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FEATURED NEWS

- Biden Administration Begins Rollout of FY 2023 Budget, Some Details Yet to be Published

NEW FROM COSSA

- Today is Social Science Advocacy Day! Learn How You Can Participate

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

- Senate Discusses Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders, Hints at Bipartisan Legislation

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

- NSF Establishes New Technology Directorate
- PCAST Holds Panel Discussion on Science Communication
- Rayvon Fouché Begins Appointment as NSF's SES Division Director
- Invitation: White House Holding Virtual Summit to Kick Off "Year of Evidence for Action"

SCIENCE COMMUNITY NEWS

- National Academies Release Recommendations for Modernizing NAEP

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

- APA's Corbin Evans Answers "Why Social Science?"

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

- COSSA Letters & Statements
- Nomination Opportunities
- Funding Opportunities
- Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers
- Notices, Resources, & Reports
- Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities
- Upcoming Events

Featured News

Biden Administration Begins Rollout of FY 2023 Budget, Some Details Yet to be Published

On March 28, the Biden Administration began releasing details of its fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request to Congress. At the time of this writing, details for all federal agencies and departments important to the social science research community have not yet been published; however, topline budget levels are available:

Snapshot of the President's FY 2023 Budget Request

	FY 2023 Request	% Change
National Institutes of Health	\$49 billion	+9.1%
National Science Foundation	\$10.5 billion	+18.7%
Institute of Education Sciences	\$662.5 million	-10.2%
International Education & Foreign Language Studies	\$78.2 million	-4.3%
National Institute of Justice	\$45 million	+12.5%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	\$43 million	+43.3%
Census Bureau	\$1.5 billion	+11.2%

The budget request proposes increases for much of the federal research enterprise with some exceptions; however, the devil is in the details. For example, more than half of the proposed increase for the National Institutes of Health would go toward the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) which was just established through the FY 2022 final appropriations bill, and some NIH institutes and centers would see increases while others would be cut. The National Science Foundation, on the other hand, would see sizeable increases across the board in addition to funding for its new Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate.

COSSA is busily analyzing the FY 2023 budget request and will be publishing an in-depth report in the coming days. In the meantime, details can be found on the White House Office of Management and Budget [website](#).

While the Administration was nearly two months late in delivering the budget to Congress, the House and Senate have hit the ground running on the FY 2023 appropriations process, with several hearings scheduled for later this week in which Administration officials will defend the proposals for next year. COSSA will keep you posted on all the news related to FY 2023 funding for social and behavioral science research.

New from COSSA

Today is Social Science Advocacy Day! Learn How You Can Participate

Today, COSSA is holding its [2022 Social Science Advocacy Day](#), a members-only annual event bringing together social and behavioral scientists from across the country to meet with Members of Congress and their staff to advocate for increased funding for federal agencies and programs important to the research community. This year, 70 individuals from COSSA member organizations will participate virtually in about 90 meetings with policymakers and their staff in the House of Representatives and Senate. You can get in on the action by responding to [COSSA's Action Alert](#) and sending a quick note to your elected officials to voice your support for federal science agencies that advance the social and behavioral sciences.

Follow along with this year's advocates on Twitter using the hashtags #COSSA2022 and #WhySocialScience.

Congressional News

Senate Discusses Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders, Hints at Bipartisan Legislation

On March 23, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a [hearing](#) to discuss the national mental health and substance use disorder crisis and the federal programs being used to address these issues. The hearing, overseen by

Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC), is one of many Congressional hearings held in the past few months focused on potential policy solutions related to mental health (see [previous coverage](#) for more details). The witnesses present at the hearing were Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Carole Johnson, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Dr. Joshua A. Gordon, and Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) within NIH Dr. Nora D. Volkow.

