

November 25, 2025 | Volume 44 Issue 23

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GIVING TUESDAY

During this time of giving thanks, COSSA wishes to express its gratitude to the readers of the *COSSA Washington Update*. Our team works hard all year to bring you news and analysis that helps our readers navigate the changing federal research landscape. We hope you value this work.

December 2 is Giving Tuesday. If you are in a position to give, we hope you will consider a **gift to COSSA**. We cannot do this important work on behalf of the social and behavioral sciences without the support of our members and community.

In honor of the ancestral Native peoples, we wish you and yours a peaceful Thanksgiving.

-Wendy, Elyse and Kenzie

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:

- PAA Action Alert: [Tell Congress to Restore Funding for Food Security Supplement and Household Food Security Reports](#)
- [Science Homecoming](#): Support science across the country by writing opinion pieces in local papers!
- **NEW:** COSSA Action Alert: [Urge Congress to Support Robust Federal Investment in Scientific Research](#)

Helpful Resources:

- **NEW:** [Resumption of Operations at NSF](#)
- [COSSA At-Home Advocacy Guide](#)
- [PAA Action Center](#)
- [Grant Watch](#): Website for tracking terminated federal grants
 - [National Science Foundation](#)
 - [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [NSF Updates on Priorities and FAQs](#)
- [NIH Grants and Funding Information Status](#)
- [HHS Terminated Grants](#) (managed by HHS)
- [National Institutes of Health Shutdown Website](#)
- [National Science Foundation Shutdown Website](#)

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

COSSA 101: "What is Appropriations?"



COSSA is excited to announce the latest brief in our [COSSA 101: A Crash Course on the Federal Government](#) series: "[What is Appropriations?](#)"

The series will continue to provide easy-to-understand information about the inner workings of the federal government and how they affect social and behavioral science research. Continue to check back on the homepage to discover new briefs. Do you have a federal government topic you would like explained by COSSA 101? [Send us](#) your ideas!

Other topics include, "[What is a Government Shutdown?](#)"

Meet COSSA's Policy Intern: Anne Tighe!



Anne Tighe started as COSSA's policy intern in September. Before she signs off, she provided some reflections from her time at COSSA!

How did you learn about COSSA and the opportunity to serve as a policy intern?

While seeking fall internship opportunities on Handshake, I encountered COSSA's Government Affairs and Public Policy Internship. My interest was piqued in the chance to advocate for a cause I am passionate about while working with the federal government.

In my previous experience as a Community Affairs Liaison for the New York State government, I spent my summer in Queens helping connect constituents with state resources to improve their quality of life. Getting a direct view into the everyday lives of these constituents inspired me to be an advocate for issues I care about.

The prospect of being able to draw upon my previous state government experience to advocate on the federal level was very appealing to me, so I applied!

How did the internship fit into your academic or career planning?

I am currently pursuing a double major in International Studies and Economics at American University. Through this internship, I witnessed how research conducted in the scholarly fields I study impacts policymaking. Drawing upon the lessons that I've learned on both sides – the research itself and the advocacy for that research – I feel confident in undertaking DC government-related careers in the future.

What stood out to you most about your internship (i.e., did you learn anything interesting/eye opening or was there a task that you enjoyed most)?

Something that stood out to me during my internship was how social science underpins all policy decisions. This was particularly obvious when I collected examples that illustrate the importance of social-behavioral science research to present to Congress for COSSA's Social Science Advocacy Day. When gathering examples of how social science informs decision-making, I couldn't encounter an instance where research by members of the SBS community was not invaluable.

What would you tell future policy interns about the opportunity and/or about interning in-person in Washington, DC?

As Jane Goodall, a pioneer primatologist, ethologist, and anthropologist (a social scientist with many hats!) has said: "Work hard, take advantage of opportunity, and never give up." I can't think of a city this phrase would be more applicable to, especially in a policy setting. Drawing upon your strengths and pushing yourself to join the community of people teeming with dedication to making the world a better place will never not be rewarding, even though it's not always easy.

