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Featured News

NIH Seeking Feedback on Plan to Enhance Public Access to Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a [Plan to Enhance Public Access to the Results of NIH-Supported Research](#), a direct response to the August 2022 [memorandum from the White House](#) directing federal research agencies to make publications and data from federally funded research publicly accessible ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). The plan outlines the agency's proposed actions to make NIH research more publicly accessible, especially in regard to research data and scholarly publications. In addition, NIH will be accepting feedback on the public access plan, with particular interest on the following topics:

- ensuring equity in publication opportunities for NIH-supported researchers;
- improving equity in access and accessibility of publications;
- methods for monitoring evolving costs and impacts, and;
- input to increase the findability and transparency of the research.

New from COSSA

Register for Social Science Advocacy Day!



Join COSSA on April 24-25, 2023 as Social Science Advocacy Day returns to in-person in Washington! Advocacy Day brings together social and behavioral scientists and science advocates from across the country to engage with policymakers. Registration information is [available here](#).

Can't make it to DC this Spring? Watch your inbox for info on how you can engage from home.

March Headlines to Feature Discussion on the FY 2024 Funding Outlook for Social & Behavioral Science Research

COSSA's regular webinar series, [COSSA Headlines](#), is back for 2023 and will kick off March 16 with a discussion on President Biden's FY 2024 budget request for science and outlook for research funding in the new Congress. The COSSA team will also highlight ways social and behavioral science researchers can weigh on with their elected officials to support federal research funding.



[Register for the webinar here.](#)

Gun Violence Researchers Answer "Why Social Science?"



This week's [Why Social Science?](#) post comes from researchers at the University of Connecticut and Johns Hopkins University to touch on the many ways social science offers insights into preventing and reducing the prevalence of gun-related violence. [Read on for more.](#)

Congressional News

118th Congress: Profile of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) is an important committee to the research community in that it is responsible for securing appropriations and drafting legislation for scientific agencies, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Justice (DOJ), Census Bureau, and several other science and statistical agencies.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman, Patty Murray (D-WA) [announced](#) Democratic subcommittee assignments in mid-February. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) remains as the CJS Chair, and, for the minority, Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) has also remained in his position as Ranking Member. The Subcommittee is expected to begin holding hearings shortly featuring federal agency heads and discussing their funding priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2024. Follow [COSSA's coverage](#) for all the latest developments.

House Science Committee Holds Hearing on a Science and Technology Strategy

On March 1, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (SST) held a public hearing titled [The United States, China, and the Fight for Global Leadership: Building a U.S. National Science and Technology Strategy](#). The hearing focused on the geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China as well as the development of a National Science and Technology Strategy, a framework mandated in the 2022 enacted *CHIPS and Science Act* that aims to make the U.S. more competitive technologically. Witnesses included Former Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, President and CEO of the Council on Competitiveness Deborah Wince-Smith, Director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Dr. Kim Budil, and Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Klon Kitchen.

Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), filling in for Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), both voiced strong support for strengthening the U.S. science and technology enterprise through a National Science and Technology Strategy, although the two parties differed on the priorities that should be included. Lucas and many of the Republican members prioritized the need to maintain a competitive edge with the Chinese government while Bonamici and many of the Democratic members highlighted the importance of climate research and the inclusion of historically underrepresented populations in the scientific enterprise. Wince-Smith lauded the role of the National Science Board (NSB), the advisory body of the National Science Foundation (NSF), in shaping U.S. science and technology efforts, although noted that the agency should be more involved in the national security side of competitiveness. Members of the Committee also raised several other questions to the panelists including public-private partnerships, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the scientific enterprise, the role of rural research institutions and community colleges in the scientific enterprise, and the development of nuclear fusion technology.

Statements from Chairman Lucas, witness testimonies, and a recording of the hearing are available on the [SST Committee website](#).

House Energy and Commerce Committee Holds Hearing on Data Privacy and Security

On March 1, the [House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#) held a hearing on data security, mass data collection, and the need to protect Americans' privacy in the wake of resulting targeted ads and the vulnerability of consumer data. Salient points regarding the necessity for data security, with implications for researchers and anyone concerned about privacy standards were discussed at length. Witnesses included President and CEO of the Center for Democracy & Technology Alexandra Reeve Givens, Founder and Chief Product Officer of Anonym Graham Mudd, and Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor for Consumer Protection at Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP Jessica Rich.