Committee Chair Murray focused her opening statement on the increasing suicide and drug overdose rates and the worrying rise in mental health crises across the country. Additionally, she acknowledged the extreme lack of mental health professionals in the U.S. and how to best address these issues through federal legislation. Ranking Member Burr focused his opening statement on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in exacerbating the mental health and substance use disorder crises that the U.S. is currently experiencing. The witness opening statements focused on what their respective federal agencies are doing to address these issues and ways in which the Committee can continue to support their missions. Many of the Committee members' questions for the witnesses revolved around how to best support healthcare professionals and marginalized groups such as youths, veterans, communities of color, and rural communities. Additionally, the value of funding provided by the American Rescue Plan in supporting mental health and substance use treatment across the country was mentioned several times throughout the hearing. Chairwoman Murray stated that the Committee is working on a bipartisan package that would support substance use and mental health crises efforts across the country that will hopefully be released early Summer 2022. A recording of the hearing can be found on the [Committee website](#).

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

Executive Branch News

NSF Establishes New Technology Directorate

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced the creation of its first new research directorate in over 30 years, the [Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships](#) (TIP). The new Directorate will support “use-inspired” research with the goal of “fostering innovation and technology ecosystems, establishing translation pathways, and partnering across sectors to engage the nation’s diverse talent.” In addition to new investments, the directorate will transfer several existing NSF programs into TIP, including the NSF Lab-to-Market Platform comprising the [NSF Innovation Corps \(I-Corps\)](#), [Partnerships for Innovation](#), and [America’s Seed Fund powered by NSF](#), as well as the NSF [Convergence Accelerator](#). [Dr. Erwin Gianchandani](#), who has been leading planning efforts for TIP at NSF and was previously deputy assistant director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), was named the inaugural Assistant Director for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships.

A major question still to be answered as the new directorate finds its footing is at what level it will be funded and how that funding will affect NSF’s other research directorates, including the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE). The directorate was originally proposed in the Administration’s fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget request (see [COSSA’s analysis for more details](#)) and endorsed in Congress’s [FY 2022 appropriation package](#). Initial proposals called for major new investments in NSF to support TIP’s activities. However, Congress did not pass dedicated funding for the new entity for FY 2022, instead directing NSF to fund it within the amounts appropriated to the Research and Related Agencies (R&RA) account—the budget line for existing NSF directorates, including SBE—which received a smaller than anticipated increase in FY 2022.

It is important to note that the report accompanying the omnibus maintains longstanding

language that “NSF is directed to allocate no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted levels to maintain its core research levels...” This language, which first appeared several years ago when social science funding was being singled out for cuts, is intended to safeguard other programs within R&RA from becoming the bank for new activities. However, it remains to be seen how this language will be interpreted by the agency given the smaller final appropriation.

Further complicating the picture are ongoing negotiations in Congress over innovation and competitiveness legislation that will incorporate the Senate’s *U.S. Innovation and Competition Act* (USICA) and the House’s *America COMPETES Act of 2022* (H.R. 4521). Both bills called for the establishment of a new directorate but differed in their overall approaches. It is unclear whether or to what extent any enacted legislation resulting from these negotiations will have on the direction of the TIP directorate.

PCAST Holds Panel Discussion on Science Communication

On March 24, the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) hosted a panel discussion on the topic of improving science communication. In his introductory remarks, Dr. Francis Collins, [acting co-chair of PCAST and interim Presidential Science Advisor](#), noted serious concerns about science communication, specifically with respect to vaccine hesitancy, and stated that PCAST has an opportunity to advise the federal government on how to improve science communication to build public trust. In a [nod to previous remarks](#) made by Collins as he stepped down as Director of the National Institutes of Health last year, he acknowledged that he used to think all one needed to do to communicate science to the public was to put the evidence in front of them. He conceded that “trusting the science” is not enough and that the federal government needs help thinking more about this topic, especially as it relates to the spread of misinformation. Turning to the panel, Collins noted that there currently is no dedicated government working group on the topic of science communication broadly, although many existing working groups on other topics have been discussing effective communication. He asked the panel to help PCAST think about what the government should be doing.