Luckily, DC will rise to meet your effort, a city rich with opportunity that will offer you endless chances to discover your passions and advocate for things you care about – as long as you dare to try. Jane Goodall's final message to the world serves as a reminder of this: "Each and every one of you has a role to play. You may not know it, you may not find it, but your life matters and you are here for a reason."

What's next for you?

After this internship, I will continue my studies as a second-semester sophomore, taking classes relating to the global economy. Following the end of this academic year, I will study abroad in Seoul, South Korea, where I will acquire an East Asian perspective on international relations topics. Upon returning stateside, I will finish college while pursuing career opportunities in fields relating to international affairs, economics, and law.

Congress Turns to Final Appropriations Bills Following End of Government Shutdown

As [previously reported by COSSA](#), Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) that extends fiscal year (FY) 2025 funding through to January 30, 2026, ending the weeks-long government shutdown and giving Appropriators additional time to finish their work on FY 2026 funding. Currently, only three appropriations bills have been enacted into law—each having been attached to the CR—including the Agriculture bill, Legislative Branch bill, and Veteran Affairs bill.

Despite delays, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) has reiterated that the Senate has plans to consider the Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS), Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS), and Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bills in a single package, using the Defense bill as a vehicle to pass the other more controversial bills. However, the House is also set to consider their own version of these bills and is rumored to be considering two smaller packages. Last week, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) also indicated that the Committee intends to hold mark-ups for their final four budget bills—Energy and Water, Financial Services, Homeland Security, and State and Foreign Operations—ahead of the January CR deadline.

On November 20, the top appropriators from both chambers met to negotiate on a final spending package; however, after the meeting, House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) confirmed that an agreement had not been reached, punting any further negotiations to December when Congress returns from their week-long Thanksgiving recess. On November 24, the Senate Appropriations' Energy and Water subcommittee Chair John Kennedy (R-LA) released draft text of the [Energy and Water appropriations bill](#), which included a 6.5 percent cut to non-defense programs but a 3 percent increase to defense programs. In response to the bill, Sen. Murray expressed disappointment that the Senate Republicans had released a “partisan bill” instead of negotiating with the Democrats. However, she commended some of the provisions included in the bill, including language that would restrict any policy changes to the Department of Energy’s process of negotiating indirect cost rate with universities.

Rep. Cole has also publicly stated that any bills that are not passed by January 30 will likely be packaged into a year-long CR, but this is a widely unpopular proposal among both Democrats and Republicans alike. Beyond the numbers, report language could also complicate the passage of any final appropriations bills as Democrats on both sides of the Capitol push to include language to prohibit mass federal layoffs, bolster federal employee protections, and limit the Administration’s ability to cancel federal grants.

Earlier this month, Senate Republicans verbally agreed to a vote on legislation that would propose extending the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) healthcare subsidies, as requested by Senate Democrats to end the government shutdown. Several members of the House also sent a bipartisan [letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Thune and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) encouraging them to prioritize the health subsidies in the upcoming months. But President Trump has since said that he has no intention of signing any final legislation relating to the issue, compounding tensions on Capitol Hill. It is possible that the Senate and House Democrats could seek an agreement on the ACA subsidies before advancing any final appropriations bills, returning to the same negotiations that led to the government shutdown. Regardless, Congress still has a long road ahead of them to pass the remaining nine appropriations bills, and a rapidly approaching deadline riddled with holiday recesses signals a difficult few months ahead.

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

Executive Branch News

President Trump Executive Actions

- [Launching the Genesis Mission](#) (11/24/25) ([MORE INFORMATION](#))

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

Trump Administration launches AI-focused 'Genesis Mission'

On November 24, the White House issued an executive order (EO), [Launching the Genesis Mission](#). It is the latest action by the Trump Administration seeking to establish American [leadership](#) in artificial intelligence (AI).

