WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Featured News

House Introduces New Version of Sweeping Research and Innovation Bill; Vote Expected

On January 25, Democrats in the House of Representatives introduced the *America COMPETES Act of 2022* (H.R. 4521). As previously reported, House and Senate leaders have been working on innovation and competitiveness legislation for more than two years now. While the House's approach has been to focus on shoring up the U.S. scientific enterprise through targeted investments in the National Science Foundation and other science agencies, the Senate's focus has been more squarely on competing with China through investments in key technologies. This has made negotiations between the House and Senate challenging. The new House bill appears to be the chamber's latest response to the *U.S. Innovation and Competition Act* (USICA) that passed the Senate over the summer and, as such, contains several similarities to USICA.

For example, both bills call for the establishment of a new research directorate at NSF and would authorize regional innovation hubs, as proposed in earlier versions of the bills. In addition, both bills include sections related to research security, albeit each taking differing

approaches. Several major differences remain between the two measures that will need to be addressed in a conference committee between the chambers, such as proposals in the House bill to support climate change mitigation and provisions that would eliminate caps on green cards for doctoral graduates in STEM fields.

The House Rules Committee is meeting today to determine which amendments to consider when the COMPETES Act heads to the House floor for debate, which could begin as soon as this week. COSSA is currently analyzing the nearly 3,000-page package and will provide additional details in the coming days.

New from COSSA

Registration Opens for COSSA's 2022 Social Science Advocacy Day

COSSA members are invited to register for COSSA's 2022 virtual Social Science Advocacy Day on March 29. Social Science Advocacy Day is the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. The event brings together social scientists and other science advocates from across the country to engage with policymakers. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the registration fee for Advocacy Day is only $25, but spots are limited, so register soon.

Sponsors help COSSA to defray the costs of our Advocacy Day, while providing organizations with additional visibility among colleagues in the social and behavioral science and higher education communities. COSSA is offering a variety of sponsorship packages this year, including the ability to get up to four free Advocacy Day registrations. Check out our 2022 sponsorship opportunities here.

February Headlines to Feature Deep Dive on Preserving Cultural Heritage

February's COSSA Headlines webinar will feature a deep dive discussion with anthropologist Richard Kurin, Smithsonian Institution Distinguished Scholar and Ambassador-at-Large, who will share information about his work preserving cultural heritage. COSSA members should watch for an email on Thursday, February 4 with details on how to register (sign up for members-only emails here). Information on how to register will be posted to this page.

SSRC President Anna Harvey Answers "Why Social Science?"

The latest *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Anna Harvey, President of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), who writes about a new SSRC initiative to combat health mis- and disinformation.

Congressional News

Lawmakers Looking to Move Delayed FY 2022 Spending Bills; Feb 18 Deadline Looms

The current continuing resolution (CR) keeping the federal government open expires on February 18. Fiscal year (FY) 2022 began on October 1, 2021 without any of the 12 annual appropriations bills having been enacted into law. Reports indicate that House and Senate leadership are gauging the possibility of finalizing the FY 2022 spending measures

before the CR deadline in just a couple weeks. The most likely outcome is a sweeping omnibus appropriations bill packaging all or some of the individual bills into a single measure. However, before that can happen, leaders must reach an agreement on top-line funding levels—that is, how much the government can spend in discretionary appropriations across all 12 bills. Once the top-line number is set, final negotiations can begin in earnest. The next few weeks will be critical for determining the path forward on funding for the remainder of FY 2022. Follow COSSA's appropriations coverage here.

Senate Committee Releases Draft of Bipartisan Pandemic Preparedness Bill, Seeks Feedback

On January 25, Senate leadership from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) released a draft of the *PREVENT Pandemics Act*, a new piece of bipartisan legislation aimed at strengthening public health and pandemic preparedness responses, including research responses to COVID-19. The draft, which was jointly released by HELP Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC), is currently structured in five parts: strengthening federal and state preparedness; improving public health preparedness and response capacity; accelerating research and countermeasure discovery; modernizing the supply chain for vital medical products; and enhancing development and combating shortages of medical products. In a press release announcing the draft, Murray and Burr state that they are looking at opportunities to add other provisions to the bill in Committee mark up within the next few weeks, some of which may support research at the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), improve laboratory security, and other provisions. Community feedback on the draft may be submitted to the Committee through February 4. More information is available on the HELP Committee website.

Executive Branch News

White House Releases Science Integrity Report

On January 11, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released the report of its Scientific Integrity Fast-Track Action Committee, a group created by President Biden charged with identifying ways the federal government at all levels can preserve the accuracy and objectivity of science and protect government science from suppression, manipulation, and political interference. The report was developed in response to a 2021 Presidential Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking, which COSSA has been reporting on and that aligns with COSSA's recommendations to the Biden Administration delivered in late 2020.

