consensus study report](#) on the social challenges affecting the families of military service members and potential solutions. The report covers a wide array of issues including the well-being of military families, demographic characteristics of military families, opportunities and challenges of military life, stressors affecting military children, high-stress events, and the efficacy of existing military family support systems. The report also illustrates several recommendations for the Department of Defense (DOD) to address these issues including standardizing definitions of "family well-being," improving understanding of diversity in the military, using data to track child risk and adversity, recognizing non-traditional family structures, providing guidance to military leaders on interacting with surrounding communities, promoting civilian understanding of military family situations, strengthening of the Military Family Readiness System (MFRS), monitoring existing support programs' effectiveness, improving use of big data to analyze programs, and updating instruction and training to reflect the findings of the report.

The National Academies will be holding a public event on September 12 to discuss the recommendations in the report and potential actions that DOD and practitioners may take to address these recommendations. More information about the event can be found on the [National Academies website](#).

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Fellowships & Professional Development

- NEW: Stanford/CASBS: [Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellowships](#) (Closes: November 1, 2019)
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EVENTS CALENDAR

- [COSSA Headlines | September Headlines & Deep Dive with Arthur Lupia \(NSF\)](#), September 12, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [NASEM Stakeholder Event: Strengthening the Military Family Readiness System for a Changing American Society](#), September 12, 2019, 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm, Washington, DC
- [COSSA Headlines | October Headlines](#), October 10, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [AESIS: Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society](#), October 17-18, 2019, Washington, DC
- [2019 Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), October 24-27, 2019, Denver, CO
- [2019 Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), October 30 - November 2, 2019, San Diego, CA
- [Fall 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration](#), November 6-8, 2019, Phoenix, AZ
- [2019 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Annual Meeting](#), November 6-9, 2019, Atlanta, GA
- [2019 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference](#), November 7-9, 2019, Denver, CO
- [Evaluation 2019 \(American Evaluation Association\)](#), November 11-16, 2019, Minneapolis, MN
- [2019 North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting](#), November 13-16, 2019, Pittsburgh, PA
- [2019 American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), November 13-16, 2019, San Francisco, CA
- [2019 National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), November 14-17, 2019, Baltimore, MD
- [COSSA Headlines | November Headlines](#), November 14, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [2019 African Studies Association Annual Meeting](#), November 21-23, 2019, 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.

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

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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
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Linguistic Society of America
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Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
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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

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Affiliates

SAGE Publishing

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Executive Director: Wendy A. Naus

Director of Public Affairs: Julia Milton

Assistant Director of Government Relations: Camille Hosman

Staff Assistant: Ben Goodrich

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.

ISSN 0749-4394.