Genesis Mission, according to the EO, will “unleash a new age of AI-accelerated innovation and discovery” by “[building] an integrated AI platform to harness Federal scientific datasets—the world’s largest collection of such datasets, developed over decades of Federal investments—to train scientific foundation models and create AI agents to test new hypotheses, automate research workflows, and accelerate scientific breakthroughs.” The Department of Energy (DOE) is tasked with implementing the mission with general leadership provided by Assistant to the President for Science and Technology [Michael Kratsios](#).

Within two months of the EO, the DOE Secretary is tasked with identifying a minimum of 20 “science and technology challenges of national importance” to be considered for the mission. These areas should be consistent with the directives included in a [White House memo](#) from September 23. The EO goes into greater detail about next steps and intended activities.

Read the EO [here](#).

NSF Downsizes its Physical Location

Earlier this month the General Services Administration (GSA) announced the location of the new Alexandria, VA headquarters of the National Science Foundation (NSF). As [previously reported](#), it was announced in July that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would be taking over the NSF headquarters building later this year. At the time, it was not clear where NSF’s 1600 employees would be relocated. NSF will now be collocated with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), which is less than a half mile away from NSF’s current location. The announcement states the move is part of the Trump Administration’s efforts to consolidate properties owned by the federal government. The exact date of NSF’s move has not been announced.

Federal Agencies Reopen with Uncertainty

The 44-day government shutdown created chaos and uncertainty across federal agencies. Now that the government has reopened, federal employees are back to work but face new uncertainties about the future.

Acting Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Brian Stone circulated a [memo to staff](#) outlining the agency’s plans for resuming its activities. According to the memo, priority will be placed on processing backpay for employees and restoring NSF’s capacity to make awards. However, the memo explains that as a result of the lapse in funding, the agency will not be able to administer all of its programs as planned. The memo states, “We cannot recover the time missed during the lapse, which means we cannot conduct all the programs and activities that we had originally planned for FY 2026. The agency will prioritize funding actions, in alignment with Administration and other priorities, in order to achieve the mission within the time remaining in FY 2026.” This leaves many wondering how exactly NSF will handle its backlog of research proposals.

NSF has posted information on “[Resumption of Operations at NSF](#)” on its website aimed at the external research community. With respect to how the shutdown may have

impacted funding decisions it states, “Some delays are expected in processing new awards and funding actions. Priority is being given to awards supporting time-sensitive research, student or trainee funding, and projects with critical field of seasonal components.”

Trump Announces Several Interagency Agreements under the Department of Education

On November 18, President Trump and U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon [announced](#) several interagency agreements (IAA), including partnerships with the Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). According to the provided fact sheets (see below), the Department of Education “will maintain all statutory responsibility and will continue its oversight of these programs,” but will yield other responsibilities through these partnerships. The announced IAAs include:

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Partnership with DOL (see [fact sheet](#));
- Postsecondary Education Partnership with DOL (see [fact sheet](#));
- Indian Education Partnership with the Department of Interior (DOI) (see [fact sheet](#));
- Foreign Medical Accreditation Partnership with HHS (see [fact sheet](#));
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School Partnership with HHS (see [fact sheet](#));
- International Education and Foreign Language Studies (IEFLS) Partnership with the Department of State (see [fact sheet](#)).

Notably, in both the President’s Budget Request (PBR) and the House fiscal year (FY) 2026 bill, IEFLS would see its funding terminated (see [COSSA’s analyses](#)). In the provided fact sheet, it notes that “the Trump Administration did not fund some of these programs in Fiscal Year 2025 because the Administration prioritized other programs. Should Congress fund these programs in the future, State would be a fit as it maintains the national security and foreign policy expertise to manage them.” The fact sheet proceeds to note several grants that have, according to the Administration, “deviated” from the core mission of the program, prompting them to pursue this partnership.

