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## New from COSSA

### Register Now: Headlines Webinars continue February 27

On February 27, join COSSA for updates on the latest Congressional actions, President Trump's Executive Actions, and the federal budget.

The webinar will be taking place on **February 27 at 1pm EST**. [Register here](#).



If you missed COSSA's recent webinar *119th Congress & Trump 2.0: What Does it Mean for Us?* you can find the recording and slides [here](#).

Headlines is a webinar series available to COSSA [member organizations](#). Watch for additional webinar announcements, and previous webinar recordings, on the COSSA [website](#).

### EARLY BIRD PRICING EXTENDED: Social Science Advocacy Day 2025



The stakes for research funding have never been higher as we enter a particularly challenging political and budgetary environment. Social Science Advocacy Day is a must for all stakeholders who care about the fate of federal funding for social and behavioral science research and who believe this research should be used to inform sound public policy.

Early bird registration for COSSA's annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) has officially been **EXTENDED!** The event will be taking place March 24-25, 2025 in Washington, DC. **Take advantage of early bird pricing** and register [here](#).

If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor for Social Science Advocacy Day, find all of our sponsorship opportunities available [here](#).

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

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## Congressional News

### FY 2025 Appropriations Uncertain as Congress Approaches CR Deadline

Fiscal year (FY) 2025 funding is set to expire on March 14 unless Congress acts. As [previously reported](#), Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) in December to keep the government funded until March, which is nearly six months into the fiscal year. The first step is for Congressional leaders to agree on topline numbers ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). Following the [House Republicans policy retreat in Florida](#), it was reported that lawmakers are seeking to pass the final appropriations bills before President Trump's State of the Union Address, which has been scheduled for March 4. However, with the recent federal funding freeze memorandum released and then rescinded two days later by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Democratic appropriators have expressed concern over the appropriations process. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, stated, "It is extremely difficult to agree to a compromise on anything if the White House is going to assert they control the funds, we don't" (see related article). She also indicated that [confirming Russell Vought as Office of Management and Budget Director would hinder the process](#) due to similar reasoning. However, other members of Congress have reportedly indicated that the recent executive actions will not affect the negotiations process. With the deadline rapidly approaching, it is unclear whether Congress will successfully pass all twelve appropriations bills, combine the bills into one large omnibus spending package, or enact a third CR to the end of the fiscal year.

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

### 119th Congress Committee Profile: House and Senate Appropriations Committee

[As previously reported by COSSA](#), the House and Senate committee assignments have been announced over the last month. On the [House Appropriations Committee](#), Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) will remain in his role, as will Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), while the [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will see a shift from Democratic majority to Republican majority with Chairwoman Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA).

The [House 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 for federal agencies important to the research community, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Census Bureau, and several other science and statistical agencies. The subcommittee will remain under the leadership of Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) while Grace Meng (D-NY) will serve as the Ranking Member, replacing Matt Cartwright (D-PA) who lost his seat in a competitive race this past November. On the other side of the Capitol, in the [Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee](#), Jerry Moran (R-KS) will shift to Chairman of the subcommittee while Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) will serve as Ranking Member, replacing Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) who pursued other committee assignments.

The [House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies](#) (LHHS) is an important committee as well since it is responsible for funding the Department of Education (ED), Department of Labor (DOL), and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The LHHS Subcommittee is one of the most sought-after committee appointments due to the wide scope of agencies and priorities under its jurisdiction. The subcommittee will not see change with Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) remaining in their respective roles. Like other Senate committees, the Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee will see a shift in leadership, with Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) taking the helm as Chairwoman while Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) will serve as Ranking Member.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) on the 119th Congress.

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## Executive Branch News

### President Trump Executive Actions

Recent Trump Administration Actions (all actions available [here](#)):

- [Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling](#) (1/29/25)
- [President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#) (1/23/25)
- [Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence](#) (1/23/25)
- [Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity](#) (1/21/24)

Find COSSA's full list of Trump's Executive Actions [here](#).

### President Trump Rescinds Executive Orders Impacting Executive Personnel Ethics Commitments and Census Parameters

On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed [Executive Order 14148](#) rescinding a series of “Harmful Executive Orders and Actions” of the Biden Administration, including provisions affecting federal ethics and the census count.

President Biden’s [Executive Order 13989](#) required every executive agency appointee to sign an ethics pledge. This commitment prohibited appointees’ connections with lobbyist activities such as receiving gifts and leveraging the “revolving door” status of their position to later secure more favorable private and foreign job prospects, until at least two years after their service. Revoking these guidelines, Trump has aligned with his first-term actions, having issued his own 2017 [Ethics Commitments](#) before removing those restrictions on his last day in office.