The Committee conducted a review of existing federal agency scientific integrity policies and identified "good practices" for improving implementation. Among the report's findings include the following:

- All major science agencies already have in place scientific integrity policies; however, they may need to be strengthened to "deter undue influence in the conduct, management, communication, and use of science." This is particularly important for agency leaders at the highest levels who set an example to either enable or undermine scientific integrity policies.
- In addition to protecting science from undue influence, scientific integrity policies must also foster "the appropriate and transparent use of science in decision-making." To this end, the report calls on *all federal agencies* that conduct, manage, communicate, or use science in decision-making develop policies and institutionalize scientific integrity practices, not just "science agencies".
- Greater attention is needed on scientific integrity training for the extramural (outside government) research community. This could include, where appropriate, requiring training as part of the terms of a grant or contract.

Among the many "good practices" identified in the report for federal agencies to consider

adopting include:

- Fostering an organizational culture of scientific integrity within every agency starting at the top and reinforced by training of agency staff.
- Encouraging continued professional development of federal scientists, including by allowing federal employees to participate in scientific conferences.
- Building collaborative relationships between government scientists and agency communications staff to foster effective and transparent communication of scientific information to decision-makers, the media, and the public.
- Limiting the review of government science products by non-scientific staff to ensure that changes by non-scientific staff (e.g., policy or communications staff) do not alter scientific results. In addition, federal agencies need to clearly differentiate between scientific results and agency positions and policy.
- Creating clear procedures for reporting violations or concerns and ensuring whistleblower protections.

As outlined in the 2021 memorandum, the Committee will now turn to developing "a framework to support regular assessment and iterative improvement of agency scientific integrity policies." The full report is available on the White House website.

OMB Requests Input on Standard Application Process for Accessing Federal Data

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has issued a request for comments on the recommendations of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) regarding the implementation of a standard application process for accessing confidential federal data (which may be downloaded here). The ICSP report, which was written in response to requirements in the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* ("Evidence Act," see previous coverage), outlines considerations for applying to access confidential statistical data, agency review of applications, and an appeals process for applications that are denied. OMB is particularly interested in receiving comments on the proposal related to metadata standards, application windows, applicant evaluation, appeals process, and public reporting. Full details are available in the Federal Register notice. Comments must be submitted by March 16, 2022.

New Social Science Fields Added to DHS List of STEM Programs

On January 21, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) updated its list of STEM Designated Degree Programs. F-1-visa-holding students completing degrees within these fields of study may apply for 24-month extensions to their visas to undertake optional practical training (OPT). A number of the fields added to the list are relevant to the social and behavioral sciences, including:
- Human-Centered Technology Design
- Anthrozoology
- Economics and Computer Science
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Mathematical Economics
- Data Science, General
- Data Analytics, General, and
- Business Analytics.

The Federal Register notice announcing the change includes more information about the process for petitioning to add fields to the DHS list, as well as more information about each selected field.

NIH Releases Collection of Resources Highlighting Accomplishments in Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently released an installment of fact sheets and infographics containing summaries of important advancements in public health with major contributions from the behavioral and social sciences. The collection of resources focuses on the ten following

public health topics:

- [Sleep](#)
- [Chronic Pain](#)
- [Diabetes](#)
- [Intimate Partner Violence](#)
- [Teen Pregnancy](#)
- [Tobacco Use](#)
- [Depression](#)
- [Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder](#)
- [Phobias](#)
- [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder](#)

OBSSR had released a previous [resource](#) in 2013 highlighting achievements of the behavioral and social sciences acknowledging OBSSR's 20th anniversary. The full collection of resources is available on the [OBSSR website](#).

Science Community News

National Academies Names Carlotta Arthur New DBASSE Director

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [announced](#) that it has selected Dr. Carlotta M. Arthur as its next executive director of the [Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education](#) (DBASSE). Dr. Arthur was most recently Clare Boothe Luce Program for Women in STEM of the Henry Luce Foundation. She succeeds Dr. Mary Ellen O'Connell effective February 14.

University of Maryland to Host Part Two of Partnerships in the Social Sciences Workshop

The University of Maryland and UIDP, in collaboration with COSSA, the National Science Foundation, MITRE, the Optimal Solutions Group, SAGE Publishing, and the Federation of Associations in the Behavioral and Brain Sciences, will be hosting the second part of the [Workshop on U-I Partnerships in the Social Sciences](#) (see [previous coverage](#) for more details). This in-person workshop, which is a continuation of the events held virtually on October 14, 2021, will bring together "a group of experts and leaders from academia, industry, and government to consider how academic-corporate partnerships can advance social, behavioral, and organizational science research to positively impact science and society." A few agenda highlights include:

- Assessing the Impact of Interdisciplinary Approaches in Academic-Industry Collaboration
- Leader Development: Insights and Opportunities that Cross Industry and Academia
- Experiential Learning: Lessons from Private, Public, and Non-profit Partnerships

This event will be held on April 20-21, 2022 at The Hotel at the University of Maryland. More information on registration for this event can be found [here](#).