While IAA’s do not require Congressional oversight to implement, several Congressional members have sounded the alarm, including Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), who stated, “This is an outright illegal effort to continue dismantling the Department of Education.” While it is unclear if the Administration’s intention is to effectively shutter the agency, this announcement is especially worrying for the research community as it follows several attacks on the Department of Education, including mass layoffs of federal workers and unprecedented grant cancellations. Any official action to eliminate the department would require Congressional approval.

Stay tuned for [COSSA’s continued coverage](#) on the latest developments.

COSSA Member Spotlight

AAPOR Releases Report Evaluating 2024 Election Polling

The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), a COSSA governing member, has released a new report titled “[Task Force on 2024 Pre-Election Polling: An Evaluation of the 2024 General Election Polls](#).” This report analyzes the effectiveness of pre-election polling for the 2024 elections. The task force found that polls were more accurate compared to previous election years, and that – consistent with recent trends – polls underestimated Republican votes compared to Democrats’.

The report was discussed in-depth at a recent AAPOR webinar, details can be found [here](#).

This article was contributed by COSSA Intern Anne Tighe.

COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 11/6/2025: [Community Letter Urging Congress to Sustain FY 2026 Funding for the SBE Sciences Directorate at NSF](#)
- 10/30/2025: [Census Project Letter to CJS Appropriators on FY26 Funding for the Census Bureau](#)
- 10/27/2025: [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Letter to Congress on FY 2026 Funding for NIH and ARPA-H](#)
- 10/23/2025: [PAA Letter Urging Congress to Restore Funding to the Food Security Supplement in the Current Population Survey](#)
- **NEW:** 9/29/2025: [Joint Community Letter Asking DHS to withdraw the Duration of Status Elimination Rule](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- [Golden Goose Award Nominations](#) (Closes: December 12, 2025)
- [2026 Sage-CASBS Award](#) (Closes: December 19, 2025)
- [2026 ASA Annual Awards](#) (Closes January 1, 2026)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Small Research Grant \(R03 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: November 17, 2026)
- NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: November 19, 2026)
- NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: November 19, 2026)
- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)
- NSF: [The Research on Research Security Program \(RoRS\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)
- SSRC: [Economic Research Rescue Fund](#) (Rolling Deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- MPSA: [Call for Subfields and Undergraduate Section Proposals: 83rd Annual Conference](#) (Closes: December 2, 2025)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Comment on SBIR/STTR Pre-Submission Process](#) (Closes: December 2, 2025)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- Lewis-Burke Associates: [2025 Overview of Federal Funding Opportunities for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities](#)
- AAPOR: [An Evaluation of the 2024 General Election Polls](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- SRCD: [2026-2027 SRCD U.S. Policy Fellowship Program](#) (Closes: January 6, 2026)
- **NEW:** NIH OBSSR: [2026 NIH mHealth Training Institute](#) (Closes: January 20, 2026)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Open until Filled)
- Columbus Technologies: [NIH Scientific Program Analyst](#) (Open until Filled)

Upcoming Events

- **NEW:** AAAS: [The Heart of Science: Scientists Share Their Stories of Joy and Connection](#), December 10, 2025, Virtual or Washington, DC
- [COSSA December Headlines Webinar](#), December 10, 2025, Virtual

- **NEW:** PAA: U.S. Birth Rate Trends: Patterns, Drivers, and Implications for American Families, December 10, 2025, Washington, DC
- **NEW:** AAPOR: [AAPOR 81st Annual Conference](#), May 13-15, 2026, Los Angeles, CA

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 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

Colleges and Universities

Boston University
 Brown University
 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
 Pennsylvania State University
 Princeton University
 Stanford University
 University of Arizona
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Los Angeles
 University of California, Riverside
 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

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social Science
 American Institutes for Research
 Center for Advanced Study in the

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing

Behavioral Sciences

Child Trends

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.

Our Team

Executive Director

Wendy A. Naus

Director of Public Affairs

Elyse Bailey

Government Relations Associate

Kenzie Shelstad

Fall Term Intern

Anne Tighe

ISSN 0749-4394



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