



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## FEATURED NEWS

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### Sethuraman Panchanathan Nominated to Lead National Science Foundation

The White House [announced](#) on December 19 that President Trump intends to nominate Sethuraman Panchanathan to a six-year term as Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Current NSF Director France Córdova's term ends in March. Panchanathan has been a member of the National Science Board since 2014 and leads "knowledge enterprise

development" at Arizona State University (ASU). Panchanathan holds his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering and was central in founding the School of Computing and Informatics and the Center for Cognitive Ubiquitous Computing at ASU. Following Córdova's retirement in March, Panchanathan's nomination will require approval by the Senate.

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## COSSA IN ACTION

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### Early Bird Registration Open for 2020 Social Science Advocacy Day

Registration for [Social Science Advocacy Day 2020](#) is now open. COSSA's annual spring event will include a kickoff session featuring special guest speakers (to be announced in the coming weeks), a half-day of intensive context setting and advocacy preparation, COSSA's annual Celebration of Social Science Rooftop Reception, and a full day of meetings on Capitol Hill.



COSSA members are encouraged to take advantage of our Early Bird discount and [register](#) by February 1 for only \$75! Graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to register at a reduced rate of \$25. Advocacy Day is open exclusively to individuals employed by or affiliated with [COSSA member organizations](#). Individuals from non-member organizations can learn more about how their organization can join COSSA [here](#).

### Still Time to Register for January's Headlines Webchat

COSSA members are encouraged to sign up for the monthly [COSSA Headlines](#) webchat on Thursday December 12, in which COSSA staff will break down the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month, including how social science fared in the final fiscal year (FY) 2020 spending agreement, Trump's new nominee to lead the National Science Foundation, and the launch of a pilot single-application portal for accessing restricted federal statistics. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).



### APA's Office of International Affairs Answers "Why Social Science?"



The latest Why Social Science? guest post comes from Amanda Clinton, Senior Director of the Office of International Affairs at the American Psychological Association, who writes about how collaboration between professionals and across disciplines can lead to breakthroughs for our most complex problems. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

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### 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](#).



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## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

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### **Congress Completes FY 2020 Appropriations Process; Read COSSA's Analysis**

In a final, year-end show of bipartisanship, Congress passed all of its FY 2020 appropriations bills last month. While still nearly three months late (FY 2020 began on October 1), completion of all 12 appropriations bills before the end of the calendar year is a welcomed departure from recent years that had some agencies not receiving their final budgets until well into the new year. This officially closes the books on FY 2020 and allows lawmakers to hit the ground running on FY 2021 funding when the new session starts this week.

The two funding packages (H.R. 1865 and H.R. 1158) together contain all 12 annual appropriations bills. In most cases, the final numbers tell a positive story for agencies and programs important to the social and behavioral sciences.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's complete analysis of final FY 2020 funding for the agencies important to social science.

### **Native American Language Reauthorization Bill Signed into Law**

On December 20, the [Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act](#) (S. 256) was signed into law. The legislation reauthorizes the Native American Languages Preservation and Maintenance grant program and the Esther Martinez Initiative grant program within the Department of Health and Human Services. Both programs support projects to preserve and revitalize Native languages in tribal communities. In addition to reauthorizing the two programs, the legislation increases the maximum possible duration of all Esther Martinez grants from three years to five years and decreases the required minimum number of enrollees in Native American language programs. The text of the bill can be read on [congress.gov](#) and more information about the programs can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services [website](#).

### **Senate Passes Bipartisan Resolution Supporting 2020 Census**

In December, the Senate passed a bipartisan concurrent resolution ([S.Con.Res. 31](#)) in support of the 2020 Census. The resolution, [introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz \(D-HI\) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski \(R-AK\)](#), expresses the sense of Congress that it is the duty of the people of the United States to ensure the 2020 Census is as accurate as possible, that the government should inform the public about its importance, and that U.S. residents should plan to respond. COSSA was one of [several dozen organizations](#) to endorse the resolution, which now awaits passage by the House to ensure Congress speaks with one voice.

