



# Making Your Voice Heard in Washington: **Day of Action**

Wendy Naus, Executive Director  
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

March 19, 2026

**March 24, 2026**

**COSSA's Day of Action in Support of  
Social and Behavioral Science Research**



# CSSA 2026

## SOCIAL SCIENCE ADVOCACY DAY

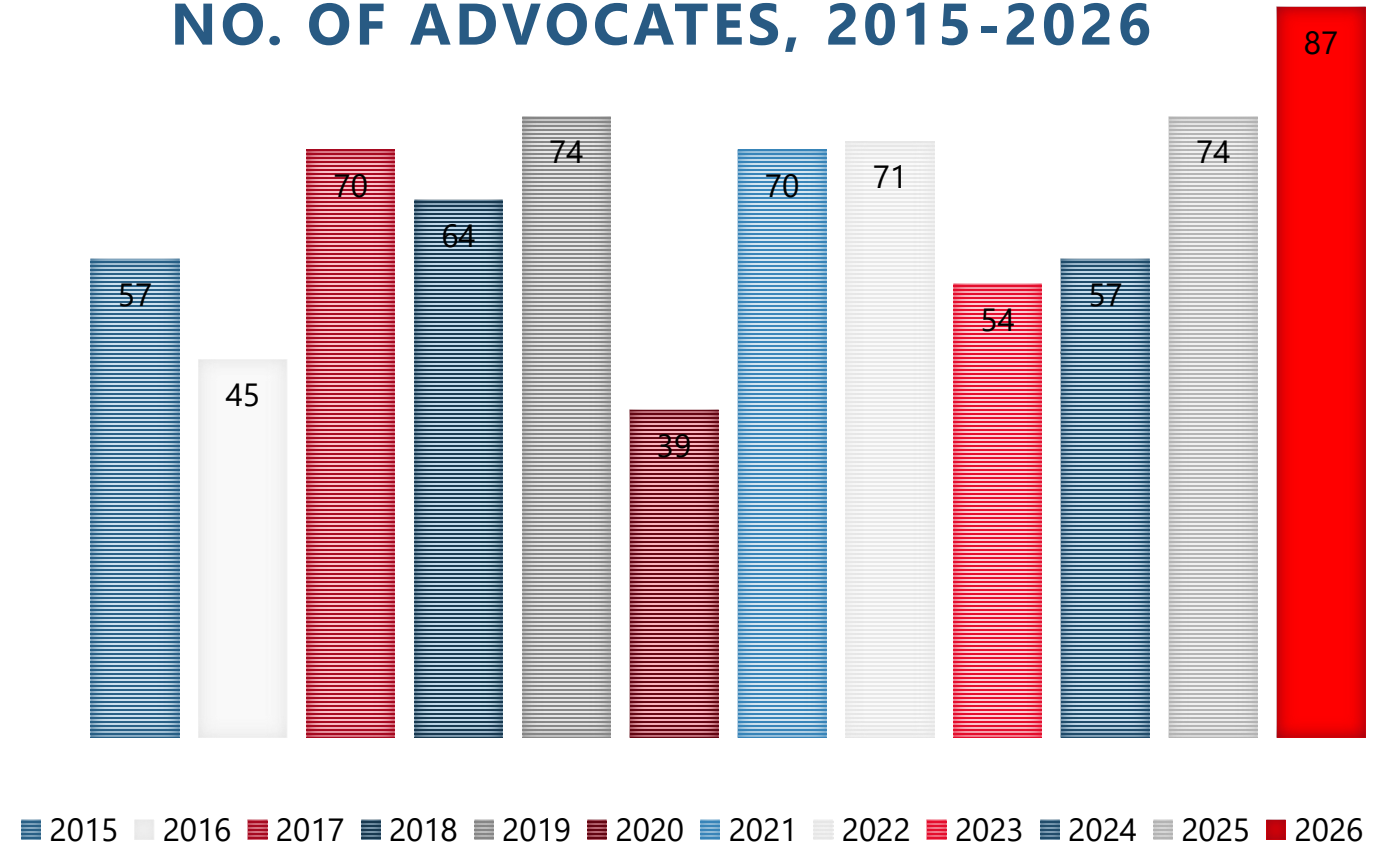
March 23-24, 2026  Washington, DC



# Social Science Advocacy Day 2026

**87 advocates**  
from **24 states**  
visiting **95 offices**  
in House and Senate.  
**61 first timers!**

NO. OF ADVOCATES, 2015-2026





## Prioritize Research and Statistics Funding in the FY 2027 Appropriations Bills

### Urge Congress to Prioritize Robust Science Funding!

Congressional appropriators are preparing legislation that will determine funding for federal science and statistical agencies for the next year (FY 2027). With recent attacks on the scientific research enterprise—including funding cuts, grant delays/cancellations, reorganization proposals, abrupt terminations, and mass layoffs— it is essential that our community fights for federal science funding and the scientific workforce. The stakes have never been higher.

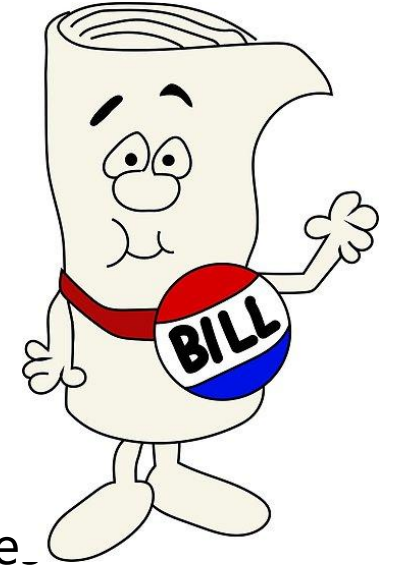
Now is the time to write to your Members of Congress to urge that they prioritize funding in FY 2027 for research and statistics by supporting increased appropriations for the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Institute of Education Sciences, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census Bureau, International Education and Foreign Language Programs, and the federal statistical system.

