

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this email omitted the article "NIH Updates Diversity Statement." We apologize for the error.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

Congress Rushes to Finish FY 2020 as Schedule Fills

The federal government is [currently operating under a continuing resolution](#) (CR), keeping the government open until December 20 at fiscal year (FY) 2019 funding levels. With less than two weeks left before the current stopgap spending bill expires, appropriators are hoping to finalize all twelve appropriations bills and pass them as soon as possible. In addition to the normal pressures of wrapping up annual appropriations before the holidays, Congressional leaders must also complete their year-end goals related to impeachment. The House has announced plans to vote on articles of impeachment before the end of the year and the Senate must clear its schedule as legislative activities will grind to a halt during an impeachment trial. Stay tuned to COSSA's website and Member Messages for updates related to FY 2020 appropriations.

COSSA IN ACTION

December's Headlines to Feature Deep Dive on Threats to Research Security



A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy

COSSA members are encouraged to sign up for the monthly [COSSA Headlines](#) webchat on Thursday December 12, in which COSSA staff will recap the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month and answer participants' questions. The December chat will feature a deep dive discussion on understanding the threats to U.S. research security with [Toby Smith](#), Vice President for

Policy at the Association of American Universities. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).

Advocacy Day Registration to Open Later this Month

Early bird registration for COSSA's [2020 Social Science Advocacy Day](#) will begin in mid-December. COSSA members interested in taking advantage of our early bird pricing should [sign up](#) for COSSA's members-only emails so they can be the first to know when registration is live. In the meantime, the hotel block for Advocacy Day is open for those ready to make their travel arrangements. Participants may reserve rooms in the block at \$276 per night for the nights of March 29-31 at the [Hilton Garden Inn Washington DC/U.S. Capitol](#) (1225 First Street, NE), a nine-minute walk from our Advocacy Day training location and home base. Use [this link](#) when booking or book by phone using the group code C3 or Consortium of Social Science Associations.

Letters & Statements

- 12/6/2019: [Census Project letter on FY 2020 Funding for the Census Bureau](#)
 - 12/4/2019: [Letter Urging Completion of FY 2020 Appropriations Process](#)
-

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

Members of Congress Request Feedback on Cures 2.0 Legislation

On November 22, Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Fred Upton (R-MI) released a [statement](#) detailing a vision for an updated version of the *21st Century Cures Act* and calling for stakeholder input. The proposed legislation, colloquially known as "Cures 2.0," would provide funding for research into cures for several life-threatening diseases. The Members will accept stakeholder comments until December 16. Information on how to submit comments can be found in the [Members' statement](#).

House Science Committee Holds Hearing on Improving Science and Technology Advice for Congress

On December 5, the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology (SST) held a [hearing](#) to discuss options in improving the advice-giving infrastructure available to Members of Congress on science and technology issues. Members discussed recommendations from a recent National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) report on [Science and Technology Policy Assessment](#) as well as the possibility of reinstating the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), which was dismantled in 1995. Witnesses present at the hearing included Director of Civil-Military Programs at the Stennis Center for Public Service Michael McCord, Director of the Technology and Public Purpose Project in the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Laura Manley, Chief Scientist and Managing Director of Science, Technology Assessment and Analytics in the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Dr. Tim Persons, and Executive Director of the Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Dr. Peter Blair.

Committee Members questioned the witnesses on the findings of the NAPA report, the merits of reinstating OTA, technology assessment activities occurring at GAO, and other issues. While Members of both parties expressed interest in strengthening the quality of knowledge and tools available to Congress, the two parties disagreed on the method. Committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and other Democrats supported a multi-lateral approach including reinstating and refunding OTA while Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) and other Republicans favored a consolidation of technology assessment into GAO along with other recommendations listed in the NAPA report.

The House Legislative Branch Appropriations [report](#) for FY 2020 includes \$6 million for the re-establishment of OTA. However, the Senate [version](#) does not include this funding which makes the reinstatement of OTA unlikely to become law. A recording of the [hearing](#) and a [statement](#) from Chairwoman Johnson can be found on the [SST website](#) and the full NAPA [report](#) can be found on the [NAPA website](#).

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

OSTP Seeks Input on Research Environment

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has issued a [request for information](#) (RFI) on the research environment. Comments will be used to inform the work of the Joint Committee on the Research Environment (JCORE), a committee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). JCORE was established in May 2019 and comprises four subcommittees: (1) Research Rigor and Integrity; (2) Coordinating Administrative Requirements for Research; (3) Research Security; and (4) Safe and Inclusive Research Environments (see [previous coverage](#)).

The request asks for information on actions that Federal agencies can take, working in partnership with private industry, academic institutions, and non-profit/philanthropic organizations, to maximize the quality and effectiveness of the American research environment across JCORE's four main areas. More information on the specific questions JCORE is seeking feedback on are available in the [Federal Register notice](#). Comments are due by 11:59 pm ET on December 23, 2019.

Office of Evaluation Sciences Seeks 2020 Fellows

The [Office of Evaluation Sciences](#) (OES) at the General Services Administration is currently accepting applications for a yearlong fellowship beginning in fall 2020. OES is a team of applied researchers that work to build insights from the social and behavioral sciences into federal programs. OES designs, implements, and analyzes evidence-based interventions and randomized evaluations. Fellows shape their own high-impact portfolio of work, design and direct projects, and author academic publications. The deadline to submit applications is December 15. The full solicitation is available [here](#) and applications can be submitted by completing [this form](#).

