



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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New from COSSA

ACT NOW!

COSSA continues to work with partners throughout the science advocacy community to push back on executive actions that threaten the scientific enterprise. Included here are some opportunities for you and/or your organization to assist in these efforts.

Share:

- COSSA: [Share Your Story](#)
- AAAS Survey: [Assessing the Impacts of Federal Policies on the U.S. STEMM Community](#)
- House Science Committee Democrats: [Were you fired by President Trump?](#)
- AAPOR: [#DataMatters Storytelling Campaign](#)

Act:

- Friends of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): [Schedule Policy/Career Rule is a Threat to Federal Statistical Agencies](#)
- [Science Homecoming](#): Support science across the country by writing opinion pieces in local papers!
- COSSA Action Alert: [Urge Your Senators to Support for FY 2026 Science Funding--TIME SENSITIVE!](#)
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Science Funding--TIME SENSITIVE!

- COSSA Action Alert: [Urge Congress to Prioritize Science Funding!](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Save NCES and Education Data!](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Stop the Dismantling of the Department of Education](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Write to Congress TODAY about the Need to Protect Government Data](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Protect Federal Statistical Agencies](#)

Helpful Resources:

- [Grant Watch](#): Website for tracking terminated federal grants
 - [National Science Foundation](#)
 - [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [HHS Terminated Grants](#) (managed by HHS)
- [NSF Funding Dashboard](#) (American Physical Society)
- [Impact of NIH Grant Terminations](#) (AAMC)
- [Social Science Space Tracker](#)

Please send any additional opportunities to ebailey@coffa.org to include in future Washington Updates.

Mark Mather and Beth Jarosz Answer "Why Social Science?"



The recent [Why Social Science?](#) post comes from Mark Mather and Beth Jarosz from the [Population Reference Bureau](#) who write about the importance of demography and how it can help community leaders, policymakers, business leaders, advocates, and residents plan effectively for a thriving future. [Read on](#) for more

NEW ACTION ALERTS: Urge Your Senators and House Representatives to Support FY 2026 Science Funding

Deadlines in the House of Representatives and Senate for FY 2026 funding requests are rapidly approaching. It is critical that lawmakers hear from you **TODAY** to urge their support for federal science agencies.



One way that Members of Congress can express their support for science funding is by signing a "Dear Colleague Letter." These letters, which are led or sponsored by one or sometimes several Members of Congress, are circulated to all Congressional offices to solicit additional signatures. The final letters are sent to the Appropriations Committees and typically urge the committee to include a specific funding level for an agency or program in the annual appropriations bill. They are a way for lawmakers to officially support funding for federal science agencies.

There are currently several Dear Colleague Letters circulating in House and Senate that are important to the COSSA community. They call for increased funding for the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Institute of Education Sciences, Census Bureau, and National Center for Health Statistics. We need as many Congressional signatures as possible.

Please send a quick note to your House Representatives and Senators urging them to sign each of the Dear Colleague Letters.

Visit our [ACTION CENTER](#) page to easily send a message. Note: We have provided separate actions for the Senate and House, so please utilize both links.

See our Senate action alert [here](#) and the House action alert [here](#).

Congress To Mark-Up Key Reconciliation Bills

[As previously reported by COSSA](#), Congress is in the process of drafting budget reconciliation bills for one “big, beautiful bill” to extend the Trump Administration’s tax breaks. Late last week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee released their draft bills and are scheduled to mark them up this week. The House Agriculture Committee is also scheduled to mark up their bill.

House Republicans are hoping to pass their bills before Memorial Day and expecting to pass the final bill before the month-long August recess. However, the House Energy and Commerce bill will be challenging for Congress to pass as the bill proposes substantial reform to Medicaid that would see [millions of Americans lose coverage](#) over the next decade, a point of contention among the party as some Republicans see these changes as “eliminating waste” while others see the proposals as detrimental cuts to working class families ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). On May 12, Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) published an [opinion editorial](#) in the New York Times opposing the bill, urging Republicans to “ignore calls to cut Medicaid and start delivering on America’s promise for America’s working people.”

Stay tuned to [COSSA’s continued coverage](#) on Congressional activities.

