

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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- NSF Seeking Interdisciplinary Project Ideas on Understanding the Brain

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- National Academies Release Resource on Communicating Newsworthy Social and Behavioral Science

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Update Returns January 5**

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## Featured News

### NIH Releases Report on COVID-19 Vaccine Communication

A panel of social and behavioral scientists coordinated by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a report titled "[COVID-19 Vaccination Communication: Applying Behavioral and Social Science to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Foster Vaccine Confidence.](#)" The report, led by the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), outlines research-based strategies to communicate the importance of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine while addressing the challenges of vaccine hesitancy and misinformation. The strategies laid out in this report are largely based on the fundamentals of communication research while including specific considerations for individuals at highest risk of contracting the virus such as healthcare workers and older adults.

Some of the strategies included in the report are:

- Using accurate and transparent messaging without exaggeration;
- Provoking positive emotions rather than negative emotions in messaging;
- Corresponding through trusted sources of information to the target audience;
- Framing vaccination as a social norm;
- Reaching out early to those that are hesitant about vaccines to help form their views; and
- Build trust slowly with those who mistrust vaccines through compassion and empathy with the goal to encourage vaccinations in the future.

The report is available on the [OBSSR website](#).

## Congressional News

### Congress Passes Final FY 2021 Funding, COVID Relief, Closing the Books on an Extraordinary Year

After weeks of tense negotiations, Congressional leaders reached an [agreement](#) on a coronavirus aid package and legislation to fund the government through the end of fiscal year (FY) 2021. The appropriations agreement largely provides flat funding or modest increases to social science agencies, unsurprising given the strains placed on the federal budget by the pandemic. COSSA will release a full analysis of the funding bills for social science agencies later this week. In the meantime, top-line funding for agencies important to the social and

behavioral sciences are provided in the chart below. COSSA's complete coverage of FY 2021 funding can be found [here](#).

FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS SNAPSHOT							
	Enacted FY 2020	President's Request	COSSA's Request	House	Senate	FY 2021 Final	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>							
Economic Research Service	84.8	62.1		86.7	85.7	85.5	0.8%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	180.3	177.5		183.4	184.4	183.9	2.0%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1527.4	1590.8		1475.3	1538.9	1570.1	2.8%
<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b>							
Bureau of the Census	7558.3	1672.0	1681.1	1681.1	1799.7	1106.8	-85.4%
<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>							
Institute of Education Sciences	623.5	565.4	670.0	630.5	635.5	642.5	3.0%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	76.2	0.0	106.1	80.3	76.2	78.2	2.6%
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY</b>							
Energy Information Administration	126.8	128.7		126.8	126.8	126.8	0.0%
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>							
National Institutes of Health	41684.0	38693.6	44684.0	46959.0*	43684.0	42934.0	3.0%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*	338.0	256.7	471.0	343.0	256.7	338.0	0.0%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	7694.2	7000.9	8300.0	7870.9	7824.6	7819.4	1.6%
National Center for Health Statistics	174.4	169.0	189.0	174.4	176.4	175.4	0.6%
<b>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>							
Bureau of Justice Statistics	43.0	43.0	48.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	4.7%
National Institute of Justice	36.0	43.5	41.0	43.5	36.0	37.0	2.8%
<b>DEPARTMENT OF LABOR</b>							
Bureau of Labor Statistics	655.0	658.3	658.3	655.0	641.0	655.0	0.0%
<b>NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION</b>	8278.3	7741.4	9000.0	8548.3	8478.0	8486.8	2.5%

\* The President's budget request proposes to consolidate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as an institute within the National Institutes of Health.  
† Including \$5 billion in coronavirus emergency relief funding.

The \$900 billion COVID relief package includes direct payments for individuals meeting certain income thresholds, extension of unemployment benefits, support for small business through the Paycheck Protection Program, among many other priorities. Notable for the social science community is \$22.7 billion for the Higher Education Relief Emergency fund to help universities defray the costs associated with the pandemic and provide financial assistance to students. In addition, the bill includes \$28 million for use through FY 2022 to support pandemic-related costs related to administering the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). NAEP has been postponed amid the educational upheaval caused by the pandemic.

Within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the agreement provides \$8.75 billion in supplemental funding for the CDC for use through FY 2024 to “plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track coronavirus vaccines to ensure broad-based distribution, access, and vaccine coverage.” The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is to receive \$1.25 billion for use through FY 2024 to support research and clinical trials related to the long-term effects of COVID-19, as well as continued support for expanding and improving COVID-19 testing.