The witnesses explained that scammers with access to American data can “target their schemes” to seniors or those seeking gateways to socioeconomic progress,” pointing out that targeting of certain social or economic groups based on patterns of behavior is harmful to our society. These data sets are even being used in job application processes to screen applicants based on their social and behavioral factors. Givens noted that “without advancing legislation on [national data security], we will see more social and economic harm.” Companies are even making inferences with data sets and using it in targeting of teenagers facing mental health issues. Many committee members, including Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), Vice Chair Tim Walberg (R-MI), and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) mentioned needing to protect children's safety. A prominent theme of the hearing was the danger posed by failures of the American Government to secure sensitive data, which leads to massive data breaches and identity theft and stifles American innovation. Members of the Committee also discussed efforts to create a national data privacy standard that raises the bar for baseline safeguards past what was already accomplished in the last Congress' [American Data Privacy and Protection Act](#) (ADPPA).

Executive Branch News

OSTP to Host Listening Sessions to Inform the Federal STEM Strategic Plan

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is hosting [virtual listening sessions](#) throughout March to inform development of the 2023-2028 Federal STEM Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was first introduced in 2013 by the National Science and Technology Committee (NSTC) during the [Obama Administration](#), and was continued by the [Trump Administration](#) in 2018 ([previous COSSA coverage](#)). The Strategic Plan is a five-year plan that seeks to improve STEM education and the workforce and is required by the [America COMPETES Re-authorization Act of 2010](#). The listening sessions will be facilitated by the IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute and are expected to focus on specific topics within the STEM ecosystem to provide OSTP and NSTC with a well-rounded understanding to inform the Strategic Plan.

The listening session topics include:

- [STEM Education: Support learners and educators in and across all science and disciplines](#) on March 15
- [STEM Workforce Development: Prepare and recruit our Nation's future STEM workforce](#) on March 17
- [STEM Workforce: Foster inclusive STEM learning and working spaces to retain STEM learners and workers](#) on March 20
- [STEM Engagement: Foster meaningful community and public engagement in science and technology](#) on March 22
- [STEM Research and Innovation Capacity: Build and drive capacity and cutting-edge STEM \(and STEM education\) research and development](#) on March 24
- [The National STEM Ecosystem](#) on March 27

Registration information is available [here](#).

OMB, Stakeholders Preparing for Changes to Race and Ethnicity Standards

[As previously reported by COSSA](#), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is in the process of revising and modernizing their race and ethnicity standards that were last updated in 1997. The Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards is hosting a series of [Town Halls](#) to receive feedback from the public on the initial proposals. The Town Halls are scheduled for Tuesday, March 14 at 2pm ET, Friday, March 17 at 2pm ET, and Saturday, March 18, at 2pm ET. Registration has not yet opened but will be available [here](#). OMB will also record the sessions for participants unable to attend in-person. [Public comment](#) on OMB's initial proposal can be submitted [here](#) and is due April 12 ([previous COSSA coverage](#)).

As federal agency efforts continue, stakeholder organizations are holding events on OMB's race and ethnicity standards to inform OMB and the public. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights held a [webinar](#) on the history and implications of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Standards on February 22, emphasizing the importance of a combined question format that allows people to self-identify their race and ethnicity. The conference also discussed the expansion of options, including additional Middle East and North African (MENA) categories. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights predicted that more detailed data collection will lead to better data on vaccination rates, child poverty reductions, and more.

OSTP and BJS Requesting Feedback on Criminal Justice Statistics

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Bureau for Justice Statistics (BJS) within the Department of Justice have released a [request for information](#) regarding the collection of criminal justice data and statistics. The request seeks to inform the Biden Administration’s practices on data collection, use, and transparency and will aim to identify how to provide guidance to law enforcement agencies. The request builds off of a previous Executive Order ([E.O. 14074](#)) on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety. Comments will be accepted through March 30, 2023. More information is available on the [Federal Register](#).

Penn State and OSTP Host Final Evidence Forum

Penn State University’s [Evidence-to-Impact Collaborative](#) held an [Evidence Forum](#) alongside the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on February 22. As a part of a series of events, the Evidence Forums were held to foster communication between federal agencies and the public to share evidence-based research strategies. At the final of ten Evidence Forums, Penn State focused on the need to improve equity within research. The forum concluded that affected populations should be central to identifying solutions and that researchers must consider societal impacts. Neeli Bendapudi, the President of Penn State, emphasized the importance of disciplines working together to improve diversity, and asked the public to “hold [researchers] accountable for results.” A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#).