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## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

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### **White House Finalizes 2020 Data Strategy Action Plan**

The White House has released its final [2020 Action Plan for the Federal Data Strategy](#) (see COSSA's [previous coverage](#)). The Federal Data Strategy, which is being coordinated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), is a "ten-year vision for how the Federal government will accelerate the use of data to support the foundations of democracy, deliver on mission, serve the public, and steward resources while protecting security, privacy and confidentiality." The Strategy consists of [10 principles](#) and [40 best practices](#) to guide federal agencies on how to leverage the value of their data.

The next phase in the Strategy's implementation is its first-year Action Plan, which details concrete steps to align existing efforts and establish a firm basis of tools, processes, and capacities to leverage data as a strategic asset. The action plan also incorporates several mandated actions from the [Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018](#), which was signed into law in 2019. A [draft plan](#) was released over the summer and the final version was revised in response to feedback received (see the [detailed description](#) of changes made).

The steps planned for 2020 are organized into three categories-actions to be taken by agencies, actions to be taken by a specific agency or group of agencies related to a common topic, and government-wide data services and pilot projects.

### **Agency Actions**

- Action 1: Identify Data Needs to Answer Priority Agency Questions
- Action 2: Institutionalize Agency Data Governance
- Action 3: Assess Data and Related Infrastructure Maturity
- Action 4: Identify Opportunities to Increase Staff Data Skills
- Action 5: Identify Priority Data Assets for Agency Open Data Plans
- Action 6: Publish and Update Data Inventories

### **Community of Practice Actions**

- Action 7: Launch a Federal Chief Data Officer Council
- Action 8: Improve Data and Model Resources for AI Research and Development
- Action 9: Improve Financial Management Data Standards
- Action 10: Integrate Geospatial Data Practices into the Federal Data Enterprise

### **Shared Solution Actions**

- Action 11: Develop a Repository of Federal Enterprise Data Resources
- Action 12: Create an OMB Federal Data Policy Committee
- Action 13: Develop a Curated Data Skills Catalog
- Action 14: Develop a Data Ethics Framework
- Action 15: Develop a Data Protection Toolkit
- Action 16: Pilot a One-stop Standard Research Application
- Action 17: Pilot an Automated Tool for Information Collection Reviews that Supports Data Inventory Creation and Updates
- Action 18: Pilot Enhanced Data Management Tool for Federal Agencies
- Action 19: Develop Data Quality Measuring and Reporting Guidance
- Action 20: Develop a Data Standards Repository

The Strategy outlines a series of milestones, measurements, target dates, and responsible entities for each action. The full action plan is available on the [data strategy website](#). COSSA will continue to report on the activities related to the Data Strategy as the actions are implemented and the next year's action plan is developed.

## **National Institute of Mental Health Requests Information on Draft 2020 Strategic Plan**

In December 2019, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) within the National Institutes of Health released a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) soliciting public feedback on its [draft Strategic Plan for Research](#). NIMH publishes a strategic plan for research every five years with updates to the Institute's stated research priorities. The deadline to submit feedback has been extended to January 15, 2020. The [draft](#) of the strategic plan and more information can be found on the [NIH website](#).

## NSF Releases Dear Colleague Letter on Social Science Perspectives on Graduate Education

On December 16, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released a [Dear Colleague Letter](#), signed by the Assistant Directors for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) and the Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR), to draw the attention of the social science community to funding opportunities in the two directorates related to research in graduate education. The letter (NSF 20-030) follows a workshop and report from the National Academies of Sciences on [Graduate STEM Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) and a workshop on [Graduate Training in the Social and Behavioral Sciences](#). Funding opportunities include research grants, traineeships, and capacity grants intended to identify innovative approaches to transform graduate education. More information can be found on the [NSF website](#).