NIH Updates Diversity Statement

On November 22, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a [notice](#) updating the agency's official statement on diversity in research settings. In a [blog post](#) by Deputy Director for Extramural Research at NIH Dr. Mike Lauer, the main reason for the updated statement was to expand the criteria for qualifying as an individual from a low socio-economic background. In the post, Lauer claims "this revised definition should better capture many scientists with a disadvantaged background, and be relatively easy to assess, ensuring we continue enhancing the diversity of the biomedical research workforce." The [updated diversity statement](#) and the [previous](#) diversity statement can both be found on the [NIH website](#).

Funding Opportunities

- NSF/SBE: [NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure - NEH Documenting Endangered Languages \(DLI-DEL\)](#) (Closes: September 15, 2020)
- NIH: Research on biopsychosocial factors of social connectedness and isolation on health, wellbeing, illness, and recovery ([R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed](#)) ([R01 Basic experimental studies with humans \(BESH\) required](#)) (Opens: February 17, 2020; Closes: March 17, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [Ethical and Responsible Research \(ER2\)](#) (Closes: February 24, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [Human Networks and Data Science - Infrastructure \(HNDS-I\)](#) (Closes: February 24, 2020)
- NIH/OBBSSR: [Improving Patient Adherence to Treatment and Prevention Regimens to Promote Health \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: February 16, 2020)
- NIH/OBSSR: [Improving Patient Adherence to Treatment and Prevention Regimens to Promote Health \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: February 5, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [Science and Technology Studies \(STS\)](#) (Closes: February 3, 2020)
- NSF: [National Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Research Institutes](#) (Closes: January 30, 2020)
- NIH/OBSSR: [Administrative Supplements to NIH-funded T32 and TL1 Training Grants to Better Integrate Behavioral and Social Sciences \(BSS\) with other Health-Related Sciences](#)

(Closes: January 25, 2020)

- NEW: NIH/NCI: [Communication and Decision Making for Individuals with Inherited Cancer Syndromes \(U01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: January 21, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [Law & Science \(LS\)](#) (Closes: January 15, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [Political Science \(PS\)](#) (Closes: January 15, 2020)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- BEA: [Request for Comments on Developing State-Level Statistics for the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account](#) (Closes: March 31, 2020)
- NEW: HUD: [White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing; Request for Information](#) (Closes: January 21, 2020)
- NIH: [Request for Public Comments on a DRAFT NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing and Supplemental DRAFT Guidance](#) (Closes: January 10, 2020)
- OSTP/JCORE: [Request for Information on the American Research Environment](#) (Closes: December 23, 2019)

Open Positions

- NEW: NIH/NCI: [Program Director, Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch](#)
- NEW: NIH/NCI: [Program Director, Cancer Survivorship](#)
- NEW: NIH/NCI: [Program Director, Tobacco Control Research Branch](#)

Fellowships & Professional Development

- ED: [Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad](#) (Closes: January 14, 2020)
- GSA/OES: [Annual Fellowship](#) (Closes: December 15, 2019)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

Nomination Opportunities

- NASEM: [Consensus Study on Deep Decarbonization Initiative](#) (Closes: November 26, 2019)
- [2020 Golden Goose Awards](#) (Closes: December 20, 2019)

Funding Opportunities

- NASEM: [Healthy Longevity Global Competition](#) (Opens: January 2020; Closes: February 2020)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- NASEM: [Call for Input: 2020 Census Data Products: Data Needs and Privacy Considerations](#) (Closes: December 4, 2020)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Nomination Opportunities

- SSRC: [Albert O. Hirschman Prize](#) (Closes: January 20, 2020)

Fellowships & Professional Development

- SRCD: [Federal Policy Fellowship Program](#) (Closes: January 3, 2020)
- SRCD: [State Policy Fellowship Program](#) (Closes: January 3, 2020)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [COSSA Headlines | December Headlines & Deep Dive on Understanding the Threats to U.S. Research Security](#), December 12, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [CNSTAT: 2020 Census Data Products: Data Needs and Privacy Considerations](#), December 11-12, 2019, Washington, DC
- [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), January 2-5, 2020, New Orleans, LA
- [American Economic Association Annual Meeting](#), January 3-5, 2020, San Diego, CA
- [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), February 27-29, 2020, New Orleans, LA
- [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring \(PAESMEM\) Applicant Webinar](#), January 7, 2020, 4:00 pm
- [COSSA Headlines | January Headlines](#), January 9, 2020, 2:00 pm
- [COSSA Headlines | February Headlines](#), February 13, 2020, 2:00 pm

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@cossa.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is our final issue of the COSSA Washington Update of 2019. Late-breaking news and analysis will be shared with COSSA members subscribed to our [members-only emails](#). We will resume our ongoing coverage of policy developments affecting the social and behavioral sciences on January 7. The COSSA staff wishes all of our readers a happy and healthy holiday season. See you in 2020!

SAVE THE DATE!



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National Communication Association
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Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
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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

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American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
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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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