



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## FEATURED NEWS

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### Congress Struggling to Reach Agreement on COVID-19 Relief, Potentially Delaying August Recess

Congressional leaders continue to negotiate with the White House on what many suspect could be the final COVID-19 relief bill, and the House, Senate and Trump Administration remain far apart on their preferred approaches. While the House passed a relief bill—the [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(HEROES\) Act](#)—in May, the Senate has only recently introduced its counterpart proposal, the [Healthcare, Economic Assistance, Liability, And Schools \(HEALS\) Act](#). Though the Senate is scheduled to begin its August recess on Friday August 7, policymakers are reportedly pessimistic about reaching a deal before then. Senate leaders are expected to delay the start of the recess in hopes of reaching a deal the following week. While members of the House have already returned home, Representatives could be called back with 24 hours' notice to vote on a final package.

The Senate's coronavirus stimulus package, the *HEALS Act*, includes supplemental appropriations for federal science agencies, notably \$15.5 billion for the National Institutes of Health and \$3.4 billion for the CDC. The House's *HEROES Act* proposed additional funding for NIH (\$4.75 billion), CDC (\$2.1 billion), and the National Science Foundation (\$125 million), among other agencies. Neither bill includes the [Research Investments to Spark the Economy \(RISE\) Act](#), a bipartisan bill that seeks \$26 billion in relief funding to federal science agencies to support non-COVID university-based research that has been impacted by the pandemic.

The Senate *HEALS Act* does not include language sought by Census stakeholders, and requested by the Administration, to extend the 2020 Census statutorily required deadlines (see related article). The Census Project, of which COSSA is a member, has worked with various partners to craft a [sign-on letter](#) urging the Senate to include language that would extend the deadlines by four months. Interested organizations (not individuals) can [sign the letter by August 5](#).

Finally, the Senate COVID package incorporates the [Safeguarding American Innovation Act](#), a bill seeking to address research security concerns, but itself raising concerns within the scientific community about the approach taken (see related article).

Leadership in the House and Senate will continue to work on a COVID-19 compromise over the coming weeks. COVID relief aside, when Congress returns after Labor Day, lawmakers will have fewer than 20 working days to take action on [fiscal year \(FY\) 2021 appropriations bills](#) before the end of the fiscal year on September 30, after which lawmakers will head home again in advance of the November elections.

### Notable COVID-19 Resources

- **NEW:** NIH: [Guidance for Applicants Preparing Applications for Fall 2020 Due Dates During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM/SEAN: [Encouraging Adoption of Protective Behaviors to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19: Strategies for Behavior Change](#)

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## COSSA IN ACTION

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### COSSA Board Seeks Nominations for At-Large Seat

The [COSSA Board of Directors](#) is seeking nominations to fill one (1) at-large director seat on the COSSA Board of Directors for the 2021-2023 term. The Board of Directors is comprised of 19 members: 16 representing COSSA's [Governing Member Associations](#) and 3 at-large directors. At-large seats are intended to bring to the table other influential voices with interests touching social and behavioral science research. They may include social science researchers and/or researchers whose work spans disciplinary boundaries, university administrators, professional association leaders, private sector or foundation representatives, or others who would offer a unique perspective to COSSA.

At-large directors serve three-year staggered terms. **The term for the open seat runs from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.** The COSSA Nominations Committee is tasked with identifying and vetting potential nominees and making recommendations to the full Board of Directors. The Board then votes to invite a nominee to serve as an at-large director, which is followed up by a formal invitation to the selected individual. During its deliberations, the Committee will consider the unique perspectives of each nominee and strive to ensure the Board reflects the diversity of the social and behavioral science enterprise.

The COSSA Board of Directors meets quarterly in Washington, DC for one day (phone and video participation is allowed). Costs associated with an at-large directors' participation in quarterly Board meetings (i.e. travel expenses) are covered by COSSA. Meeting dates for 2021 have not yet been set, but typically occur in January/February, April/May, September and December.

Other COSSA-related responsibilities between the quarterly meetings are limited unless serving on a committee of the Board.

Please submit your nomination to Wendy Naus at [wnaus@cossa.org](mailto:wnaus@cossa.org) by **no later than Friday, August 14.** Please include the following information with the nomination:

- Cover letter that includes the nominee's name, affiliation, and a statement about what expertise or perspective the nominee would bring to COSSA and the Board of Directors.
- CV or resume.
- Statement confirming the nominee's willingness and availability to serve for the identified term, if chosen.

