



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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### A Message from the Executive Director

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new year, new Congress and new Administration is a busy time under "normal" circumstances. However, as our battle with the COVID-19 pandemic continues and, hopefully, we inch toward some semblance of pre-pandemic life in 2021, we are forced to prioritize what is most important. At COSSA, the crises of the past year have underscored for us the critical importance of our work and mission: "To promote the value of social and behavioral science research to policymakers and the public with the goal of enhancing federal support." Our efforts over the past year aimed to tell the story of how social and behavioral science can and is helping to address society's greatest challenges, from the public health crisis to racial injustice, and many others.

With our eyes focused on the future, last month COSSA developed and transmitted a comprehensive [report](#) to the incoming Biden-Harris Administration detailing steps that can be taken to support social and behavioral science research and—more importantly—to utilize insights from our sciences to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges confronting our nation. See the article below for details on our recommendations.

Just as we plan our path forward, it is helpful to reflect on where we have been. COSSA is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021. As part of our look back, we will feature articles from past COSSA Washington Updates throughout the year. This week's archived article, *107<sup>th</sup> Congress Opens, Awaits New Administration*, dates back to January 15, 2001. I think you will find it interesting—and perhaps sobering—to extent to which we continue to tackle similar challenges twenty years later.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for supporting COSSA these last 40 years, and especially this past year. We are strongest as a community; COSSA could not do what we do without this community.

Warmest wishes for a safe, healthy and happy 2021,

## New from COSSA

### COSSA Issues Recommendations for the Incoming Biden Administration

In December, COSSA transmitted a report to the Biden transition team, *Putting Social and Behavioral Science to Work for America: 10 Recommendations to the Biden Administration*. The report outlines tangible actions the incoming Administration can take to support the U.S. research enterprise and use social science research in support of evidence-based policy making across three themes: (1) Restore Trust in Science and Government Data, (2) Champion Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Science; and (3) Expand the Use of Social and Behavioral Science and Data in Decision-Making. The full document is available on [COSSA's website](#).

### January Headlines to Feature Deep Dive on COSSA's 2021 Policy Priorities

COSSA members are invited to register for the monthly Headlines webchat on Thursday, January 14 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 COSSA's recommendations to the Biden Administration as well as COSSA's legislative priorities for the coming year. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).



### NSF's Kellina Craig-Henderson Answers "Why Social Science?"



The latest *Why Social Science?* post comes from Kellina Craig-Henderson, Deputy Assistant Director of the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Craig-Henderson wrote for NSF's [Science Matters](#) blog about her experiences confronting stereotypes as an African American female scientist and about SBE's new [Build and Broaden program](#), which directs resources to researchers at minority-serving institutions. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

### FROM THE ARCHIVES: 107th Congress Opens, Awaits New Administration (January 15, 2001)

*In celebration of COSSA's 40th anniversary, we are diving into the decades of [Washington Update archives](#) to share articles from years past that resonate with today's news.*

When we last left you, the country was waiting for the Supreme Court to decide the presidential election and the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2001 remained incomplete. In the intervening month, George W. Bush began putting his administration together, and all 13 FY 2001 spending bills finally became law, 21 Continuing Resolutions later and nearly three months into the fiscal year[...]

The 107th Congress opened for business on January 3. Two major situations needed working out. With a net gain of four seats by the Democrats in the election, the Senate ended up divided 50-50. As Vice-President Gore remains in office until January 20, the Democrats are the majority for 17 days. Congressional leaders agreed that Democratic Senators would chair the committees during that period, including a number of hearings on Bush cabinet nominees. Following the inauguration of President-elect Bush and Vice-President-elect Cheney on January 20, the Republicans will have the tie-breaking vote. Republicans will take over as committee leaders, but Democrats fought for and received equal committee representation and staff allotments. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) will be allowed to break ties in committee votes, allowing, for example, cabinet nominations to move to the Senate floor.

