



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## Featured News

### NSF Invites Proposals for New SBE-Led Initiatives on Strengthening Infrastructure, Broadening Participation in Entrepreneurship, and Enhancing Social Science Capacity at Minority-Serving Institutions

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released a pair of Dear Colleague Letters (DCL) soliciting applications from the research community on two new crosscutting initiatives led by the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE). The first letter, [Strengthening American Infrastructure \(SAI\)](#), signed by the Assistant Directors of all seven research directorates and the head of the Office of Integrative Activities, seeks Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) proposals that “incorporate scientific insights about human behavior and social dynamics to better develop, design, build, rehabilitate, and maintain strong and effective American infrastructure” (which can include cyber, economic, educational, physical, and social). According to the DCL, “NSF is particularly interested in proposals that integrate a deep understanding of human cognition, perception, information processing, decision making, social and cultural behavior, legal frameworks, governmental structures, and related areas into the design, development, and sustainability of infrastructure.” The deadline for EAGER concept outline proposals is December 11. More information is available in the [Dear Colleague Letter](#).

The second announcement invites proposals on “identifying contextual factors and mitigation strategies to enhance participation and success of various populations in STEM

entrepreneurship and innovation.” This effort, [Broadening Participation in STEM Entrepreneurship and Innovation \(BPINNOVATE\)](#), falls within SBE’s [Science of Science program](#) but receives support from the Education and Human Resources (EHR), Engineering (ENG), and Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorates, as well as the NSF Office of Integrative Activities. In addition, other NSF programs will also support opportunities for research on this topic, including the NSF Innovation Corps (NSF I-Corps), the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP), the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic Serving Institutions Program (HSI), and the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) programs. Proposals through the Science of Science program are due by February 9, 2021. More information is available in the [Dear Colleague Letter](#).

SBE has also announced a new program, [Build and Broaden 2.0: Enhancing Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Research and Capacity at Minority-Serving Institutions \(B2 2.0\)](#). This program is part of SBE’s efforts to broaden participation of underrepresented groups in SBE programs by encouraging research collaborations between minority institutions and other research institutions. The new DCL follows on the original Build and Broaden solicitation that came out earlier this year but, because of COVID, was limited to workshop/conference proposals. The solicitation is expected to be posted shortly in the coming days at [this link](#). Proposals are due by March 5, 2021.

In addition to these new efforts, SBE’s [Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\) program](#), which was [formerly the Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences \(RIDIR\) program](#), has released its [second annual solicitation](#) under its new name. The revised program now includes two tracks: HNDS-Infrastructure (formerly RIDIR) and HNDS-Core Research. Details on the new research component are available in the solicitation. Proposals are due by February 4, 2021.

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## New from COSSA

### December Headlines to Feature Deep Dive on 2021 Policy Landscape

COSSA members are invited to register for the monthly Headlines webchat on Thursday, December 10 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 on the social science policy landscape facing the new Congress and the Biden Administration next year. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).




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## Congressional News

### Congress Works to Close Out Term as Leaders Named for 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

With time running out before the current continuing resolution (CR) funding the government expires on December 11, Congressional leaders are still working to negotiate a final deal for an omnibus spending package to fully fund the government for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2021. Reportedly, appropriators have reached an agreement on the top-line funding levels for the various appropriations bills (see COSSA’s analyses of the [House](#) and [Senate](#) proposals). The main obstacle appears to disagreement be on the size and composition of an additional COVID-19 relief funding package, which would be attached to one of the appropriations bills to ensure passage. Although appropriators have reaffirmed their commitments to the December 11 deadline, they may pass an additional CR to give themselves additional time to wrap up spending. However, time before the end of the session is running out, particularly if Members

hope to set aside time to quarantine ahead of returning home to their families for the Christmas holiday.

In the meantime, House Democrats have named leaders of several key committees important to the social sciences. The House majority selected [Rep. Rosa DeLauro](#) (D-CT) to take the helm of the House Appropriations Committee, replacing Nita Lowey (D-NY), who is retiring at the end of this year. Rep. DeLauro is a senior appropriator and current chair of Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS). During her tenure on the Labor-HHS subcommittee, DeLauro has been a big supporter of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and health research. In addition, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), a longtime champion of the social sciences, was [unanimously re-elected](#) to serve as Chair of the House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee, which oversees the National Science Foundation. Control of the Senate still depends on the results of the upcoming Georgia runoff elections. COSSA will continue to report on additional Committee appointments important to the social sciences as they are announced.