We encourage you to personalize our template message to highlight the points that matter most to you. When you're done, share this alert with others and spread the word on social media using #WhySocialScience. Thank you for taking action on this critical issue!



TAKE ACTION

# Why Now?



## Regular Order:

- FEB – President’s Budget Request released
- APR – Congress adopts budget resolution
- MAY – Appropriations Committees set allocations for 12 subcommittee.
- MAY-JUN – Subcommittees write and “mark up” bills
- JUN – Full Appropriations Committee considers/amends bills
- JUL – House Floor debate/vote on each bill individually
- SEP – Differences negotiated (conference committee), each chamber votes on compromise
- BY SEP 30 – To the President to sign/veto
- OCT 1 – New fiscal year begins

# Budget Season is Here

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## 1. FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS

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- DONE (mostly)
- FY 2026 began **October 1, 2025**
- 11 of 12 bills complete and signed into law
- DHS remaining bills
- Agencies now obligating funds

## 2. FY 2027 BUDGET REQUEST

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- FY 2027 begins October 1, 2026
- President supposed to release budget in February.
- No budget yet.
- President's "wish list"

## 3. FY 2027 APPROPRIATIONS

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- Congress must pass 12 FY 2027 bills before September 30, 2026
- Congressional oversight hearings beginning
- Election year complications