[Read more from this issue.](#)

## Congressional News

## COSSA Releases Analysis of FY 2021 Appropriations for Science Agencies

As [previously reported](#), before adjourning for the year Congress passed a combined appropriations and coronavirus aid package that provides much needed pandemic relief and will fund the government through the end of fiscal year (FY) 2021 (September 30, 2021). Following several days of uncertainty, President Trump signed the package into law on December 27.

COSSA's full analysis of the final FY 2021 funding bills for federal agencies and programs important to the social and behavioral science research community is now available [here](#).

Attention now turns to the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress which convened on January 3. Lawmakers have begun the process of organizing and making Committee assignments ahead of President-Elect Biden's inauguration on January 20, even as control of the Senate is not yet decided. Stay tuned to COSSA's coverage for the latest developments.

### Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act Reintroduced in 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

On January 5, the House Science, Space, and Technology (SST) Committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) introduced the *Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act* ([H.R. 144](#)), legislation that would create a new postdoctoral fellowship program at the National Science Foundation to support early-career researchers whose opportunities have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Johnson and Lucas, who had previously introduced the legislation in the [previous Congress](#), have stated that the goal of the legislation is to prevent the loss of research talent due to any economic disruptions that may have occurred due to the public health emergency. The bill's text is available on the [SST Committee website](#).

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## Executive Branch News

### GAO Releases Review of Federal Agency Policies on Foreign Interference in Research

On December 17, 2020, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a [report](#) reviewing the policies at five major federal research agencies intended to secure federally funded research from foreign interference. The five agencies under review, the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Energy (DOE), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and National Science Foundation (NSF), were evaluated on their existing policies requiring researchers to disclose foreign conflicts of interest – including non-financial conflicts of interest such as honorary appointments – and their procedures for addressing failures to disclose these conflicts of interest.

Findings from the report showed that most agencies have taken some actions to improve research security, although noticeable gaps existed in the disclosure policies of non-financial conflicts of interest and the disciplinary procedures for failure to disclose conflicts of interest. The report makes nine recommendations to federal agencies to improve research security policies. Each of the agencies receiving recommendations agreed with GAO's assessment except for NSF, which neither agreed nor disagreed but still identified actions it would take to address the recommendations.

The recommendations are:

- The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) should issue pending guidance and expedite the guidance process for research security issues.
- DOD should develop an agency-wide policy on conflicts of interest for grants.
- DOD should document the procedure to address failures to disclose conflicts of interests.
- DOE should develop an agency-wide policy on conflicts of interest for grants.
- DOE should document the procedure to address failures to disclose conflicts of interests.
- NIH should update their policies to include a definition of non-financial conflicts of interest.
- NASA should update their policies to include a definition of non-financial conflicts of interest.
- NASA should document the procedure to address failures to disclose conflicts of interests.
- NSF should update their policies to include a definition of non-financial conflicts of interest.

COSSA released two HOT TOPIC pieces in [January 2020](#) and [October 2020](#) providing detailed summaries of recent developments in research security policies. The GAO report is available in full on the [GAO website](#).

### NIMHD Funding Research on Vaccine Hesitancy and Health Disparities

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a Notice of Special Interest announcing a new [funding](#)

[opportunity](#) for research on hesitancy to participate in vaccines among populations that experience health disparities. The notice seeks submissions on a variety of social and behavioral research questions including evaluating strategies to increase vaccination rates among target communities and methods to address barriers of receiving vaccines among health disparate communities, especially those with a higher risk of experiencing vaccine hesitancy. The first available due date for applications is February 5, 2021, with the notice expiring on January 8, 2022. More information is available on the [NIH website](#).