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## Executive Branch News

### White House Announces Final Appointments for National Science Board

On November 24, the White House [announced](#) nominations and appointments for several key federal positions including the final two appointments filling out the National Science Board (NSB), the advisory body for the National Science Foundation (NSF). These appointments mark the first time since May that the NSB has had all seats filled and will be the last opportunity for the Trump White House to submit appointments to the NSB before the Presidential transition. The two NSB appointees are:

- [Matthew Malkan](#), Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of California, Los Angeles
- [Scott Stanley](#), Vice President of Technology and Co-Founder of aerospace engineering firm Techno Planet

The next meeting of the NSB is December 9-10. More information and the meeting agenda are available on the [NSB website](#).

### NIMH Seeking Guidance for Research on Preventing Black Youth Suicide

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a [request for information](#) (RFI) seeking input from stakeholders on the prevention of suicide among Black children and adolescents. The RFI seeks information on approaches to understanding suicide risk among Black youth, research needed to expand evidence-based prevention programs and services, and input on additional topics that may be relevant to preventing Black youth suicide. This request follows up on the recommendations included in a [2019 report](#) from the Congressional Black Caucus examining ways to address Black youth suicide and mental health.

Comments will be accepted through January 15, 2021. More information is available on the [NIH website](#).

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## COSSA Member Spotlight

### AERA and National Academies to Host Forum on Educational Equity Research Needs

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), a COSSA governing member, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) are partnering on a forum on the research needs and implications of the 2019 Academies' report [Monitoring Educational Equity](#).

The forum will feature experts who served on the National Academies panel that produced the report and explore a select set of the 16 indicators proposed in the report, including exposure to racial, ethnic, and economic segregation; non-exclusionary disciplinary policies; access to non-academic support for students; and access to high-quality academic supports. The forum will take place on December 15, 2020 from 3:30-5:00 PM EST. More information registering and list of speakers is available [here](#).

## Resources & Opportunities

### New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** NSF: [Broadening Participation in STEM Entrepreneurship and Innovation \(BPINNOVATE\)](#) (Closes: February 9, 2021)
- NIH/NIGMS: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and the Causative Virus SARS-CoV-2](#) (Closes: February 6, 2021)
- **NEW:** NSF/SBE: [Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\)](#) (Closes: February 4, 2021)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-2 \(Mid-scale RI-2\)](#) (Closes: February 3, 2021)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Strengthening American Infrastructure \(SAI\)](#) (Closes: January 15, 2021)
- NSF: [Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations \(AccelNet\)](#) (Closes: January 4, 2021)
- NIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Competitive and Administrative Supplements for Community Interventions to Reduce the Impact of COVID-19 on Health Disparity and Other Vulnerable Populations](#) (Closes: December 30, 2020)
- NIH/NIMH: [Request for Information \(RFI\): Fostering Innovative Research to Improve Mental Health Outcomes Among Minority and Health Disparities Populations](#) (Closes: December 11, 2020)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

### Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NIH/NIMH: [Request for Information: Guidance on Current Research on the Prevention of Black Youth Suicide](#) (Closes: January 15, 2021)
- NSF: [Request for Information - Evidence-Building Activities](#) (Closes: December 31, 2020)
- DOJ/BJA: [Proposed Collection Comments Requested; Extension of a Currently Approved Collection: Capital Punishment Report of Inmates Under Sentence of Death](#) (Closes: December 14, 2020)

### Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- OBSSR/JHU: [Mixed Methods Research Training Program for the Health Sciences](#) (Closes: January 19, 2021)
- SRCD: [2021-2022 U.S. Policy Fellowships](#) (Opens: December 1, 2020) (Closes: January 4, 2021)
- OES: [Annual Fellowships](#) (Closes: December 13, 2020)
- **NEW:** NIH/NCI: [Program Director position, Health Behaviors Research Branch](#) (Vacancy Pre-Announcement)

## Upcoming Events

- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | December](#), December 10, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [AERA-National Academies Forum: Monitoring Educational Equity](#), December 15, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Economic Association Virtual Annual Meeting](#), January 3-5, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), January 6-9, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), January 7-10, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference](#), January 19-22, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), February 9-13, 2021

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@coossa.org](mailto:jmilton@coossa.org).

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## COSSA 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  
 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

### 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  
 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

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 Personality Assessment  
 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

### Affiliates

SAGE Publishing  
 Wiley

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

### 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

### About COSSA

*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.*

### Our Team

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**#WhySocialScience**

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