Senate Appropriators Hold Hearing on Biomedical Research: Keeping America’s Edge in Innovation

On April 30, Senate Appropriators held a bipartisan hearing on [Biomedical Research: Keeping America’s Edge in Innovation](#) where they invited several witnesses from the scientific community, including Dr. Sudip Parikh, Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Dr. Hermann Haller, President of the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Dr. Cartier Esham, Executive Director of the Alliance for a Stronger Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Barry Paul Sleckman, Director of the University of Alabama at Birmingham O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Emily Stenson, a patient advocate.

During the hearing, several members of the committee across the aisle voiced support for biomedical research. In her opening remarks, Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) emphasized how detrimental recent proposals from the Trump Administration, including a 15 percent cap on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indirect costs, could be to the U.S. scientific research enterprise. Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) echoed these concerns, adding that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has been “cutting critical research without rhyme, reason, or any regard for who gets hurt.”

Some Republicans indicated support for the budget cuts, including Senator John Kennedy (R-LA), who pressed Parikh on his pushback against capping NIH indirect costs, comparing NIH to other organizations with lower caps. To this end, Parikh argued that the comparison could not be made due to the differences between what is considered an indirect cost versus a direct cost across organizations, calling it “apples to oranges.” However, many Republicans cautioned against budget cuts that could hinder future biomedical innovation, including Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

The committee is expected to hold a second hearing on biomedical research, but it has yet to be scheduled. Find more of COSSA’s coverage of Congressional hearings [here](#).

Executive Branch News

President Trump Executive Actions

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

- [Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research](#) (5/5/25)

- [Strengthening Probationary Periods in the Federal Service](#) (4/24/25)
- [White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#) (4/23/25)
- [Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education](#) (4/23/25)
- PROPOSED RULE: [Improving Performance, Accountability, and the Civil Service](#) (4/23/25) (**MORE INFORMATION**)
- [Transparency Regarding Foreign Influence at American Universities](#) (4/23/25)

Find COSSA's full list of Trump's Executive Actions and more information [here](#) or on the [Social Science Space Tracker](#).

Latest from the White House (May 13)

COSSA continues to follow the flurry of executive actions taken by the Trump Administration and the impact those actions are having on the social and behavioral science community. Below are some of the latest developments coming out of the White House. Past updates are available [here](#).

The Dismantling of NSF Continues

As [previously reported](#), the President's so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) arrived at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in April, leading to the termination of more funded projects, elimination of directorate advisory committees, and the resignation of the NSF Director. Last week, as [reported by Science](#), the agency was further upended with the announcement that NSF will be eliminating 37 divisions across all eight directorates and drastically reducing the number of programs offered. According to an internal memo, current division directors and deputy directors will lose their titles and, if they are not terminated, may be reassigned to other positions in or outside of NSF.

The dismantling does not stop there. *Science* has also [reported](#) that the latest Reduction in Force (RIF) order has targeted the Division of Equity for Excellence in STEM (EES) within the STEM Education Directorate (EDU) for elimination. NSF has already removed the EES Division from the EDU Directorate's [website](#) with the following note:

"At the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), our mission is to foster scientific progress, improve national health and prosperity, and safeguard our nation's security. This means making decisions to ensure our efforts align with our priorities. Today, we initiated the reduction in force of the Division of Equity for Excellence in STEM. NSF is mindful of its statutory program obligations and plans to take steps to ensure those continue."

Latest efforts also target Senior Executive Service (SES) positions at NSF, including "rotators," who are scientists that take a leave of absence from their academic positions to serve for a few years at the Foundation. An internal memo from NSF Chief Management Officer Micah Cheatham to NSF staff states that of the 143 SES positions available at NSF, only 59 will be required going forward, a reduction of 60 percent. In addition, officials serving in rotator positions will be removed from SES positions over the next 30 days and into "new, executive-level positions where they will retain program responsibility and authority but will no longer supervise federal employees." The number of temporary workers will be reduced from 368 to 70 and positions will focus on "presidential priorities in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, nuclear energy, quantum science, and translational science."

This latest RIF, which took effect immediately on May 9, is said to be completed by July 12.

The "restructuring" is meant to reflect NSF's "new organizational structure and proposed future budgets," alluding to the President's proposals to reduce the NSF budget from \$9 billion to \$3.9 billion in FY 2026 (see related article). However, as COSSA has been [reporting](#), Congress enacted an FY 2025 budget of \$9 billion for NSF; the Administration is proceeding with cuts that are not in-line with what Congress has approved, raising serious questions about the legality of these actions.