Self-nominations are welcome. Nominations from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged.

## **August Headlines Webinar to Feature Deep Dive Discussion on the "Psychology of COVID-19" with Dr. Stephen Reicher**

COSSA members are encouraged to sign up for the monthly Headlines webchat on Thursday, August 13 at 2:00 pm Eastern Time. The COSSA team will break down the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month, followed by a deep dive discussion with [Dr. Stephen Reicher](#), Wardlaw Professor of Psychology at the University of St. Andrews and co-author of [Together](#)

[Apart: The Psychology of COVID-19](#), a free book from SAGE Publishing that "examines the psychology surrounding the current pandemic and makes recommendations for how to do that right thing and with a reasonable hope of deploying the right sort of behavioral science." Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).



## **Kenneth Prewitt Answers "Why Social Science?"**

# WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE?

This week's *Why Social Science?* guest post features an article by Kenneth Prewitt, President of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs at Columbia University, who argues that the social sciences can better incorporate ethical frameworks in order to end structural racism. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

## Letters & Statements

- 7/21/2020: [Friends of IES Letter on COVID-19 Supplemental Funding for the Institute of Education Sciences](#)

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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

### Controversial Research Security Legislation Could Move Forward in COVID-19 Relief Package

The Senate has incorporated the *Safeguarding American Innovation Act* ([S. 3997](#)) into the HEALS Act, the Republican-led Senate version of a new COVID-19 economic relief package (see related article). The *Safeguarding American Innovation Act*, sponsored by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Tom Carper (D-DE), is sweeping legislation that aims to tighten the security of the U.S. research enterprise against competing governments, most notably the Chinese government, by imposing restrictions on collaborating with foreign entities. However, the bill has been [criticized by many in the research community](#) for being too restrictive and for potentially discouraging foreign scientists from working in the United States.

Some of the controversial parts of the legislation include:

- Expanding the authority of the U.S. Department of State to reject visa applications from anyone seen as tied to a hostile foreign government.
- Imposing criminal penalties, including jail time, for scientists who fail to disclose ties to a foreign government.
- Requiring international research partners to comply with U.S. scientific norms.
- Establishing a new research security oversight body at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The bill follows many of the recommendations listed in [a 2019 report](#) produced by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), which Portman chairs. The bill has also been

signed to be "a work in progress" by Carper, which may indicate a willingness to amend the legislation before the full Senate vote. Now that the bill is tied directly to the Senate's COVID-19 package, it could become a bargaining chip in the negotiations currently underway. Read COSSA's [HOT TOPIC](#) on research security for more information about recent legislation and other research security actions.

## Defense Authorization Bill Goes to Conference with Minerva Funding Intact

The House and Senate are set to begin negotiations on the annual authorizing legislation for the Department of Defense (DOD), the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA). The House passed [its bill](#) on July 21, with the Senate [following suit](#) on July 23. [As previously reported](#), the bills passed by both chambers included language to prevent the elimination of Defense-wide funding for DOD's basic social science research program, the Minerva Research Initiative, as has been proposed in the [Administration's budget request](#) for fiscal year (FY) 2021. The agreement on funding for Minerva in both bills is a positive sign that funding for the program will continue into FY 2021.

Not included in either bill is any version of the *Endless Frontier Act* (see [previous coverage](#)). Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) had introduced it as an amendment to the Senate NDAA, but it was not ultimately brought to the floor.

Conferees have not yet been named, but the NDAA is considered "must-pass" legislation by the end of the fiscal year on September 30. A potential complication to the eventual passage of a conferenced NDAA is the threat of a presidential veto over provisions included in both bills that mandate renaming military bases and facilities named for Confederates. However, both chambers passed their respective bills with more than two-thirds majorities, indicating that a veto of the conferenced bill could be overridden.

