



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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New from COSSA

Advocacy Day Spotlight: Early Bird Registration is OPEN!



SOCIAL SCIENCE ADVOCACY DAY

April 8-9, 2024 ★ Washington, DC

Early bird registration for COSSA’s tenth annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) is officially OPEN! The event will be taking place April 8-9, 2024 in Washington, DC. Register [here](#).

Don’t miss this opportunity to have an impact on funding and policy important to the social science community.

“I will come back every year if my university allows,” said a past Social Science Advocacy Day participant. “It’s one of the highlights of my academic career. Makes me think differently about my work and want to get into politics.”

Social Science Advocacy Day is open to anyone affiliated with a [COSSA member organization](#) or university. Not a member? Learn how [here](#).

If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor of Social Science Advocacy Day, learn more [here](#).

Visit the [COSSA website](#) for the latest information on Social Science Advocacy Day.

Dr. Rayvon Fouché from Northwestern University Answers “Why Social Science?”



The recent [Why Social Science?](#) post comes from Dr. Rayvon Fouché from Northwestern University who writes about how social science can provide valuable history, context, and interpretive perspectives to help inform our societies moving forward.

[Read on](#) for more.

Congressional News

As Congress Prepares for Holiday Recess, FY24 Budget Remains Uncertain

As the year comes to an end, Congress remains no closer to finding a resolution to the fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations process. [As previously reported by COSSA](#), Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to extend the appropriations deadline to after the new year. Early last week, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) and Appropriations Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) unveiled a supplemental funding bill that would provide \$110.5 billion of economic and humanitarian aid to Israel and Ukraine, Taiwan and Indo-Pacific allies and funding to combat fentanyl trafficking and process migrants crossing the U.S. southern border. The bill was halted by Republicans, expressing that the bill did not adequately address the border crisis.

The House has successfully passed seven funding bills, including Defense, Energy-Water, Homeland Security, Interior-Environment, Legislative Branch, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, State-Foreign Operations. The House began their initial vote on November 14 for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS) funding bill but delayed the end of the vote to an unspecified date ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). The House also intended to consider the Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) funding bill, however, that vote was also delayed. COSSA recently published [a full analysis](#) providing details of the House's FY 2024 LHHS and CJS appropriations bills as introduced. The House has yet to express any intention to resume these votes in the upcoming weeks.

It's uncertain whether Congress will cross the appropriations finish line or need to pass a year-long CR to avoid a government shutdown in early 2024. Senator Murray (D-WA) recently released a [fact sheet](#) on the impacts of a year-long CR. Further, the FY 2025 appropriations process is intended to begin in early February with the Presidential Budget Request. If Congress continues to delay finalizing the FY 2024 budget, the FY 2025 budget process will likely be delayed as well.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) of the appropriations process.

House Passes Deterrent Act Aimed to Tighten Foreign Financial Contribution Regulations

The House of Representatives recently passed the Defending Education Transparency

and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions ([DETERRENT](#)) Act. This legislation aims to tighten regulations on foreign financial contributions to American universities and academics. The act reflects growing concerns about foreign influence in American higher education and research sectors.

One of the act's central features is the reduction of the reporting threshold for foreign funding. Previously set at \$250,000, the threshold would now be \$50,000 for most countries, with a zero threshold for nations deemed as "countries of concern," including China and Iran. This change aims to increase transparency in foreign funding, particularly from nations that might have strategic interests contrary to those of the United States.

The legislation introduces stringent disclosure requirements for individual researchers at universities receiving more than \$50 million annually in federal R&D funds. This is an attempt to close loopholes that previously allowed foreign entities to obscure their influence.

The bill's proponents, like Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), have cited cases like that of Charles Lieber, who was sentenced earlier this year for [lying to federal authorities](#) about his ties to China. Despite its objectives, critics, including some Democrats, argue that the act could have a chilling effect on global scientific cooperation. They fear it may lead to discriminatory xenophobic practices against researchers with ties to the targeted nations.

The American Council on Education has expressed [concerns](#) over the act, particularly over provisions requiring waivers from the Department of Education for contracts with countries or entities of concern. "This provision is particularly concerning because the definition of a 'contract' in the bill is incredibly broad and therefore will likely capture not only all research agreements, but also student exchange programs and other joint cultural and education programs with Chinese institutions," the council wrote in a letter to Congress.

The DETERRENT Act will now move to the Senate. The Senate has not introduced companion legislation but various senators have expressed interest in expanding oversight of foreign contracts and gifts to universities.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued Congressional coverage](#).

Executive Branch News

OBSSR Hosts Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Festival

On December 5, the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) held their annual [Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Festival](#). The festival highlighted various research areas supported by the office and the full agenda can be found [here](#).

In her opening remarks, newly appointed OBSSR Director Jane Simoni identified the office's scientific interests for 2024, including theory-informed research on behavior change and mechanisms of impact, social connection and health, multi-level research, health communication science, and the integration of BSSR into biomedical research ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)).

The recording of the festival is expected to be published [here](#) within the next month.

NSF Announces EducateAI for Nationwide AI Education

The National Science Foundation (NSF) launched [EducateAI](#), an initiative aimed at enhancing artificial intelligence (AI) education across the United States. This program targets a broad audience, from K-12 to graduate students and adults seeking formal AI training. The initiative's core objective is to empower educators and students with essential AI knowledge and skills, fostering an inclusive environment for learning about AI.

technology.

The initiative's first step involves publishing the EducateAI [Dear Colleague Letter](#), calling for proposals that advance inclusive computing education and integrate innovative AI-focused curricula. Funded by NSF's CISE and STEM Education directorates, the call for proposals seeks to develop comprehensive educational materials in line with the latest AI advancements.