A day before the restructuring announcement, Democrats on the House Science Committee sent a [letter](#) to the new acting NSF Director Brian Stone demanding answers to their questions about the process for identifying terminated grants. Few of the Committee's past requests have been answered by the agency.

This is a developing story.

National Science Board Remains Silent

On May 2, the NSF employee's union AFGE Local 3403 sent a [letter](#) to the National Science Board (NSB) calling on them to push back against Administration efforts. The letter states, "As this crisis has built over the last 100 days, the NSB has been largely silent. We do not believe that you agree with what is happening. We urge you to speak up."

However, during the latest NSB meeting on May 7, there was little acknowledgement of recent efforts in the open sessions, including grant terminations, except for a brief thanking of NSF employees who "are retiring or leaving the agency."

Today, NSB Member and former OSTP Director under the Biden Administration Alondra Nelson announced her resignation from the Board, to which she was appointed last year. In the [Time](#) piece announcing her resignation, Nelson notes that following last week's meeting, which was "observed" by a DOGE representative, "The message I received was that the National Science Board had a role to play in name only."

Save NSF Coalition

In response to Administration actions, a new [Save NSF](#) coalition has formed with the purpose of providing the scientific community with resources they can use to advocate for NSF funding and the science it supports. The website includes an action center with letter templates, phone scripts, and social posts with helpful data points about the importance of NSF.

The website also includes an [open letter](#) from the NSF employees union to the scientific community with additional resources.

Foundations Step Up to Help Impacted Researchers

In response to grant terminations at NSF, the Spencer Foundation, in collaboration with the Kapor Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, are offering "[rapid response bridge grants](#)" to impacted scholars. Grants in the amount of \$25,000 are available for researchers working on research on STEM and education and who have recently had their grant terminated or cancelled by NSF. Deadlines are **May 30, 2025** and **June 13, 2025**.

Trump Administration Releases Preliminary Details on FY 2026 Budget

On May 3, the Trump Administration released preliminary, high-level details of its fiscal year (FY) 2026 [budget request](#), referred to as a "skinny budget," and accompanying [fact sheets](#). In the preliminary request, the Trump Administration reiterates its commitment to "reducing waste" and "improving efficiency" through targeting programs that support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, climate change, green energy, and other topics that have been deemed "woke" by the Administration. Full budget details are expected in the upcoming weeks.

As reported in the leaked [Health and Human Services \(HHS\) passback](#), the budget proposes \$27 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a 40 percent decrease from FY 2025. The proposal also includes a reorganization of the institutes and centers (ICs) into five new focus areas: the National Institute on Body Systems Research; National Institute on Neuroscience and Brain Research; National Institute of General Medical Sciences; National Institute of Disability Related Research; and the National Institute on Behavioral Health. Some ICs would be eliminated under the proposal, including the

National Institute on Minority and Health Disparities. The budget proposes retaining the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) under this new structure. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was proposed to receive \$4 billion in funding for FY 2026, a 44 percent cut from the FY 2025 level.

In a fact sheet titled “[Cuts to Woke Programs](#),” President Trump targeted the National Science Foundation (NSF) with a 57 percent or \$5.2 billion cut to their budget, proposing only \$3.9 billion for FY 2026. This comes after NSF terminated hundreds of grants and the resignation of NSF Director, Sethuraman Panchanathan ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). The budget also takes aim at “woke social, behavioral, and economic sciences”, targeting specific grants from various institutions, and proposes eliminating “all DEI-related programs” at the agency, which the Administration has already taken steps to do in recent weeks (see related article).

On May 3, a group of former NSF Directors and former Chairs of the National Science Board sent a [letter](#) to Congressional Appropriators criticizing the President’s FY 2026 budget request for NSF, especially in light of the scientific priorities laid out in a [memo](#) the President sent to his Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Michael Kratsios. In it they state:

“We believe these challenges can be met, but not with the draconian budget plan and staffing reductions just released by OMB.... Achieving the President’s vision requires a major enhancement of the NSF budget, ideally a doubling of the FY25 level over the next few years and sufficient staff to execute this vision. In the current political climate, we know this is a bold request. We make it, nonetheless, to say -- if we truly wish to realize this vision, we must commit to a historic investment in fundamental research and education in a manner that leaves no doubt about the United States’ intentions with our international competitors.”

Congressional oversight hearings will begin in the weeks ahead featuring Trump Administration officials defending the President’s budget request. Stay tuned to [COSSA’s continued coverage](#) on the appropriations process.