## Executive Branch News

### Evidence Building Advisory Committee Seeks Input

The Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building, which was established by the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* (“Evidence Act,” see previous coverage) has issued a [general solicitation of comments](#) from the public to inform its work. The request includes a set of ten questions that cover core issues like:

- “Capacity needs for secure data access and record linkage
- Areas for research and development on state-of-the-art data access and data protection methods
- How to protect privacy when using personally identifiable information or confidential business information in support of evidence building
- How to promote transparency and facilitate public engagement with the evidence building process
- Agency needs for data management and data stewardship services
- How to best facilitate the needs of researchers, evaluators, and other evidence builders through a national data service or similar approach.”

Comments are sought by February 9, 2021. Full details are available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

### NSF Seeking Interdisciplinary Project Ideas on Understanding the Brain

On December 14, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) requesting suggestions for potential interdisciplinary projects on brain research. In the letter, NSF states that these submissions should shed light on untapped research areas that may depend on collaboration between neuroscience and other fields such as behavioral science which may lead to future funding opportunities. The letter asks for input on recent scientific advances in the brain sciences that impact multiple disciplines as well as the perspectives needed to pursue research opportunities more effectively. A survey collecting submissions is available on the [NSF website](#).

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## Science Community News

### National Academies Releases Resource on Communicating Newsworthy Social and Behavioral Science

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) have released a [digital resource](#) on how to communicate newsworthy social and behavioral science. The resource offers insights and strategies on a variety of communication topics including the concept of newsworthiness, differences of background between journalists and scientists, common challenges facing the media in reporting on science, and suggestions for scientists and journalists to consider when choosing to communicate science. The information imparted in the resource includes segments recorded from a [Roundtable on Communication and Use of Social and Behavioral Science](#) along with short checklists and testimonials from the roundtable's panelists. The resource can be found on the [National Academies' website](#).

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## Editor's Note

This is our final issue of the COSSA Washington Update of 2020. 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 5. The COSSA team is especially grateful to all of our members this year for their continued support and engagement amidst incredibly difficult circumstances. We wish all of our readers happy holidays and hope for a better 2021!

## Resources & Opportunities

### New COVID-19 Resources

- **NEW:** NIH/OBSSR: [COVID-19 Vaccine Communication: Applying Behavioral and Social Science to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Foster Vaccine Confidence](#)
- **NEW:** SRCDC: [COVID-19 Job and Income Loss Jeopardize Child Well-Being: Income Support Policies Can Help](#)

### Nomination Opportunities

- **EXTENDED:** [2021 Golden Goose Awards](#) (Closes: January 6, 2021)

### New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** BJS: [NICS Act Record Improvement Program \(NARIP\)](#) (Closes: April 22, 2021)
- **NEW:** BJS: [National Criminal History Improvement Program \(NCHIP\)](#) (Closes: April 8, 2021)
- NIH/NIDA: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- NIH: [Mid-Career Enhancement Awards to Integrate Basic Behavioral, Biomedical, and/or Social Scientific Processes \(K18 No Independent Clinical Trials\)](#) (Opens: February 16, 2021) (Closes: March 17, 2021)
- NIH: [Mid-Career Enhancement Awards to Integrate Basic Behavioral, Biomedical, and/or Social Scientific Processes \(K18 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#) (Opens: February 16, 2021) (Closes: March 17, 2021)
- **NEW:** BJS: [State Justice Statistics Program of Statistical Analysis Centers, 2021](#) (Closes: March 11, 2021)
- 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)
- NSF/SBE: [Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\)](#) (Closes: February 4, 2021)
- NSF: [Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-2 \(Mid-scale RI-2\)](#) (Closes: February 3, 2021)
- NSF: [Strengthening American Infrastructure \(SAI\)](#) (Closes: January 15, 2021)
- NSF: [Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations \(AccelNet\)](#) (Closes: January 4, 2021)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

## Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- **NEW:** NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Interdisciplinary Frontiers of Understanding the Brain](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- **NEW:** DOC: [Request for Comments for the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building](#) (Closes: February 9, 2021)
- 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)

## Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Communicating Newsworthy Social and Behavioral Science](#)
- **NEW:** HUD/PD&R: [Research Roadmap 2020 Update](#)

## Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** ED: [Summer Internship Opportunities](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- 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)
- NIH/NCI: [Program Director position, Health Behaviors Research Branch](#) (Vacancy Pre-Announcement)

## Upcoming Events

- **VIRTUAL:** [American Economic Association Virtual Annual Meeting](#), January 3-5, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting](#), January 5-9, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), January 6-9, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), January 7-10, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | January](#), January 14, 2021, 2:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference](#), January 19-22, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [NASEM Workshop: Envisioning a Transformed Clinical Trials Enterprise for 2030](#), January 26, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), February 9-13, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | February](#), February 11, 2021, 2:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations Annual Meeting](#), February 25-26, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | March](#), March 11, 2021, 2:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Personality Assessment Annual Convention](#), March 17-20, 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

### 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

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  
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

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

#### 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

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#### 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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