## Nominations Open for 2021 Matilda White Riley Honors

The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is accepting [nominations](#) for a social or behavioral scientist to deliver the keynote address at the Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social Science Honors on May 5, 2021. The Matilda White Riley Honors are an annual event recognizing transformative work in the fields of social and behavioral science along with early-career researchers. This year is the second time the event will be hosted virtually. Nominees should have a research career that has “advanced behavioral and social scientific knowledge in areas within NIH’s mission and Dr. White Riley’s vision.” More information is available on the [OBSSR website](#). Nominations may be emailed to [Erica Spotts](#) by January 29, 2021.

## Trump Names New NIFA Director

In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced](#) the appointment of Dr. Carrie Castille as the director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Department’s extramural research agency. Dr. Castille has worked on Farm Production and Conservation as well as Rural Development within USDA and previously served as an Assistant Professor of Agriculture at Louisiana State University. Dr. Castille’s six-year term began on January 4, 2021. She succeeds Acting Director Parag Chitnis, who led the agency following J. Scott Angle’s departure in July 2020, two years into his six-year term.

## HHS Seeking Nominations for Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections

The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is soliciting [nominations](#) for the [Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections](#) (SACHRP), the advisory body to the HHS Secretary on policies protecting the safety of human participants in research. OHRP is seeking nominations for four positions on the Committee that will be opening during the 2021 and 2022 calendar years. More information and nomination instructions are available in the [Federal Register](#).

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## COSSA Member Spotlight

### AAPSS to Hold Webinar on the Impact of Inequality on Democracy

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS), a COSSA member, will host a virtual conversation “Can Democracy Survive Growing Inequality?” on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 1:00 pm Eastern time. New York Times columnist David Leonhardt will moderate a conversation with the 2020 AAPSS Fellows: Katherine Cramer, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Eric Foner, Columbia University; Helen Milner, Princeton University; Mario Luis Small, Harvard University and Bruce Western, Columbia University. The discussion will take stock of the current state of racial and socioeconomic inequality in the United States and around the world and suggest public policy opportunities for the Biden Administration. Information on how to register is available [here](#).

## Resources & Opportunities

### Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** HHS/OHRP: [Nominations for Membership on the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections](#) (Closes: February 12, 2021)
- **NEW:** NIH/OBSSR: [Matilda White Riley 2021 Honors](#) (Closes: January 29, 2021)
- **EXTENDED:** [2021 Golden Goose Awards](#) (Closes: January 6, 2021)

### New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- 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)

- BJS: [State Justice Statistics Program of Statistical Analysis Centers, 2021](#) (Closes: March 11, 2021)
- **NEW:** DOJ/BJS: [FY 2021 Continuation of the Federal Justice Statistics Program](#) (Closes: March 2, 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)
- **NEW:** NIH/NIMHD: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities](#) (Closes: February 5, 2021)
- **NEW:** NCGVR: [Funding Opportunity for One-Year Gun Research Proposals](#) (Closes: February 5, 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)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

## Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Interdisciplinary Frontiers of Understanding the Brain](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- 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)

## Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Teaching K-12 Science and Engineering During a Crisis](#)
- **NEW:** GAO: [Federal Research: Agencies Need to Enhance Policies to Address Foreign Influence](#)

## Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- ED: [Summer Internship Opportunities](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- OBSSR/JHU: [Mixed Methods Research Training Program for the Health Sciences](#) (Closes: January 19, 2021)
- NIH/NCI: [Program Director position, Health Behaviors Research Branch](#) (Vacancy Pre-Announcement)

## Upcoming Events

- **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:** [NSF Invites Public Participation in Discussion on the Evolving Role of Online Learning](#), January 8, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | January](#), January 14, 2021, 2:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [AAPSS Fellows Webinar: Can Democracy Survive Growing Inequality?](#), January 14, 2021
- **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@coffa.org](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

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## COSSA Members

### Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University



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  
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  
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Cornell University  
Duke University  
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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

### 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

**Executive Director**  
Wendy A. Naus

**Director of Public Affairs**  
Julia Milton

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**#WhySocialScience**

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