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? guest 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 (NASEM) 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

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
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@cossa.org.

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**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

**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

**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  
Social Science History Association  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southwestern Social Science Association

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing  
Wiley

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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