Science Community News

National Academy of Sciences Announces 2025 Fellows

COSSA congratulates the 150 newly elected [fellows](#) of the National Academy of Sciences, including the social and behavioral scientists from COSSA member institutions:

- Steven T. Berry, Department of Economics, Yale University
- Phoebe C. Ellsworth, Department of Psychology and School of Law, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Alison Gopnik, Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley
- David B. Grusky, Department of Sociology, Stanford University
- Jun S. Liu, Department of Statistics, Harvard University
- Daniel S. Nagin, Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University
- Scott Page, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Parag A. Pathak, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- James W. Pennebaker, Department of Psychology, University of Texas, Austin
- Marilyn N. Raphael, Department of Geography, University of California, Los Angeles
- Cecilia L. Ridgeway, Department of Sociology, Stanford University
- Mary C. Stiner, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Congratulations and thank you for your contributions to social and behavioral science research!

RESPOND: NASEM Survey on Administrative Burden

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) has established a committee on [Improving the Regulatory Efficiency and Reducing Administrative Workload to Strengthen Competitiveness and Productivity of U.S. Research](#). The second [meeting](#) on the committee is scheduled for May 21-23.

The Committee is tasked with producing a fast-track, brief consensus report that includes options for federal actions to improve regulatory efficiency. To help inform this work, the Committee is seeking responses to a **brief survey** in which researchers can share their experiences with administrative burden and offer ideas for regulatory report. The survey is available [here](#).

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 5/8/2025: [Community Letter Urging Greater Transparency and Oversight Regarding Potential Agency RIF and Reorganization Plans](#)
- **NEW:** 5/7/2025: [Friends of BLS Letter on FY 2026 Funding for the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- **NEW:** 5/7/2025: [LCCHR Letter Opposing the Termination of Census Bureau Advisory Committees](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- NSB: [Call for Nominations to the National Science Board](#) (Closes: May 30, 2025)
- **NEW:** EPA: [Call for Nominations for Science Advisory Board](#) (Closes: June 2, 2025)

Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** NCI: [Administrative Supplements for Research Leveraging Novel Data Science Approaches to Address Integration of Modifiable Risk Factors on Cancer Outcomes](#) (Closes: June 6, 2025)
- **NEW:** NCI: [Administrative Supplements to Advance Development of Transdisciplinary and Large-Scale Population Science and Cancer Control Research Projects](#) (Closes: June 6, 2025)
- **NEW:** NCI: [Administrative Supplements on Long-term Cancer Survivorship](#) (Closes: June 6, 2025)
- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)
- NSF: [The Research on Research Security Program \(RoRS\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Rolling Basis through 2026)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Small Research Grant \(R03 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Rolling Basis through 2026)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Rolling Basis through 2026)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- DHS: [Request for Comment on Training Plan for STEM OPT Students](#) (Closes: May 19, 2025)
- Request for Comments on OPM Proposed Rule: [Improving Performance, Accountability and Responsiveness in the Civil Service](#) (Closes: May 23, 2025)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Input on Updating the 2023 National AI R&D Strategic Plan](#) (Closes: May 29, 2025)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Comment on NSF Education and Training Application](#) (Closes: June 1, 2025)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Committee on Improving the Regulatory Efficiency and Reducing](#)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** [Preliminary Estimates of the Macroeconomic Costs of Cutting Federal Funding for Scientific Research](#)
- AIP Survey: [Impacts of Restrictions on Federal Grant Funding in Physics and Astronomy Graduate Programs](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** White House: [OSTP Assistant Director](#) (Closes: May 23, 2025)
- **NEW:** White House: [OSTP Policy Advisor](#) (Closes: May 23, 2025)
- **NEW:** American Association of Cancer Research: [Regulatory Science and Policy 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:** NSF: [2025 NSF CAREER Program Informational Webinar](#), May 14, 2025, Virtual
- **NEW:** [NSF 75th Anniversary Showcase](#), May 14, 2025, Washington, DC
- AAPOR: [80th Annual Conference](#), May 14-16, 2025, St. Louis, MO
- **NEW:** NSF: [2025 NSF CAREER Program Informational Webinar](#), May 19, 2025, Virtual
- **NEW:** NASEM: [State of Science Address](#), June 3, 2025, Washington, DC and 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.

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

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California State University, San Bernardino
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Carnegie Mellon 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

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
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 Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
 Institute for Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
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 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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