In another similar policy rollback, Trump repealed [Executive Order 13986](#), which previously expanded census data tabulation of total state population to include all individuals whose usual residence was in each state, regardless of immigration status ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). In the 2019 case [Department of Commerce v. New York](#), the Supreme Court blocked the Trump Administration’s attempt to include a citizenship status question on the 2020 census ([see COSSA's statement here](#)). With the

rescinding of this order, there will likely be [shifts in population numbers](#) used for the allocation of Electoral College votes and congressional seats, as well as for the distribution of federal funding for infrastructure and social programs.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's coverage](#) for all the details as the new Administration takes shape over the coming weeks.

*This article was contributed by COSSA Intern Sarah Wang.*

## **Dorothy Fink Chosen to Serve as Acting HHS Secretary; Appoints Matthew Memoli as Acting NIH Director**

[Dorothy Fink M.D.](#) has been appointed by President Trump to serve as acting Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as confirmation hearings for the presidential nominee for the position, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., continue. Fink previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health and Director of the Office on Women's Health in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH). Shortly after her appointment, Fink tapped [Matthew Memoli, M.D.](#), to serve as acting Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the Senate works to confirm Jay Bhattacharya ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). Memoli, a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) researcher, has previously expressed safety concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine. Bhattacharya's confirmation hearing has yet to be scheduled.

On January 23, Fink issued a freeze on public communications and employee travel until February 1. While the temporary pause in communications is not unprecedented with a new Administration, there were concerns within the community about the effects the pause may have on researchers across the federal agencies.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) on the new Administration.

## **Trump Signs Executive Order Dismantling DEI Initiatives in Federal Agencies**

On January 21, President Trump signed the Executive Order (EO), [Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity](#). The EO makes bold claims that the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts of past administrations violates the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* through adopting "dangerous, demeaning, and immoral race- and sex-based preferences" that have hindered opportunity for certain groups. This EO has resulted in a massive scale back of DEI initiatives across the federal agencies and the optional scale back of DEI initiatives across U.S. businesses.

The directive requires federal agencies to place all federal DEI staff on paid leave with the intent of being laid off. DEI webpages on federal agency websites were taken down and bias trainings indefinitely suspended. [DEI research has also been affected, with researchers across the agencies having their funding frozen by the Trump Administration; however, with the pending lawsuits against these actions, some funding is reportedly available again.](#) <sup>[WN1]</sup> The National Science Foundation (NSF) has created a [website](#) detailing their responses to the EOs, including a frequently asked questions page that details the dates of each action taken.

For more information on the importance of DEI initiatives, refer to COSSA's [Headlines & Deep Dive on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Science](#) and read our [Why Social Science? Because it Sheds Light on Representation in the STEM Workforce](#).

A list of notable Trump Executive Orders can be found [here](#). Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) on the Trump Administration and relevant policy to the social and behavioral science community.

## **Executive Action Affecting Federal Agencies**

Since President Trump was sworn into office on January 20, several executive actions

have been taken that have impacted social and behavioral science (SBS) research, including freezes on hiring federal workers and requiring federal workers to return to the office, a halt on all communications, spending, and travel within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and a memorandum from the White House Office of Budget and Management (OMB) instituting a freeze on federal spending across agencies that was rescinded two days later. As previously reported by COSSA, President Trump signed two Executive Orders (EO) implementing a hiring freeze and dismantling work-from-home policies for federal agencies along with several EOs targeting specific programs and research, including the order on [Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity](#) (see related article).

On January 27, OMB issued a memorandum freezing virtually all funding administered through federal agencies, requiring the agencies to comply with recent EOs (see full list [here](#)) and produce a report on relevant programs no later than February 10. Once OMB reviewed the reports, funding would resume for that agency. However, due to mass confusion and panic about what programs were affected by the freeze and lawsuits filed by state officials, the memorandum was rescinded on January 29. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt indicated that the OMB memo was rescinded to “end any confusion on federal policy created by the court ruling and the dishonest media coverage” and that efforts to decrease federal spending would continue. While this comment created more confusion than clarification, the rescission of the memorandum does not affect the EO’s directives to dismantle programs that defy the orders. It is important to note that federal funding is set by Congress through the appropriations process and, therefore, these EO’s are likely in violation of the president’s executive power. The lawsuits will likely continue despite the rescission of the OMB memorandum.

