

COSSA

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Featured News

Today is Social Science Advocacy Day; Advocates Highlighting Social Science for Recovery and Beyond

On April 27, more than 60 social and behavioral scientists are participating in COSSA's seventh annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#), meeting virtually with Members of Congress and their staff about the many ways social and behavioral

science can help the nation recover from the pandemic and tackle the other major challenges it faces. Advocates from 21 states will conduct approximately 80 meetings with Congressional offices. They are equipped with materials that help to explain the unique contributions the social and behavioral sciences make to recovery and to address other pressing national issues; these factsheets are available on COSSA's [Advocacy Resources page](#). You can help amplify this message by responding to COSSA's [Action Alert](#) on social science and the COVID-19 crisis.

COSSA is particularly grateful to the event's sponsors, who made this year's virtual event possible. Sincere thanks to the American Anthropological Association, American Educational Research Association, American Political Science Association, American Psychological Association, American Sociological Association, Boston University, Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Midwest Political Science Association, National Communication Association, Ohio State University, Penn State Social Science Research Institute, Population Association of America, SAGE Publishing, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, University of Arizona, University of California, Irvine School of Social Sciences, and Wiley.



New from COSSA

“Why Social Science?” Can Help Us Communicate Numbers



The latest *Why Social Science?* post comes from Ellen Peters, Director of the University of Oregon's Center for Science Communication Research, who writes about ways policymakers can communicate numbers and statistics in ways that enhance—rather than diminish—the public's understanding. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

FROM THE ARCHIVES: NIH Launches ECHO Program (October 4, 2016)

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.

On September 21, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the launch of the seven-year [Environmental Influences on Children Health Outcomes \(ECHO\) program](#) designed to “investigate how exposure to a range of environmental factors in early development—from conception through early childhood—influences the health of children and adolescents.” The agency planned to allocate \$157 million in funding in fiscal year (FY) 2016 for ECHO. Presenting at the September 21 [National Advisory Child Health and Human Development \(NACHHD\) Council](#), ECHO Director Matthew Gillman outlined the goals of the study. Gillman noted that the aims for ECHO are consistent with the agency's goals for the now [discontinued](#) National Children's Study, however, the approach is different.

In addition to examining such exposures as air pollution, ECHO will also examine “societal factors such as stress, to individual behaviors like sleep and diet.” The program will use the Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) program to create pediatric clinical research networks in rural and medically underserved areas in an effort to allow children in these areas the opportunity to participate in clinical trials. The ECHO infrastructure will include: pediatric cohorts, a coordinating center, a data analysis center, the Children's Health and Exposure Analysis Resource (CHEAR) core, a Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) core, and an IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (ISPCTN), which has been funded up front for four years

[Read more from this issue.](#)

Congressional News

Competing NSF Bills Introduced in House and Senate

As [previously reported](#), leadership of the House Science Committee introduced the *NSF for the Future Act (H.R. 2225)* on March 26. The bill seeks to reauthorize the National Science Foundation (NSF) through FY 2026 and proposes more than doubling the agency's budget over that period. The legislation also proposes the creation of a new research directorate, the Directorate for Science and Engineering Solutions (SES), which would enable NSF to “take big risks and experiment with new approaches to accelerating the translation of science and technology into solutions to society's major challenges” (see [press release](#)).

Meanwhile, competing legislation has been reintroduced in the Senate. The *Endless Frontier Act (S. 1260)*, legislation that originally surfaced in 2020 by Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), was reintroduced on April 20. While this bill also seeks to create a new directorate at NSF, that is largely where the similarities end between the two bills. The primary purpose of the Endless Frontier Act is to shore up U.S. leadership in key technology areas—specifically with respect to China—and to enhance “tech transfer” for scientific research funded by the federal government. To accomplish these goals, the bill would authorize \$100 billion over five years for a new Technology and Innovation Directorate at NSF. Unlike the House bill, S. 1260 would not provide an overall authorization or increased funding for NSF, just the new directorate.

COSSA has prepared a side-by-side comparison of provisions relevant to the social sciences in the two bills, which is available [here](#).

The Endless Frontier Act is scheduled for mark up by the [Senate Commerce Committee](#) on April 28. At this time, it remains unclear if or how the differences between the bills will be reconciled or whether either will advance any further. COSSA is closely monitoring the legislation and will report on new developments. In the meantime, do not hesitate to [contact us](#) with any questions or concerns about either bill.