Learn more about the EducateAI initiative [here](#).

OSTP Investigates the Costs of Open Access Publishing

On November 22, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) published a [report](#) exploring the impact for covering the cost of openly publishing federally-funded research. The report outlines multiple challenges endured by federal grantees and intramural researchers, but estimates that in 2021 the cost was roughly \$378 million.

Congress [requested](#) the report through its appropriations legislation for fiscal year (FY) 2023, citing concerns that some open access publishing financing mechanisms, particularly total article processing fees (APCs) and [transformative agreements](#), may “present growing barriers to knowledge generation and sharing.” Congress asked OSTP to estimate how much of the costs of both APCs and transformative agreements were reinforced by federal grantees.

OSTP was clear that it is unable to offer an accurate estimate of the costs of transformative agreements, citing intricacies in how they are financed. The report builds on an [economic analysis](#) OSTP released in August 2022 alongside a [directive](#) that requires federally funded research publications to be free to read immediately upon publication, starting in 2026 ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)).

Science Community News

CALL FOR EXPERTS: Communications Advisory Group for the National Academy of Medicine

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) announced that they will be appointing a Communications Advisory Group to inform the direction of its communications and engagement activities. The group will be comprised of 15 volunteers to serve 2-year terms, beginning in January 2024. NAM is looking for a mix of experts with a particular interest in the following:

- AI integration and emerging trends in communications
- Community engagement
- Content strategy and creation
- Crisis communications
- Data and analytics
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Fundraising
- Informal STEM education
- Issue advocacy
- Media outreach
- Political diversity
- Science communication
- Social media

Learn more about the group and submit nominations for members by December 15 [here](#).

COSSA Member Spotlight

APA Releases Report on Countering Misinformation

The American Psychological Association (APA) released a comprehensive [report](#) addressing the challenges of misinformation, particularly in the realm of health, well-being, and civic life. Providing eight recommendations for a collaborative effort between scientists, policymakers, media professionals, and the public to combat the spread and impact of misinformation:

1. Avoid repeating misinformation without including a correction.
2. Collaborate with social media companies to understand and reduce the spread of harmful misinformation.
3. Use misinformation correction strategies with tools already proven to promote healthy behaviors.
4. Leverage trusted sources to counter misinformation and provide accurate health information.
5. Debunk misinformation often and repeatedly using evidence-based methods.
6. Prebunk misinformation to inoculate susceptible audiences by building skills and resilience from an early age.
7. Demand data access and transparency from social media companies for scientific research on misinformation.
8. Fund basic and translational research into the psychology of health misinformation, including effective ways to counter it.

APA is a COSSA governing member. To read the full report, visit [here](#).

Sage Publishing Launches Sage Policy Profiles Tool

Sage Publishing has officially launched their new tool, in partnership with Overton, titled "[Sage Policy Profiles](#)". The tool is free-to-use and enables individual researchers and academics to easily discover how their work is impacting policy.

Additional functionalities of the tool include:

- Identifying second-order citations where policies citing users work have continued to influence subsequent discussions and decisions.
- Personalized alerts that inform users of a new citation or mention in policy documents.
- Compatible with PowerPoint and the ability to create a shareable link for personalized dashboards.

Sage is a COSSA affiliate member. Learn more about the tool [here](#).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Update Returning on January 9

This is our final issue of the COSSA Washington Update for 2023. Late-breaking news and analysis will be shared with members subscribed to our [members-only emails](#). We will resume our ongoing coverage of policy developments affecting the social and behavioral sciences on January 9.

The COSSA team wishes all our readers a happy and healthy holiday season.

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 12/6/2023: [Community Letter to the Senate HELP Committee in support of the National Center for Education Statistics](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- [2024 AAPOR Award](#) (Closes: January 31, 2024)
- [2024 Golden Goose Award](#) (Closes: December 15, 2023)

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](#)) (Closes: June 22, 2024)
- NIH: HHS Career Enhancement Award to Advance Research on Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention ([K18 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed](#)) ([K18 Independent Clinical Trial Required](#)) (Closes: March 16, 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)
- William T. Grant Foundation: [Research Grants on Reducing Inequality](#) (Closes: January 10, 2024)
- William T. Grant Foundation: [Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence](#) (Closes: January 10, 2024)
- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- **NEW:** Call for Experts: [Communications Advisory Group for the National Academy of Medicine](#) (Closes: December 15, 2023)
- NIH: [Request for Information: Opportunities and Challenges for the Collection, Use, and Sharing of Real-World Data \(RWD\) Including Electronic Health Records](#) (Closes: December 14, 2023)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** Science & Technology Action Committee: [State of Science in America Report](#)
- NSB: [Higher Education in Science and Engineering](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- SSRC: [Arnold Ventures Criminal Justice Innovation Fellowships](#) (Closes: January 15, 2024)
- [Program Director for the Social Psychology Program](#) within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)
- [Program Director for the Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\) Program](#) in the BCS Division within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)

Upcoming Events

- [Fall 2023 Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Advisory Committee Meeting](#), December 14-15, 2023, Washington, DC and Virtual
- NSF: [2024 Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), January 4-7, 2024, New York, NY
- [2024 Allied Social Science Associations \(ASSA\) Annual Meeting](#), January 5-7, 2024, San Antonio, TX or Virtual
- **NEW:** [PAA Applied Demography Conference 2024](#), February 6-8, 2024, Virtual

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 ebailey@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
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 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
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

Colleges and Universities

Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Cornell University
CSUSB College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
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
San Diego State 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 Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Texas, Austin
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
Yale University

Social Science History Association
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

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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