The first panelist was Arthur (Skip) Lupia of the University of Michigan. Lupia’s research focuses on how people make decisions with a lack of information. In his presentation, he explained that while evidence-based policy is a popular term at the moment, evidence is not enough for policy because other factors—such as value diversity, positionality, and politics—are at play when developing policy or making recommendations based on science. To increase the likelihood that the public will pay attention and potentially follow policy based on science, messages about science should be (1) immediately relevant to core concerns; that is, connected to people’s thoughts and feelings; (2) consistent with values (e.g., does the information threaten or empower me); and (3) actionable. In addition, Lupia noted that “credibility” is also an important factor, noting that credibility is not inherent, even for scientists, but rather, that credibility is bestowed by the listener or learner. If the scientific information being presented is credible but the messenger is not, the listener may not accept it, and vice versa, said Lupia.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, University of Pennsylvania, continued the discussion by talking about the need to ensure the integrity of facts in public discourse, using the COVID-19 pandemic as an example. Her presentation included three recommendations: (1) Establish a misconception monitoring, prevalence assessment, and response system for federal health agencies; (2) Make all monitoring, prevalence assessment, and response data available to scholars in real time (i.e., get scholars involved in the process); and (3) Use direct contact with the public to communicate foundational knowledge and bolster trust. Regarding this last point, Jamieson suggests taking basic, foundational knowledge about science and presenting it “every place we touch the public,” such as doctors’ offices, community vaccine clinics, and websites, to name a few. She also called for the federal government to audit the language used by all health agencies in materials to flag and fix instances that increase public susceptibility to misconception.

Consuelo Wilkins, Vanderbilt University, discussed the importance of communicating effectively with diverse communities and building trust. Again using COVID-19 as an example, Wilkins discussed her team’s work using community-led teams and success in

utilizing community partners to deliver scientific information.

Jessica Hullman, Northwestern University, discussed issues with how statistical data is presented to the public and the need to allow the public to see and understand issues of “uncertainty” in science and statistics. She argued that by deemphasizing uncertainty as a core characteristic of science and statistics, the public is led to incorrectly believe that government information is infallible or certain. As a result, when it is revealed that a data source, such as the Census, contains “uncertainty” or “noisy estimates,” it can be interpreted by the public as inaccurate or untrustworthy data. Hullman argued that “providing obviously imperfect measurements by default avoids the veneer of certitude, normalizing error, and will enable analysts to account for noise in inference.”

PCAST members had lots of questions for the panel, including about the extent to which sociology, psychology, and other social sciences are engaged in studies about communicating science. COSSA will continue to follow PCAST’s work around science communication.

Rayvon Fouché Begins Appointment as NSF’s SES Division Director

On February 28, the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Social and Economic Sciences (SES) Division saw a change of leadership as Dr. Rayvon Fouché took the helm of the division. Fouché, a science and technology studies researcher and professor at Purdue University, succeeds the previous division director Daniel Goroff who led the division from 2019 through 2021. The SES Division is responsible for many of the key social and behavioral science research programs within the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate at NSF. More information is available on the [NSF website](#).

Invitation: White House Holding Virtual Summit to Kick Off “Year of Evidence for Action”

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will hold a [Virtual Summit on Evidence for Action](#) on April 7, 2022. The summit will kick off a “Year of Evidence for Action” to be focused on “building and strengthening partnerships between evidence communities within and outside of the federal government.” The event will include an opening plenary featuring Acting OSTP Director Alondra Nelson, OMB Deputy Director for Management Jason Miller, Senior Counselor in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) K. Sabeel Rahman, Census Bureau Director Robert Santos, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research and Evaluation, and Chief Evaluation Officer in the Administration for Children & Families Naomi Goldstein. Information on how to RSVP for the Summit is available [here](#).