Appropriators Hold Hearings on NSF Budget for FY 2022 & Potential New Research Funding

This month, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees held hearings to address the Biden Administration's [proposed budget](#) for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in fiscal year (FY) 2022. In addition to the budget, both hearings addressed the possibility of significant funding increases for the agency through a new technology directorate as proposed in the *Endless Frontiers Act* (S. 1260) (see related article). NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan was the sole witness at both hearings, voicing strong support for the Biden Administration's proposed increases to the NSF budget.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) held its [hearing](#) overseen by Subcommittee Chair Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-KS) on April 13. Both Shaheen and Moran spoke highly of the mission of NSF and seemed open to budget increases for the agency as proposed in the *Endless Frontiers Act*. However, despite agreement that more funding for research was necessary, members of both parties expressed that they wanted more details before throwing full support behind the increase. Other topics discussed during the hearing were global scientific competitiveness, particularly with China, research security, NSF's EPSCoR program, funding levels for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and increasing diversity in the scientific workforce. The hearing recording is available on the Senate [CJS Subcommittee website](#).

The House Appropriations CJS Subcommittee held its hearing overseen by Subcommittee Chair Matt Cartwright (D-PA) and Ranking Member Robert Aderholt (R-AL) on April 14. Like the Senate hearing, members of both parties seemed generally supportive of NSF yet wanted more specifics, with some members of the minority expressing concern of the size of the budget increase. Other issues discussed during the hearing were cybersecurity and its role in research security, investments towards diversity in the scientific workforce, encouraging STEM education and training, and NSF's role in addressing greater societal challenges such as COVID-19 and climate change. The hearing recording is available on the House CJS [Subcommittee website](#).

House Science Committee Reintroduces Legislation to Combat Sexual Harassment in Science

On April 20, Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (SST) reintroduced the *Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act* ([H.R. 2695](#)), bipartisan legislation that would expand research on the causes and consequences of sexual harassment in the STEM workforce as well as direct data to influence policy to reduce the negative impacts of sexual harassment. COSSA has been an endorser of the legislation since 2018 when it was first introduced (see [previous coverage](#) for more details). More information is available in a [press release](#) available on the SST website.

Senate Focuses on Research Security, Introduces New Anti-China Provisions

The Senate has directed its attention towards competition with China as of late, resulting in activities focusing on research security as an extension of U.S.-China policy. On April 15, the *Strategic Competition Act of 2021* ([S. 1169](#)) was introduced in the Senate by Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Jim Risch (R-ID), the Chairman and Ranking Member respectively of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The bipartisan bill includes a long list of measures related to competition with China, including issues related to the security of the U.S. research enterprise. One section of the bill controversially increases oversight at academic institutions on foreign gifts (which may include research grants) by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), effectively giving CFIUS the power to suspend or cancel foreign-granted activities at academic institutions if they are deemed harmful to national security concerns. As the bill is still a work in progress, COSSA will monitor the legislation for future updates.

In addition to this legislation, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) held a [hearing](#) on April 22 addressing research security in the biomedical research enterprise, especially related to global scientific competition with China. Witnesses included Deputy Director for Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Michael Lauer, Acting Director of the Office of National Security at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Lisa Aguirre, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations at HHS Gary Cantrell, and Acting Director of Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Candice Wright. The Committee members, led by Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC), all expressed deep concern with the potential threat of espionage and cyberattacks at research institutions and inquired how HHS and NIH are combatting espionage in the research enterprise, especially concerning foreign gift reporting and data transfer threats at U.S. universities. A recording of the hearing is available on the HELP [Committee website](#).

Congress Holds Hearings on Behavioral Health

Over the past several weeks, Congressional Committees have held several hearings to discuss mental and behavioral health care, including mental health parity and emergency response to

mental health crises. On April 15, the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing on "[Meeting the Moment: Improving Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Care](#)." The Subcommittee heard testimony from Chief of Psychology in the Public Interest at the American Psychological Association (APA) Brian Smedley, Chief Medical Officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Christine Moutier, Senior Vice President of Health Policy at The ERISA Industry Committee James Gelfand, and Founder of Psych-Appeal Meiram Bendat. Witnesses raised several issues with previous legislation such as the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008* (MHPAEA) and argued for stronger federal enforcement, increased use of telehealth, and the encouragement of interstate mental health licensing. The Subcommittee also discussed the need for more mental health professionals across the country, briefly asking witnesses what Congress can do to encourage and aid students through their education and training. When discussing mental health and policing, Dr. Smedley mentioned the fact that state employee health plans can opt-out of MHPAEA protections for essential workers such as teachers, firefighters, and police. The House hearing can be viewed [here](#) on the Committee website.