# FY 2026 Science Funding

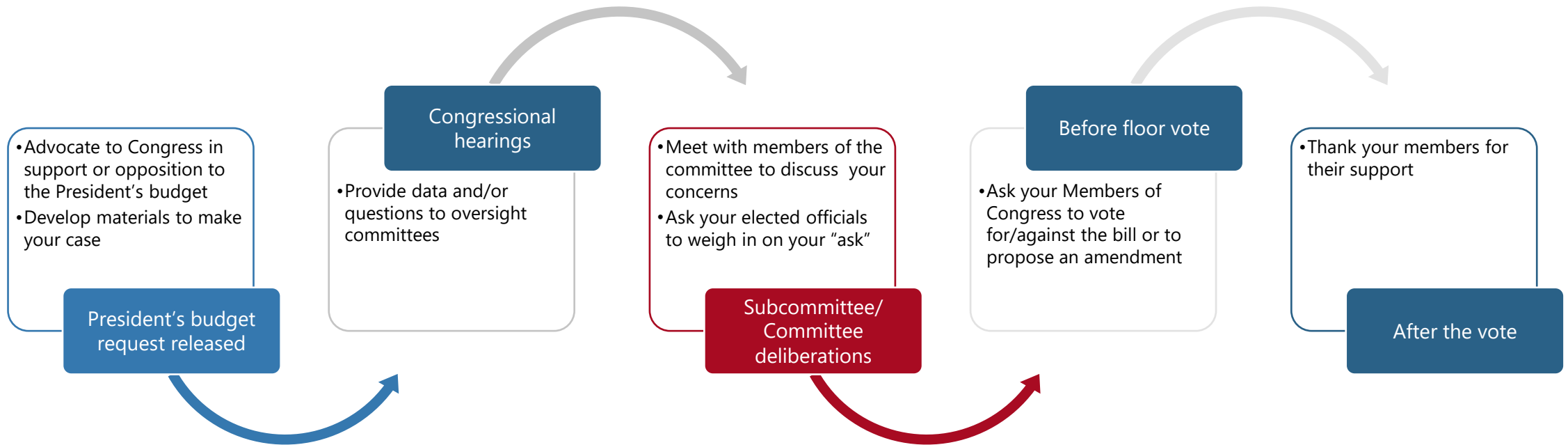
(in millions)	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 President's Request	FY 2026 Final	FY 2026 vs. FY 2025
National Science Foundation	9060.0	3903.2	8750.0	-3.4%
National Institutes of Health	46801.0	28350.0	47216.0	0.9%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	9222.1	4321.0	9203.0	-0.2%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	369.0	240.0	345.4	-6.4%
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	7376.0	6200.0	7439.6	0.9%
Institute of Education Sciences	793.1	261.3	789.6	-0.4%
International Education & Foreign Language Studies	85.6	0	80.7	-5.8%
Bureau of the Census	1382.5	1676.5	1490.3	7.8%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	117.3	110.7	118.0	0.6%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	704.0	648.0	708.5	0.6%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	35.0	33.0	33.0	-5.7%
National Institute of Justice	30.0	22.0	22.0	-26.7%



# **COSSA's "Asks" for FY 2027**

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2025 Level	Enacted FY 2026 Level	President's FY 2027 Request	COSSA's FY 2027 Request
<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b>				
Bureau of the Census	1,382.0	1,490.3	n/a	2,100.0
Bureau of Economic Analysis	125.0	118.0	n/a	
<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>				
Institute of Education Sciences	793.1	789.6	n/a	900.0
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	85.7	80.7	n/a	85.7
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>				
National Institutes of Health	46,801.0	47,216.0	n/a	51,303.0
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	369.0	345.4	n/a	500
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	9,222.1	9,203.3	n/a	
National Center for Health Statistics	187.4	187.4	n/a	220.0
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	7,376.0	7,439.6	n/a	
<b>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>				
Bureau of Justice Statistics	35.0	33.0	n/a	48.0
National Institute of Justice	30.0	22.0	n/a	42.0
<b>DEPARTMENT OF LABOR</b>				
Bureau of Labor Statistics	704.0	708.5	n/a	754.0
<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>				
National Science Foundation	9,060.0	8,750.0	n/a	9,900.0
Institute of Museum and Library Services	266.6	265.3	n/a	300.0
National Endowment for The Humanities	207.0	207.0	n/a	215.0
National Archives	427.3	421.0	n/a	

# Opportunities to Advocate



# Take Action March 24!

- Share the action alert with others and post to social.