## NIH Seeking Comments on Inclusion Across the Lifespan II Workshop

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) seeking stakeholder input on a planned workshop on [Inclusion Across the Lifespan](#), a policy intended to encourage inclusion of underrepresented participants in clinical studies. The Inclusion Across the Lifespan II Workshop is a follow-up to a 2017 workshop mandated by Congress in the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act*. Comments will remain open until February 15, 2020. More information can be found in the [NIH guide notice](#).

## 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)
- **NEW:** ED: [Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad](#) (Closes: February 18, 2020)
- NIH/OBSSR: [Improving Patient Adherence to Treatment and Prevention Regimens to Promote Health \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: February 16, 2020)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Understanding the Rules of Life: Epigenetics](#) (Closes: February 6, 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)
- NIH/NCI: [Communication and Decision Making for Individuals with Inherited Cancer Syndromes \(U01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: January 21, 2020)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Understanding the Rules of Life: Microbiome Theory and Mechanisms \(URoL:MTM\)](#) (LOI Due: January 17, 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:** NIH: [Request for Information: Invitation to Comment on Inclusion Across the Lifespan II Workshop](#) (Closes: February 15, 2020)
- OSTP/JCORE: [Request for Information on the American Research Environment](#) (Closes: January 28, 2020)
- HUD: [White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing: Request for Information](#) (Closes: January 21, 2020)
- **NEW:** NIH/NIMH: [Request for Information on the 2020 National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\) Strategic Plan for Research](#) (Closes: January 15, 2020)
- NIH: [Request for Public Comments on a DRAFT NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing and Supplemental DRAFT Guidance](#) (Closes: January 10, 2020)

## Open Positions

- **NEW:** DOJ/BJS: [Deputy Director, Statistical Operations Division](#) (Closes: January 13, 2020)
- NIH/NCI: [Program Director, Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch](#)
- NIH/NCI: [Program Director, Cancer Survivorship](#)
- NIH/NCI: [Program Director, Tobacco Control Research Branch](#)

## Fellowships & Professional Development

- ED: [Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad](#) (Closes: January 14, 2020)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

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### ICPSR Launches Pilot Tool to Streamline Access to Restricted Federal Data

In December, [ICPSR](#) at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research released a new tool to simplify the application process for accessing restricted microdata from principal statistical agencies. [ResearchDataGov](#) gives researchers access to a single portal and a standard application to access restricted data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. More federal data sources are expected to be added as the pilot moves forward.

The project is supported by funding from the Census Bureau under the direction of the White House Office of Management and Budget. It was created thanks to a requirement in the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018*, which required that the government simplify the application process for external researchers to access federal data (see [COSSA's previous coverage](#)). More details can be found on the [ICPSR website](#).

## Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research \(PEER\)](#) (Closes: February 10, 2020)
- **NEW:** [National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research](#) (LOI due: February 4, 2020)

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

## Recent Reports

- NEW: NASEM: [Forced Migration Research](#)
- NEW: NASEM: [Promoting Positive Adolescent Health Behaviors and Outcomes](#)

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## COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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### Nomination Opportunities

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

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- [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
- [Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), January 9-11, 2020, San Juan, PR
- [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Meeting](#), January 15-19, 2020, Washington, DC
- [COSSA Headlines | February Headlines](#), February 13, 2020, 2:00 pm
- [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), February 27-29, 2020, New Orleans, LA
- [American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#), March 11-14, 2020, Long Beach, CA
- [COSSA Headlines | March Headlines](#), March 12, 2020, 2:00 pm
- [Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting](#), March 19-21, 2020, San Diego, CA
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), March 24-28, 2020, San Antonio, TX
- [Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations Annual Meeting](#), March 26-28, 2020, Pullman, WA
- [COSSA 2020 Social Science Advocacy Day](#), March 30-31, 2020, Washington, DC

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](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

**SAVE THE DATE!**



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**Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Members**

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  
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  
African Studies Association  
American Association of Geographers  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Evaluation Association  
American Historical Association  
American Psychosomatic Society  
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
Association of American Law Schools  
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  
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  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
George Mason University  
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Harvard University  
Indiana University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State 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 Arizona  
University of Arkansas  
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 Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

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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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