Science Community News

NASEM President Marcia McNutt Speaks on History of Research Funding at AAAS Meeting

The [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) (AAAS) held its 2023 Annual Meeting on March 2-5 in Washington DC. During the conference, Marcia McNutt, President of the [National Academy of Sciences](#) (NAS) provided a keynote address, The Past, Present, and Future of our Research Enterprise. McNutt discussed the evolution of science funding through the years, particularly referencing the decline of funding after the Cold War. McNutt noted that the research enterprise in the United States does not have the capacity to meet demand for scientific insights, and oftentimes, funding falls short. McNutt recommended improving funding and access to education, and integrating multiple disciplines to engage in research that is evidence and solution based.

In addition, McNutt cited “rebuilding trust in science” as an essential part of advancing the research enterprise. She identified lack of representation and ineffective communication as barriers to rebuilding trust. She recommended that research focus on being diverse and easy-to-understand for public use. Additionally, McNutt addressed the need to inform the public through trusted brands and spokespeople to improve communication from science to the people.

Science is US Report Shows Impact of STEM on U.S. Workforce

On March 1, Science is US released the [People of Science](#) report, an analysis of the impact of the STEM workforce on the U.S. economy. According to the report, 34.3 percent of the U.S. workforce engaged with STEM in some capacity in 2021, accounting for \$9.45 trillion – or 40.5 percent – of U.S. GDP. The report defines the STEM workforce broadly as people who spend the vast majority of their job tasks engaging in science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine and includes a list of qualifying occupations that contributed to the STEM workforce. Among the listed occupations are social and behavioral science occupations including scientists, research assistants, technicians, and educators in the social sciences, among many other related occupations. More information about the report is available on the [Science is US](#) website. COSSA is a member of the Science is US Steering Committee.

COSSA Member Spotlight

Economist Alan Blinder Wins AAPSS 2023 Moynihan Prize

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS), a COSSA member, has announced the winner of the 2023 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize, which annually recognizes “a leading policymaker, social scientist, or public intellectual whose career demonstrates the value of using research and evidence to improve the human condition.” [This year’s winner](#) is Dr. Alan Blinder, a Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University. Dr. Blinder is celebrated for his extensive and influential years of public service, including serving as a member of President Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisers and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Dr. Blinder has three degrees in Economics, from Princeton University, London School of Economics, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He frequently appears on television to provide economical insight for the American public.

Later this year in Washington, DC, Blinder will receive the Moynihan prize and give a lecture, followed by a panel discussion on contemporary economic circumstances.

Resources & Opportunities

Nomination Opportunities

- NSF: [National Medal of Science](#) (Closes: May 26, 2023)

Funding Opportunities

- HUD: [Hispanic Serving Institutions \(HIS\) Research Center of Excellence](#) (Closes: May 18, 2023)
- NSF/TIP: [Accelerating Research Translation \(ART\)](#) (Closes: May 9, 2023)
- NIJ: [W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System](#) (Closes: April 24, 2023)
- NSF: [Expanding AI Innovation through Capacity Building and Partnerships](#) (Closes: March 13, 2023)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NIH/NIMH: [Request for Information: Gaps and Opportunities in Global Mental Health Research](#) (Closes: May 5, 2023)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Request for Information on the NIH Plan to Enhance Public Access to the Results of NIH-Supported Research](#) (Closes: April 24, 2023)
- OMB: [Initial Proposals for Updating OMB’s Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards](#) (Closes: April 12, 2023)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** Science is US: [People of Science](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- William T. Grant Foundation: [William T. Grant Scholars Program](#) (Closes: July 5, 2023)

Upcoming Events

- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), March 14-18, 2023, National Harbor, MD

- [Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting](#), March 23-25, 2023, Salt Lake City, UT
- [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), March 23-26, 2023, Minneapolis, MN
- [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), March 30 - April 1, 2023, Fort Worth, TX
- [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), April 12-15, 2023, New Orleans, LA
- [Midwest Political Science Association Conference](#), April 13-16, 2023, Chicago, IL
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), April 13-16, 2023, Chicago, IL
- **2023 Social Science Advocacy Day, April 24-25, 2023, Washington, DC**
- [American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting](#), April 27-29, 2023, Philadelphia, PA
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 10-12, 2023, Philadelphia, PA
- [National Institute of Justice National Research Conference](#), May 23-25, 2023, Arlington, VA
- [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), May 30-June 2, 2023, Washington, DC

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@coffa.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
 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

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
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 North Carolina State University
 Northwestern University
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 Pennsylvania State University
 Princeton University
 San Diego State University
 Stanford University
 University of Arizona
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Irvine
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 University of Colorado, Boulder
 University of Georgia
 University of Illinois
 University of Iowa
 University of Maryland
 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota

Organizations
Association of American Law Schools
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
Division for Research of the Council for
Exceptional Children
Economic History Association
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
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
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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