On April 23, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism held a hearing on "Behavioral Health and Policing: Interactions and Solutions." The Subcommittee heard testimony from the Commander of the Education & Training Section of the Baltimore Police Department Martin Bartness, Co-Director of The Mental Health Strategic Impact Initiative Keris Jän Myrick, Outreach Manager of Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) Ebony Morgan, Executive Director at the Technical Assistance Collaborative Kevin Martone, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute Rafael Mangual, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims, and wife of a fallen officer, Terri O'Connor. The Subcommittee generally acknowledged the faults with the current mental health care system and addressed topics such as the implementation of national mental health crisis response teams and some successful examples such as the CAHOOTS program. The Senate hearing can be viewed [here](#) on the Committee website.

This article was contributed by COSSA's spring intern, Nicholas Lynn.

Executive Branch News

SBE Calls for Proposals for International Collaborative Research to Aid Pandemic Recovery

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) has announced that it is participating in the [Trans-Atlantic Platform Call for Proposals: Recovery, Renewal, and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World](#) (T-AP RRR). T-AP RRR is a grant competition that will support international collaborative research projects that address gaps in our understanding of the complex and dynamic societal effects of COVID-19. Proposals are asked to address one or more of the following challenges: reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities; building a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society; fostering democratic governance and participation; advancing responsible and inclusive digital innovation; and/or ensuring effective and accurate communication and media. In addition, collaborative research teams must include researchers based in at least three participating countries and include partners from both sides of the Atlantic. More information is available in the [Dear Colleague Letter](#). Submissions are due by July 12.

ECHO Program Seeks Comments on Collecting Pre-Conception Data

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued a [request for information](#) (RFI) on improving the science of the [Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes](#) (ECHO) program (see COSSA's [previous coverage](#)). NIH is interested in input from the external community on topics including (but not limited to) enhancing the program's study origins of child health outcomes originating prior to conception, as well as more general strategies for maintaining scientific value while reducing the burden of primary data collection on participants and staff, addressing public health emergencies, enhancing recruitment and retention of diverse populations, and promoting diversity of the workforce related to child health. NIH will hold a [webinar](#) on May 6 to provide additional information on the RFI. Comments will be accepted through May 25. More information is available on the [NIH website](#).

First 2020 Census Data Released; 7 Congressional Seats Change Hands

On April 26, the Census Bureau released [the first data from the 2020 Census](#), including each state's apportionment population counts (used to allocate seats to the U.S. House of Representatives and electoral college votes), resident population accounts, and overseas population counts. The release of the Constitutionally-required information was delayed due to the operational challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional time needed to correct duplicate and incomplete responses. Overall, seven Congressional seats will shift as a result of the 2020 Census. California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia will each lose one Congressional seat, while Colorado, Florida, Oregon, Montana, and North Carolina will each gain one seat. Texas will gain two Congressional seats.

More detailed data on the populations of smaller geographic areas that states will use to redraw their individual Congressional districts is expected to be released in August. The next release will also include more detailed demographic information on race, ethnicity, age, and

gender. As states await the publication of this information, [several lawsuits](#) are progressing through the courts attempting to force the Bureau to release the data earlier and to prevent it from adopting [differential privacy](#) techniques to keep individuals' data anonymous. Stay tuned to all of COSSA's 2020 Census coverage [here](#).

NSB Seeks Nominations for 2022 Vacancies

Nominations are being sought for to fill eight upcoming vacancies on the National Science Board (NSB), the policy-making body of the National Science Foundation (NSF) that also serves as an independent advisor to the President and Congress on federal science policy. The Board consists of 24 members who serve staggered six-year terms, with the NSF director serving as a 25th ex officio member. Nominations are considered by the NSB, which makes recommendations to the White House and new members of the Board are appointed by the President. For the incoming class of 2022-2028, the NSB is particularly interested in individuals with expertise in cyberinfrastructure and computational science, private-sector technology management, translation/innovation/partnerships, promotion of diversity and minority serving institutions, geoscience, STEM education and the science of learning, and engineering. More on these and other selection criteria are available in the [NSB's Dear Colleague letter](#). More information on the nomination process is available on the [NSB website](#). Nominations are due by May 31, 2021.