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## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

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### Census Announces Early End to 2020 Operations, Jeopardizing Accuracy of the Count

Census Bureau Director Stephen Dillingham announced that the Census Bureau will cut short its counting operations for the 2020 Census by a full month in order to produce apportionment counts by its legally mandated deadline of December 31, 2020. According to the [announcement](#), the Census Bureau will end field data and self-response collection on September 30, rather than October 31 as previously planned. This change comes months after the [Census Bureau itself](#) asked Congress to delay the deadline for producing apportionment counts in order to allow more time to recover from the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the House's most recent COVID-19 relief package would delay this deadline to give the Bureau more time, the Senate's does not (see related article).

Although the change appears to be prompted by Congress's failure to adjust the apportionment deadline, many Census stakeholders see it as part of a broader attempt by the Trump Administration to sabotage efforts to produce a full and accurate count, particularly of minority communities. They point to the protracted battle over the [failed attempt to add a citizenship question](#) to the questionnaire as well as President Trump's recent (likely unconstitutional) [order to exclude unauthorized immigrants from apportionment counts](#). As minority and immigrant communities are among the hardest-to-count populations, a truncated enumeration period would likely result in an undercount of these groups.

### NIDA Seeking Comments on 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking [stakeholder feedback](#) on the draft version of its upcoming 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan is intended to guide the agency's research priorities for the next five years by outlining cross-cutting research topics and approaches. NIDA's draft strategic plan highlights several research topics that are relevant to the social and behavioral science community, including:

- Identifying and developing approaches to reduce stigma,
- Identifying and developing approaches to reduce health disparities,
- Understanding differences based on sex and gender, and
- Understanding interactions between substance use, HIV, and other conditions such as COVID-19.

Stakeholder feedback will be accepted through August 7, 2020. More information and the draft strategic plan is available on the [NIH website](#).

## Research Applications Increase in Wake of COVID-19 Shutdowns, NIH Finds

A recent [blog post](#) from Mike Lauer, Deputy Director for Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), highlights how the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected extramural research applications at NIH and how application rates compare to previous years. According to data collected by NIH, the number of R01-equivalent applications received by NIH between May 1 and June 5 of 2020 was 10 percent higher than the same period in 2019. The data also reflects more than a 10 percent increase of applications across all research project grants between 2020 and 2019. In addition to the spike in applications in 2020, the data shows a slightly more gender diverse application pool, with the proportion of 2020 applications with the principal investigators (PIs) reporting more than one gender category on multiple-PI applications increasing from previous years.

The data is consistent with the findings of a May 2020 [international survey](#) of scientists, which found that researchers were reporting fewer research hours but reporting more hours performing administrative duties and other activities such as grant applications. Deputy Director Lauer noted that the October 5 application deadline would provide further insight into how research activities will be affected due to many research institutions remaining closed through the typical academic calendar. NIH is expected to report on that data when it is available.

## Nomination Opportunities

- NSF/NSB: [Vannevar Bush Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- NSF/NSB: [Public Service Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)

## New and Expiring Funding Opportunities

- NIH: [Community Interventions to Address the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic among Health Disparity and Vulnerable Populations \(R01- Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: August 28, 2020)
- NIH/NIMHD: [Digital Healthcare Interventions to Address the Secondary Health Effects Related to Social, Behavioral, and Economic Impact of COVID-19 \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Education Research \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Education Research and Development Centers \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)

- ED/IES: [Special Education Research \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Training Programs in Special Education \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Grants Focused on NAEP Process Data for Learners with Disabilities](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication in Special Education \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)

See the [COSSA website](#) for the complete list.

## Notices & Requests for Comment

- **NEW:** AHRQ: [The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey \(MEPS\) Social and Health Experiences Self-Administered Questionnaire and COVID-19 Changes](#) (Closes: September 7, 2020)
- **NEW:** NIH/NIDA: [Request for Information: Inviting Input on NIDA's Strategic Plan for 2021-2025](#) (Closes: August 7, 2020)

## Open Positions

- **NEW:** NIH/NCI: [Program Director, Health Behaviors Research Branch](#)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

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### SEAN Releases New Guidance on Protective Behaviors to Stem COVID-19

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) (see COSSA's [previous coverage](#)) has released a new rapid expert consultation, [Encouraging Adoption of Protective Behaviors to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19](#). The guidance, which draws on research from communication, social psychology, and behavioral economics as well as lessons learned from successful public health campaigns such as tobacco prevention and seatbelt use, offers a set of strategies to make adoption of preventive behaviors more likely as well as risk communication strategies. It is available both as a [short infographic](#) and as a more [detailed report](#).

