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Featured News

White House Compiles Federal Action Plans

The White House has published a list of [equity action plans](#) that have been developed by various federal agencies in order to comply with President Biden’s *Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government* (E.O. 13985) issued on the first day of his term (see [previous coverage](#) for more details). According to the White House announcement, more than 90 federal agencies across the government were consulted to contribute to the equity action plans to address where barriers to accessing federal programs may exist and identify changes to federal policy that could be made. In addition, each of the cabinet level agencies developed snapshots providing an overview of the equity findings within their various smaller agencies. For more information on the Equity Action Plans efforts click [here](#).

Some of the agency efforts related to the research and statistics enterprise are listed below:

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- The Equity Action Plan for NSF cites the creation of a new program to expand anti-harassment initiatives associated with NSF-funded programs and the updating of the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide to include anti-harassment requirements for travel proposals. It also cites acknowledgements of Native Hawaiians at astronomical research facilities in Hawaii and the designation of Tribal organizations as eligible for submitting proposals for NSF funding.
- New strategies the plan recommends for NSF include extending harassment prevention policies to include field sites and research vessels, expanding the demographic data collected of NSF grantees, increasing participation in NSF

funded programs by historically underrepresented institutions, and investing in civil rights resources at the NSF Office of Equity and Civil Rights.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- The Equity Action Plan for HHS cites the establishment of the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, the HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity, the UNITE Initiative at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as major pushes to advance health disparities and health equity research throughout the department.
- Equity advancement strategies for HHS to consider include responding to the maternal mortality crisis among disadvantaged populations, addressing barriers to individuals with limited English proficiency, including equity considerations into Notices of Funding Opportunities, and investing resources into equity assessments and civil rights programs at the HHS Office of Civil Rights.

Department of Commerce

- The Equity Action Plan for the Department of Commerce cites the Census Bureau's "Data for Equity" webpage and the development of equity datasets to make data about equity more available from various sources of Census data.
- The plan recommends that the Commerce Department make its science and data more findable, accessible, and usable for the public, especially among underserved communities.

New from COSSA

Participants Reflect on Social Science Advocacy Day to Answer "Why Social Science?"



The latest [Why Social Science? quest post](#) comes from three participants from this year's [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) who reflect upon their advocacy experiences and the importance of advocating for the social sciences.

Congressional News

Congress Returns from Recess, Gets Moving on FY 2023 Budget Oversight

Congress returns this week from its two-week recess to a packed agenda. Oversight hearings on the President's fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request have begun in earnest, with Biden Administration officials appearing before House and Senate Committees throughout the week to defend the President's funding priorities for next year. Reports indicate an ambitious timeline in the House for considering the FY 2023 appropriations bills. It has been reported that House leadership is looking to hold floor votes on as many FY 2023 bills as possible in July, meaning the House Appropriations Committee and various subcommittees will need to complete their work in June. Appropriators are currently eyeing June 13-22 for subcommittee mark ups with full committee consideration penciled on for June 22-30. Leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are said to be meeting soon to discuss overall funding levels for discretionary spending, which needs to be determined before the bills are written. Of course, this could all change as Congress continues to negotiate on the next COVID-19 relief package and additional assistance to Ukraine. Stay tuned to [COSSA's coverage](#) for all the details on FY 2023 funding for social and behavioral science.

Executive Branch News

Newly Created Advanced Research Agency Transferred to NIH

On April 20, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra [announced](#) that the newly created Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) would be formally transferred to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ARPA-H, which has been a frequently touted priority for the Biden Administration, was newly established in March with the passage of the final appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2022. Although initially established as an independent agency, the appropriations bill gave the HHS secretary authority to transfer ARPA-H elsewhere within the Department, including NIH (see [COSSA's analysis of the final FY 2023 Appropriations](#) for more details).

The issue of where ARPA-H should be housed has sowed friction between some Members of Congress and the Biden Administration, especially as Congress weighs various options to authorize the new agency. While the Biden Administration has [long advocated](#) for ARPA-H to be housed within NIH as a unique “high-risk, high-reward” branch within NIH’s greater biomedical research portfolio, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA), chair of the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health, introduced [authorizing legislation](#) in October that would establish ARPA-H as an independent agency within HHS and has doubled down on her support for the agency’s independence in a recent [press release](#). Alternatively, a second authorization proposal, the [Cures 2.0 Act](#), introduced by representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Fred Upton (R-MI) would establish ARPA-H within NIH. With the authorization of ARPA-H still in limbo in Congress, it is not yet clear how the recent transfer affects these proposals and the pending authorization process.

You can follow all of COSSA’s coverage regarding ARPA-H on [our website](#).

Equitable Data Working Group Releases Report

On April 22, the Equitable Data Working Group (“Working Group”) released a [report](#) on advancing the use of equitable data in the government. The Working Group was established in response to President Biden’s *Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government* ([E.O. 13985](#)). The Working Group consulted several outside organizations during their information collection, including several COSSA governing members such as the American Economic Association, the American Statistical Association, and the Population Association of America. Some of the major recommendations from the report include calling for making disaggregated data the norm, catalyzing existing federal government infrastructure to leverage underused data, and building capacity for robust equity assessment for policymaking and program implementation. The Working Group’s full report is available [here](#).

Science Community News

National Academies to Host OSTP’s Alondra Nelson for Discussion on Equity in Federal Research

On May 12, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) will host [a hybrid event](#) featuring Dr. Alondra Nelson, Acting Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), for a discussion regarding equity within federal research programs. The event will feature keynote remarks from Dr. Nelson on co-producing scientific knowledge in partnership with diverse groups of stakeholders. Following these remarks will be a moderated panel discussion and a public forum to answer, “what does equitable co-production look like in practice?” and “what *should* it look like?” Registration in advance is required to attend the event in person, although it will be available virtually as well. More information is available on the [National Academies](#)

Resources & Opportunities

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)
- SSRC: [The Mercury Project: Call for Proposals](#) (rolling deadline)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** White House: [A Vision for Equitable Data: Recommendations from the Equitable Data Working Group](#)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Transfer of ARPA-H to NIH](#)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Notice of Fiscal Policies in Effect for FY 2022](#)
- **NEW:** CRS: [Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health \(ARPA-H\): Congressional Action and Selected Policy Issues](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

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

Upcoming Events

- [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

- [COSSA Headlines | May, May 12, 2022](#)
- [NASEM Webinar: Co-Producing Knowledge with Communities: Equity in Federal Research Programs](#), May 12, 2022
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 12-15, 2022, Chicago, IL
- [NASEM Workshop: Structural Racism and Rigorous Models of Social Inequity](#), May 16-17, 2022, Washington, DC
- [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), May 31-June 3, 2022, Seattle, WA
- [NIH Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social Sciences Honors](#), June 3, 2022
- [COSSA Headlines | June, June 9, 2022](#)
- [NSF Virtual Grants Conference](#), June 6-10, 2022, Alexandria, VA
- [Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), July 13-16, 2022, Lisbon, Portugal
- [COSSA Headlines | July, July 14, 2022](#)

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 bgoodrich@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

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
 Ohio State University, The
 Pennsylvania State University
 Princeton University
 Stanford University
 University of Arizona
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Los Angeles
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 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

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

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing
Wiley

University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social
Science
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.*

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