Science Community News

New SEAN Guidance Offers Strategies for Communicating About Vaccine Efficacy

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's [Societal Experts Action Network](#) (SEAN) (see COSSA's [previous coverage](#)) has published a new guidance on [Understanding and Communicating Vaccine Efficacy and Effectiveness](#). The guidance is intended to help public officials prepare and evaluate their communications efforts around vaccination. It is available as an interactive web tool, with highlights on [Communicating Vaccine Efficacy](#) and on [Communicating About Efficacy and Effectiveness in the Context of Equity in Covid-19 Vaccine Distribution](#), as well as a [full report](#) on the National Academies website.

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 4/19/21: [Letter on FY 2022 302\(b\) Allocations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- NSF: [Request for Recommendations for Membership on Directorate and Office Advisory Committees](#)
- **NEW:** AAAS/Subaru: [SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books](#) (Closes: July 19, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS/Kavli Foundation: [Science Journalism Awards](#) (Closes: July 15, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [2022 Award for Science Diplomacy](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [2022 Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [2022 Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [2022 Mani L. Bhaumik Award for Public Engagement with Science](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [2022 John P. McGovern Award Lecture in the Behavioral Sciences](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [2022 Mentor Awards](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [Newcomb Cleveland Prize](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** AAAS: [2022 Philip Hauge Abelson Prize](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- EPA: [Nominations for Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee \(CASAC\) Membership](#) (Closes: May 3, 2021) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Call for Nominations: National Science Board, Class of 2022-2028](#) (Closes: May 31, 2021)

New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** Trans-Atlantic Platform/NSF: [Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World \(RRR\)](#) (Closes: June 14, 2021)
- **NEW:** Acquisition Innovation Research Center: [2021 Phase I - Call for Research Proposals](#) (Closes: May 14, 2021)
- NSF: [Future Manufacturing \(FM\)](#) (Closes: May 14, 2021)
- NSF: [Understanding the Rules of Life: Emergent Networks](#) (Closes: May 10, 2021)

- NIH/OBSSR: [Advancing Health Communication Research on HIV Prevention, Treatment and Cure](#) (Closes: May 8, 2021)
- NSF: [Convergence Accelerator 2021 Cohort: Networked Blue Economy \(Track E\) & Trust & Authenticity in Communications Systems \(Track F\)](#) (LOIs Due: May 5, 2021)
- NIH/OBSSR: [Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research \(R21/R33 Clinical Trial Optional\) \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: May 1, 2021)
- NIH/NIMHD: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Competitive and Administrative Supplements for the Impact of COVID-19 Outbreak on Minority Health and Health Disparities](#) (Closes: May 1, 2021)
- NIH/NIA: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): NIA Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (Closes: May 1, 2021)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NASEM/DBASSE: [Requesting Comments: Call to Action for Science Education](#)
- **NEW:** NIH/NIAID: [Request for information \(RFI\) on enhancing the science for the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes \(ECHO\) program](#) (Closes: May 25, 2021)
- AHRQ: [Request for Information on the Use of Clinical Algorithms that Have the Potential to Introduce Racial/Ethnic Bias into Healthcare Delivery](#) (Closes: May 4, 2021)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM/SEAN: [Understanding and Communicating Vaccine Efficacy and Effectiveness](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NASEM: [Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program](#) (Closes: April 30, 2021)

Upcoming Events

- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day, April 27, 2021](#)
- **VIRTUAL:** [Association of Research Libraries Meeting](#), April 27-29, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [DBASSE/Hauser Spring Webinar: Ending Child Poverty: Examining Trends and Policy Implications](#), May 4, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [NIH Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social Science Honors](#), May 5, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), May 5-8, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 11-14, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | May](#), May 13, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), June 2-4, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | June](#), June 10, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Research!America Reaching the Peak: A Science and Technology Career Summit](#), June 30, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | July](#), July 8, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), July 29 - August 1, 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@coсса.org.

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

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 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
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 Indiana University

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
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 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
Southwestern Social Science Association

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Centers and Institutes

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

Executive Director

Wendy A. Naus

Director of Public Affairs

Julia Milton

Staff Assistant

Ben Goodrich

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Consortium of Social Science Associations | 1430 K Street, NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20005

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