Science Community News

National Academies Release Recommendations for Modernizing NAEP

On March 24, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) released the report “[A Pragmatic Future for NAEP: Containing Costs and Updating Technologies](#),” which provides recommendations to improve the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Congressionally-mandated assessment administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The report, which is the culmination of one of several recent NASEM activities related to education research and statistics (see [previous coverage](#)), focuses on reducing the costs of administering NAEP and identifying ways to incorporate modern technologies and systems to automate the administrative needs of NAEP. Some of the recommendations in the report include:

- NCES should develop clear descriptions of current spending on NAEP and ensure the budget can support any major programmatic decisions;
- NCES should consider structural changes to the assessments including the integration of subjects, the modernization of long-term trend assessment, and the

- addition of smaller, more frequent updates to the NAEP framework;
- NCES should commission an independent audit of NAEP management and increase the visibility of NAEP;
- A greater percentage of the budget should go towards innovations that will increase the use and understanding of NAEP data;
- NCES should evaluate options when developing technologies for assessment administration, including the Next-Gen eNAEP platform.

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

COSSA Member Spotlight

APA's Corbin Evans Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's [Why Social Science? post](#) comes from Corbin Evans, Senior Director of Congressional and Federal Relations at the American Psychological Association, who writes about human behavior and its relationship to the changing climate.

Join COSSA, UIDP, and the University of Maryland for an in-person workshop on U-I Partnerships in the Social Sciences

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](#). The in-person workshop will be held on April 20-21, 2022 at The Hotel at the University of Maryland. The event 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.”

[LEARN MORE](#)

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 3/16/2022: [Friends of AHRQ Sign-on Letter to House Appropriations Requesting No Less than \\$500 million for AHRQ in FY 2023](#)
- 3/16/2022: [Friends of AHRQ Sign-on Letter to Senate Appropriations Requesting No Less than \\$500 million for AHRQ in FY 2023](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- NSF: [National Medal of Science](#) (Closes: May 20, 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: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Validation of Digital Health and Artificial](#)

- [Intelligence Tools for Improved Assessment in Epidemiological, Clinical, and Intervention Research](#) (Closes: March 9, 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)
- NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Opens: May 8, 2022) (Closes: June 16, 2022)
- NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (Opens: May 8, 2022) (Closes: June 16, 2022)
- NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Opens: May 8, 2022) (Closes: June 5, 2022)
- NIH: [BRAIN Initiative: Targeted BRAIN Circuits Projects- TargetedBCP \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (Closes: June 1, 2022)
- NIH: [BRAIN Initiative: Targeted BRAIN Circuits Planning Projects – TargetedBCPP \(R34 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#) (Closes: June 1, 2022)
- NSF: [Incorporating Human Behavior in Epidemiological Models \(IHBEM\)](#) (Closes: May 15, 2022)
- NSF: [Strengthening American Infrastructure \(SAI\)](#) (Closes: May 5, 2022)
- NSF: [Civic Innovation Challenge](#) (Closes May 5, 2022)
- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Encouraging Research on Open Knowledge Networks](#) (Closes: April 15, 2022)
- SSRC: [The Mercury Project: Call for Proposals](#) (rolling deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- OSTP: [Request for Information To Support the Development of a Federal Scientific Integrity Policy Framework](#) (Closes: April 4, 2022)
- NIH: [Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility](#) (Closes: April 3, 2022)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [A Pragmatic Future for NAEP: Containing Costs and Updating Technologies](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM/SEAN: [Considerations for Designing COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Programs](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- OJP/NIJ: [Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#) (Closes: May 17, 2022)

Upcoming Events

- **COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day, March 29, 2022**
- [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
- [OSTP/OMB Virtual Summit on Evidence for Action](#), April 7, 2022
- [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), April 7-10, 2022, Chicago, IL
- **COSSA Headlines | April, April 14, 2022**
- [SRCD Webinar: Towards a Global Science of Child Development: Challenges and Opportunities](#), April 14, 2022
- [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, 2022, San Antonio, TX
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), April 22-25, 2022, San Diego, CA
- [NIH Social, Behavioral, and Economic Health Impacts of COVID-19 Webinar](#), April 27-28, 2022
- [American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting](#), April 28-30, 2022, Philadelphia, PA
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 12-15, 2022, Chicago, IL
- [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), May 31-June 3, 2022, Seattle, WA

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.

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 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

Colleges and Universities

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 Duke University
 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
 Indiana University
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 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Virginia
 University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Virginia Tech

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

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing
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Centers and Institutes

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Center for Advanced Study in the
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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.*

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