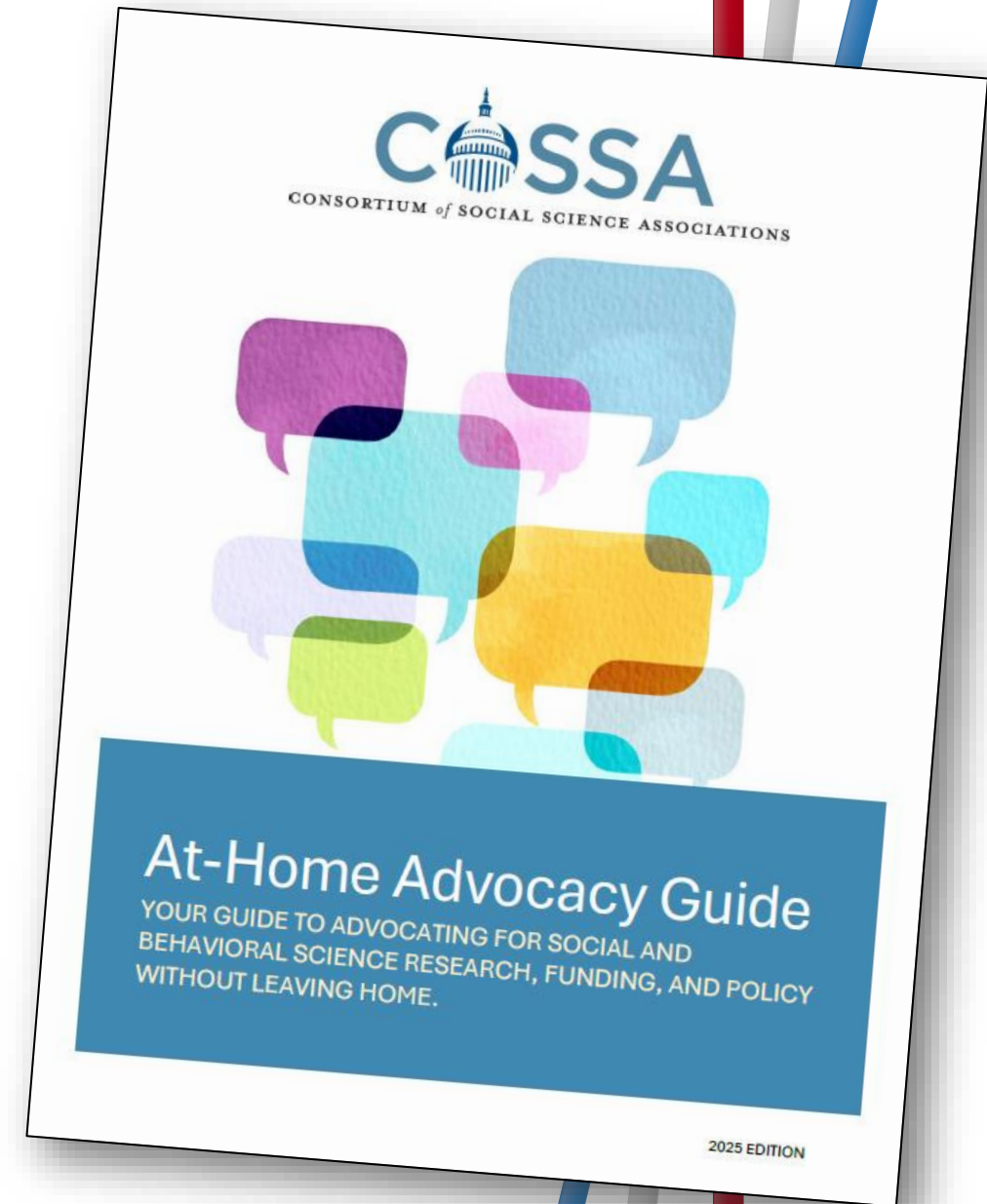
The screenshot shows the COSSA website's Action Center page. At the top, the COSSA logo features a stylized dome icon and the text "COSSA 40 YEARS OF ADVOCACY & ACTION". A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, DONATE, MEMBERS, ACTION CENTER, POLICY, WASHINGTON UPDATE, SOCIAL SCIENCE, and EVENTS. A blue button labeled "JOIN COSSA" is positioned below the navigation menu. The main header area has a background image of a classical building facade with the text "Action Center" overlaid in large white font. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads "Home » Action Center". The main content area features a large image of several white buttons with various social science advocacy messages, such as "Soft Social Science", "Nothing about Social Science", "Ask me how SOCIAL SCIENCE helps you", and "WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE?". Overlaid on the right side of this image is the text "Be a Social Science Advocate" in white, with the subtext "Use your power as a constituent and a scientist". At the bottom left, there is a section titled "Action Center" with a sub-heading "Crank Calls". To the right of this section, the beginning of a paragraph is visible: "Did you know that when it comes to informing policy, you hold power as a constituent and as a scientist? Whether in local, state, or federal office, those serving in public office do so on behalf of the people they represent. They make decisions based on what they understand..."