A list of notable Trump Executive Orders can be found [here](#). Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) on the Trump Administration and relevant policy to the social and behavioral science community.

## Census Bureau Director Rob Santos Tenders Resignation

On January 30, Census Bureau Director Robert Santos resigned three years into his five-year term. His resignation comes after the House Oversight Committee held a hearing on the Census Bureau on December 5 which largely focused on whether the 2030 Census should include a citizenship question and President Trump’s recent rescission of the [Biden Administration’s Executive Order](#) (EO) affirming that the census should count all people, not only citizens, as per the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). As a reminder, during his first-term, the Trump Administration attempted to add a citizenship question to the decennial census only for the Supreme Court to block the order ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)).

Santos, having been the first person of color to serve as Director of the Census Bureau, is a distinguished statistician ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). Before serving as Director, Santos served as the President of the American Statistical Association (ASA), a COSSA governing member ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). He also participated in COSSA events, including a *Headlines* webinar from May 2024 titled [Recent Developments at the Census Bureau](#).

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## Social Science Advocacy Day 2025 News

COSSA’s annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) will be taking place March 24-25, 2025 in Washington, DC! This signature, members-only event brings together social and behavioral science researchers, faculty, students, association professionals, and other advocates from across the country to meet with their elected officials in Congress to discuss the value of our sciences and the importance of federal funding.

Early bird registration has been **EXTENDED!** [Register now](#) and take advantage of our early bird rates (these won't last long).

## Resources & Opportunities

### COSSA Letters & Statements

- 12/18/2024: [COSSA's Post-Election Analysis and 2025 Preview](#)

### Nomination Opportunities

- SSRC: [Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize](#) (Closes: February 4, 2025)
- NIH: [18th NIH Matilda White Riley Distinguished Lecturer](#) (February 10, 2025)
- [AAPOR Awards](#) (February 21, 2025)

### Funding Opportunities

- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)

### Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Comment on Updates to Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide](#) (Closes: February 10, 2025)
- **NEW:** DOE: [Request for Information on FASST Initiative](#) (Closes: February 17, 2025)
- NIH: [Plan to Increase Findability and Transparency of Research Results Through the Use of Metadata and Persistent Identifiers](#) (Closes: February 21, 2025)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Comment on Revisions to NSF Infrastructure Guide](#) (Closes: March 10, 2025)
- NIH: [NIH Public Access Compliance Monitoring Survey](#) (Ongoing)

### Notices, Resources, & Reports

- GAO: [Report on Population Estimates and Challenge Programs](#)
- Congressional Report: [Bipartisan House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence](#)

### Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NIJ: [FY25 Graduate Research Fellowship](#) (Closes: April 22, 2025)
- AERA: [Executive Director](#) (Open until Filled)
- [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)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Open until Filled)

### Upcoming Events

- **NEW:** [National Science Board Meeting](#), February 11, 2025, Alexandria, VA and Virtual
- U.S. Census Bureau: [2025 Indigenous Data Sovereignty Symposium](#), February 12, 2025, Suitland, MD
- NIJ: [FY25 Graduate Research Fellowships Webinar](#), February 13, 2025, Virtual
- [AAAS Annual Meeting](#), February 13-15, 2025, Boston, MA
- DBASSE Committee on National Statistics: [Approaches for Assessing and Communicating the Quality of National Statistics: A Workshop - Session 3](#), February 20, 2025, Virtual

- **NEW:** February Headlines Webinar: [Latest Policy Updates from COSSA](#), February 27, 2025, 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@cossa.org](mailto:ebailey@cossa.org).

## COSSA Members

### Governing Associations

American Association for Public Opinion Research  
 American Economic Association  
 American Educational Research Association  
 American Political Science Association  
 American Society of Criminology  
 American Sociological Association  
 American Statistical Association  
 Law and Society Association  
 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 Anthropological 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  
 Linguistic Society of America  
 Midwest Sociological Society  
 National Council on Family Relations  
 Rural Sociological Society  
 Social Science History Association  
 Society for Prevention Research  
 Society for Social Work and Research  
 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
 Southern Political Science Association  
 Southwestern Social Science Association

### Affiliates

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Boston University  
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 California State University, San Bernardino  
 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Columbia University  
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 Indiana University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Michigan State University  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northwestern University  
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 University of California, Los Angeles  
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 University of California, Santa Barbara  
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 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

### Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social Science  
 Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
 Child Trends  
 Institute for Social Research, University of

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## 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.*

## Our Team

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