### National Academies Launch Study on COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has launched a [fast-track study](#) to develop a framework for planning the equitable distribution of vaccines against COVID-19. The study, which is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is responsible for producing a consensus report that considers the following questions:

- "What criteria should be used in setting priorities for equitable allocation of vaccine?"
- How should the criteria be applied in determining the first tier of vaccine recipients? As more vaccine becomes available, what populations should be added successively to the priority list of recipients? How do we take into account factors such as:
  - Health disparities and other health access issues
  - Individuals at higher risk (e.g., elderly, underlying health conditions)
  - Occupations at higher risk (e.g., health care workers, essential industries, meat packing plants, military)
  - Populations at higher risk (e.g., racial and ethnic groups, incarcerated individuals, residents of nursing homes, individuals who are homeless)

- Geographic distribution of active virus spread
- Countries/populations involved in clinical trials
- How will the framework apply in various scenarios (e.g., different characteristics of vaccines and differing available doses)?
- If multiple vaccine candidates are available, how should we ensure equity?
- How can countries ensure equity in allocation of COVID-19 vaccines?
- For the US, how can communities of color be assured access to vaccination?
- How can we communicate to the American public about vaccine allocation to minimize perceptions of lack of equity?
- What steps should be taken to mitigate vaccine hesitancy, especially among high-priority populations?"

During the open session of the committee's [first meeting](#) on July 27, National Academy of Medicine President Victor Dzau announced that the committee is planning to produce a discussion draft released for public comment by early September, hold a public workshop to collect additional feedback, and issue its final recommendations by early October. The study committee is co-chaired by Helene D. Gayle, president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, and William H. Foege, Emeritus Presidential Distinguished Professor of International Health, Emory University. More information about the study is available on the [National Academies website](#).

## AAAS Issues Draft Plan to Address Systemic Racism in the Sciences

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has released the first of three draft plans intended to address systemic racism in the sciences, [Holding up a Mirror: Demographic Representation in AAAS Functions that Advance Careers](#). The plan outlines AAAS's commitment and proposed actions to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion within its operations. Forthcoming draft plans will focus on AAAS programs and initiatives to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in science and engineering and on AAAS actions to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion with the AAAS as an organization. They are expected to be released by mid-September. Comments and suggestions may be submitted to [suggestionsforaaas@aaas.org](mailto:suggestionsforaaas@aaas.org).

## Recent Reports

- NASEM: [Are Generational Categories Meaningful Distinctions for Workforce Management?](#)
- NASEM: [Measuring Alternative Work Arrangements for Research and Policy](#)

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## COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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### Nomination Opportunities

- APA: [Task Force on Climate Change](#) (Closes: August 21, 2020)

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- VIRTUAL: [SEAN Understanding COVID-19 Data: What Decision Makers Need to Know](#), August 6, 2020, 1:00 pm
- VIRTUAL: [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), August 6-9, 2020
- CANCELLED: [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), August 6-9, 2020
- VIRTUAL: [NASEM Workshop: Equitable Allocation of Vaccines Against COVID-19](#), August 7, 2020, 3:15 pm



- **VIRTUAL:** [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 8-11, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | August](#), August 13, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [NIH Webinar on Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers \(MOSAIC\) Program](#), August 18, 2020, 1:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), September 10-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Economic History Association Annual Meeting](#), September 10-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | September](#), September 10, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **CANCELLED:** [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), October 8-11, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [2020 Henry and Bryna David Lecture: "A Coming Youth Wave? Mobilizing Young Voters in a Polarized Political Environment"](#), October 8, 2020, 1:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | October](#), October 8, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Evaluation 2020](#), October 26-31, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [NIH Fall Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration](#), October 27-30, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), October 29-31, 2020

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).

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*COSSA Washington Update* will be on hiatus for the remainder of August. We will return to our normal schedule on September 1. COSSA members can [sign up](#) to our members-only emails to receive updates during our break.

## Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

### Governing Associations

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

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
 Boston University  
 Brown University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 Duke University  
 George Mason University  
 Georgetown University  
 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

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  
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

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

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

### Affiliates

SAGE Publishing  
Wiley

## COSSA

**Executive Director:** Wendy A. Naus  
**Director of Public Affairs:** Julia Milton  
**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.*

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