This article was contributed by COSSA's Spring Intern Sofi Cavenaile of the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Resources & Opportunities

Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Standing Committee on Personal Protective Equipment for Workplace Safety and Health](#) (Closes: February 7, 2022)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [A New Vision for High Quality Pre-K Curriculum](#) (Closes: February 4, 2022)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH: Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery (R01 BESH Required) (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed) (R01 Clinical Trial Required) (Opens: May 21, 2022) (Closes: June 22, 2024)
- NIH: Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC) Institutionally-Focused Research Education Award to Promote Diversity (Closes: November 16, 2023)
- NIH: Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory - Pragmatic and Implementation Trials of Embedded Interventions (Closes: June 18, 2022)
- NSF: Dear Colleague Letter: Encouraging Research on Open Knowledge Networks (Closes: April 15, 2022)
- **NEW:** NEA: Research Grants in the Arts (Closes: March 28, 2022)
- **NEW:** NEA: NEA Research Labs (Closes: March 28, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action (HD2A) Research Adoption Support Center (Closes: March 25, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action (HD2A) Innovation Projects (Closes: March 10, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action (HD2A) Data Infrastructure Support Center (Closes: March 10, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action (HD2A) Modeling and Economic Resource Center (Closes: March 10, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: Preventing Opioid Misuse and Co-Occurring Conditions by Intervening on Social Determinants (R01 Clinical Trials Optional) (Closes: March 2, 2022)
- NSF: Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research (FW-HTF) (Closes: March 2, 2022)
- NSF/SBE: Build and Broaden 3.0 (B2 3.0) (Target Dates: March 1, 2022)
- NSF/SBE: Ethical and Responsible Research (ER2) (Closes: February 17, 2022)
- SSRC: The Mercury Project: Call for Proposals (rolling deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- **NEW:** OMB: Request for Comment: The Interagency Council on Statistical Policy's Recommendation for a Standard Application Process (SAP) for Requesting Access to Certain Confidential Data Assets (Closes: March 14, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH/OBSSR: Request for Information: Research Challenges and Needs in the Interaction of Sleep and Emotion Regulation to Improve Health and Well-being across Health Conditions (Closes: February 28, 2022)
- NSF: Request for Information on Future Topics for the NSF Convergence Accelerator (Closes: February 28, 2022)
- **NEW:** ED/IES: Request for Information on Effective Interventions To Improve Middle School Science Achievement and Mathematics Achievement in Grades 3 Through 5 for Students With Disabilities (Closes: February 14, 2022)
- DOC/Census: Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Ask U.S. Panel (Closes: February 7, 2022)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NSF/NSB: The State of U.S. Science and Engineering 2022
- **NEW:** NIH/OBSSR: Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Accomplishments
- **NEW:** OSTP/NSTC: Protecting the Integrity of Science
- **NEW:** DHS: Update to the Department of Homeland Security STEM Designated Degree Program List
- **NEW:** NASEM/SEAN: Strategies for Mitigating the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Early Care and Education Sector
- **NEW:** NBER: Does Research Save Lives? The Local Spillover of Biomedical Research on Mortality

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** NIH/OBSSR: [Summer Institute on Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials](#) (Closes: February 15, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH/NCI: [Cancer Research Training Award Fellowship in Health Behaviors Research](#) (rolling deadline)
- **NEW:** NIH/NCI: [Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Equity and Basic Behavioral and Psychological Science Research](#) (rolling deadline)

Upcoming Events

- **VIRTUAL:** [NSF Workshop: Government Advances in Statistical Programming (GASP)](#), February 2-3, 2022
- **VIRTUAL: [COSSA Headlines | February](#), February 10, 2022**
- [NASEM Workshop: Strengthening the Evidence Base to Improve Economic and Social Mobility in the United States](#), February 14-15, 2022
- **HYBRID:** [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), February 16-19, 2022, San Francisco, CA
- [American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting](#), February 25 - March 1, 2021, New York, NY
- [Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting](#), March 3-5, 2022, New Orleans, LA
- **VIRTUAL: [COSSA Headlines| March](#), March 10, 2022**
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), March 15-19, 2022, Las Vegas, NV
- [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), April 6-9, 2022, Atlanta, GA
- [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions](#), April 6-9, 2022, Baltimore, MD
- **HYBRID:** [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), April 7-10, 2022, Chicago, IL
- [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), April 13-16, 2022, Chicago, IL
- [U-I Partnerships in the Social Sciences](#), April 20-21, 2022, College Park, MD
- [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), April 21-23, San Antonio, TX
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), April 22-25, San Diego, CA

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@cossa.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
Midwest Political Science Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social

Colleges and Universities

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

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
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Communication Association
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
Southern Political Science Association
Southwestern Social Science Association

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Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social
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Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Center for Social Sciences
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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