

### Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2026

#### **National Science Foundation** **At least \$9.9 billion**

The National Science Foundation is the only U.S. federal agency tasked with supporting scientific research across all fields of science and serves as the largest single funder of basic social and behavioral science research in the U.S. Investment in social and behavioral science research at NSF helps us answer questions like why some people in the path of a hurricane fail to heed warnings despite the accuracy of predictions, or how to advance technology, like artificial intelligence, so that it is people-centric and ethically developed. In fact, nearly every significant challenge facing the United States today—from alleviating unemployment to understanding the drivers of terrorism—requires understanding the causes and consequences of people’s behavior. In addition, through its STEM Education Directorate, NSF helps foster the scientific workforce of the future and gives educators tools to enhance STEM education at all levels. Robust funding for NSF is critical for tackling complex human-centered questions and maintaining American scientific leadership.

#### **Census Bureau** **\$2 billion**

Social scientists—along with businesses and policy makers at federal, state, and local levels—rely on the Census Bureau for accurate, timely, objective, and relevant data to better understand the U.S. population and to produce findings that help shape policies to better serve the American people. During fiscal year 2026, the Bureau will conduct critical tests in six geographically and demographically diverse sites as part of the planned ramp up to the 2030 Decennial Census. These tests are important components of the decennial planning cycle as they are used to evaluate new enumeration and data collection strategies and the latest technologies. Adequate support for preparations in the years leading up to the census helps to manage costs later in the process.

#### **National Institute of Justice** **\$60 million**

The National Institute of Justice within the Department of Justice provides funding for research, development, and evaluation projects at institutions across the country to shed light on the most pressing issues facing our nation’s criminal justice system. This includes drivers of domestic radicalization, addressing the drug epidemic, reducing violent crime, improving school safety, and fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Despite the nation’s growing need for objective, science-backed solutions, NIJ’s budget has been on a gradual decline for more than a decade. Funding shortfalls limit NIJ’s ability to disseminate critical findings to law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders who need the most up-to-date information to improve policies and practices that promote public safety and equitable access to justice. The justice system of the future requires sustained investment in cutting-edge research.

#### **Bureau of Justice Statistics** **\$75 million**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the nation’s primary source of crime and justice data, producing statistical evidence needed by researchers and criminal justice decisionmakers alike. Despite growing demand from policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders for high-quality criminal justice data across an expanding array of variables, BJS has faced significant budgetary challenges over the past decade. Steady declines in funding have resulted in antiquated systems and, especially, staffing shortfalls, which can only be resolved through sustained investment. Increased funding would allow BJS to modernize data collection and dissemination systems, hire necessary experts, and begin to develop the next generation of statistical products to keep pace with the ever-changing criminal justice landscape and fill critical knowledge gaps.

### Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2026

#### **National Institutes of Health \$51.303 billion**

The National Institutes of Health is known for supporting cutting-edge biomedical research that often translates to cures and new, better treatments. However, NIH also supports basic and applied social and behavioral science research across its 27 institutes and centers. Understanding behavioral influences on health is critical in battling the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the U.S., including obesity, heart disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, age-related illnesses, accidents, substance abuse, and mental illness. In addition to the health benefits that medical research promotes, the federal investment in this lifesaving work also has a multiplier effect in local and regional economies, catalyzes new industries, enhances the U.S.'s global competitiveness, promotes our national security, establishes viable career paths for the next generation of scientists, and generates additional high-quality jobs in communities nationwide. Unfortunately, NIH has been the target of recent executive actions and policy changes, including changing NIH's indirect cost rate to 15% for all grantees, which if implemented, would represent a major reduction in the country's investment in finding cures. In addition, the arbitrary canceling of hundreds of peer-reviewed, highly scored research grants further comprises U.S. leadership in scientific research. We urge Congress to protect the NIH from political interference and restore confidence in the U.S. scientific enterprise.

#### **Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality At least \$500 million**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is the only agency in the federal government with the explicit mission to fund research on improving health care at the provider level (i.e., in hospitals, medical practices, nursing homes, and other medical facilities). Its work improves the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of America's health care system and provides a necessary complement to the work of health research agencies. To deliver better outcomes, we need to be able to differentiate which healthcare interventions work, for whom, and how to implement them. AHRQ's focus on the real-world application of scientific research in clinical settings is essential for ensuring safe and quality healthcare for the American public. We call on Congress to reject any proposals to shutter the agency or otherwise undermine its ability to continue this critical work. Further, AHRQ has been subject to recent executive actions resulting in the removal of research from public websites and reductions in staffing. We urge Congress to defend federal research agencies and taxpayer-supported research from political interference.

#### **National Center for Health Statistics \$220 million**

Housed within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Center for Health Statistics collects data on all aspects of our health care system through data cooperatives and surveys that serve as the gold standard for data collection around the world. With the requested funding, NCHS would be able to modernize and diversify its data collection efforts and deliver timely, meaningful information to policymakers, public health officials, providers, patients, and scientists who rely on NCHS data while also strengthening the agency's ability to provide unbiased, current health data to policymakers.

## **Institute of Education Sciences At least \$900 million**

Currently housed within the Department of Education, the Institute of Education Sciences provides the nation with important statistics, research, and evaluation that improve education policy and practice and helps us understand trends in student populations, schools, and higher education institutions. With increasing demand for evidence-based practices in education, adequate funding for IES is necessary to support studies that increase knowledge of the factors that influence teaching and learning and apply those findings to improve educational outcomes.

Unfortunately, due to recent executive actions, the Department of Education has seen its workforce cut in half and, more recently, has been directed to start the process of shutting down the department. This raises concerns about the ability of the U.S. to conduct the research and collect the data needed to improve education outcomes across the country. In particular, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which provides data on the state of education in the U.S. and is housed within IES, has lost nearly its entire workforce, making this data collection all but impossible. We call on Congress to reject efforts aimed at decimating education research and data collection and restore funding to IES and NCES.

## **International Education and Foreign Language Studies \$91 million**

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$80 million to the Department of Education's Title VI program and \$11 million to the Fulbright-Hays program. These programs nurture cadres of college graduates with the cultural and language proficiencies needed to serve in government and the foreign service, including at the Department of Defense, Department of State, and federal intelligence agencies. With the rise of national security risks and global competitiveness, these programs support the development of a workforce equipped with the skills needed to address important international challenges.

## **Bureau of Labor Statistics \$770 million**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics within the Department of Labor produces economic data essential for evidence-based decision-making by businesses and financial markets, federal, state, and local government officials, and households faced with spending and career choices. BLS must modernize to produce the gold standard data on jobs, wages, skill needs, inflation, productivity and more that our businesses, researchers, and policymakers heavily rely on. The requested funding level would allow BLS to continue to support evidence-based policymaking, smart program evaluation, and confident business investment. Unfortunately, as with other federal statistical agencies, BLS has been subjected to recent executive actions resulting in the removal of data sources from public websites. We urge Congress to defend federal statistical agencies and taxpayer-supported data sources from political interference, protecting the objectivity and reliability of America's data enterprise.