# Taking Action from Home

# Advocate from Anywhere, Anytime

- Level 1 ★ STAY INFORMED
- Level 2 ★ SIMPLE ACTIONS
- Level 3 ★ BIG ACTIONS



# Level 1 ★ STAY INFORMED

- Find news sources you trust
  - Fact-based and impartial
  - Enable you to formulate your own positions
- Find and learn about your elected officials
  - Subscribe to newsletters
  - Follow on social media



**COSSA**  
WASHINGTON UPDATE

October 14, 2025 | Volume 44 Issue 20

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**NEW FROM COSSA**

- ACT NOW!
- SRCD Answers “Why Social Science?”
- Defend Social Science and Support COSSA Today

**CONGRESSIONAL NEWS**

- No End in Sight for Government Shutdown as Congress Clashes Over Expiring ACA Subsidies

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS**

- President Trump Executive Actions
- Latest from the White House (October 14)
- NIH Senior Officials Terminated After Administrative Leave
- ICYMI: Trump Rescinds BLS Nomination

**COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

- Register Now: AAPSS 2025 Moynihan Lecture

**RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES**

- COSSA Letters & Statements



United States Senator for Kansas

## JERRY MORAN

- Email Me
- Assistance
- Flags
- Tours
- Meetings
- For Students

# Level 2 ★ SIMPLE ACTIONS

- Respond to a “call for action”
  - Check if your professional association has an action page
  - Share with others
- Call your elected officials
  - For Congress: Local office vs. Washington, DC office
- Email your elected officials
  - Make sure you have the right contact
  - Attachments okay, but keep them brief



## Urge Congress to Support Robust Federal Investment in Scientific Research



Despite Congress passing a continuing resolution (CR) that extends funding to January 30, a lack of clarity on FY 2026 funding damages the ability of federal science agencies like the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Institute of Education Sciences, and federal statistical agencies to meet their missions. Those harms are passed on to researchers who rely on support from the federal government. With all the uncertainty in Washington these days, fueled by the destructive effects of a government shutdown and Trump Administration policies—including the termination of thousands of research and training grants, program cancellations, mass layoffs, pauses or cancellations of important data collections, and elimination of federal advisory bodies, to name a few — the stakes have never been higher. As Congressional appropriators look to advance legislation that will determine funding for federal science and statistical agencies for the next year, it is essential that our community fights for federal science funding and the scientific workforce.

Write to your Members of Congress **TODAY** to urge them to complete the FY 2026 appropriations process without further delay. When you're done, share this alert with others and spread the word on social media using #WhySocialScience. Thank you for taking action on this critical issue!

TAKE ACTION

## Level 3 ★ BIG ACTIONS

- Schedule an in-person meeting.



## Local meeting (state/district)

- **WHO:** More likely to meet with the elected official and/or district director or caseworker
- **WHAT:**
  - To discuss local issues, such as how cuts to research funding are impacting local universities.
  - More relaxed than DC meetings
- **WHERE:** District office
- **WHEN:** Recess periods when lawmakers are home



## Washington, DC meeting

- **WHO:** Likely to meet with legislative staff
- **WHAT:**
  - To discuss specific legislation or federal policy, such as federal research funding
  - Formal meetings last from 15 min to 1 hour (rare)
- **WHERE:** Capitol Hill
- **WHEN:** January – July (peak legislating season)

## Level 3 ★ BIG ACTIONS

- Schedule an in-person meeting.
  - In Washington or locally
  - Goal: Start building a relationship and present yourself as a resource for them
  - The best meetings feel like a conversation with a friend. Don't just talk about yourself—ask the staff about themselves. You may find areas of natural synergy.
- Attend a town hall meeting
  - Learn about events from lawmakers' websites/newsletters
  - Prepare your question in advance
  - Recruit others to join



## Featured Alert

### Urge Congress to Support Robust Federal Investment in Scientific Research

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# Making the Most of COSSA Membership

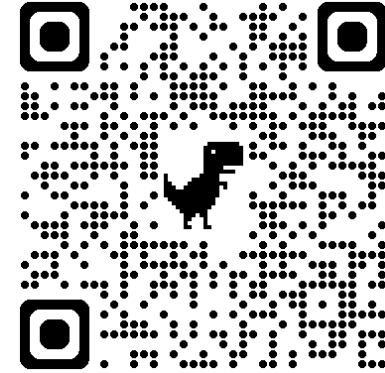
# Reminders:

1. COSSA's resources are YOURS to share.
2. YOUR organizations' members or employees are automatically COSSA members.
  - They can subscribe to COSSA resources directly
  - They can access membership-only opportunities



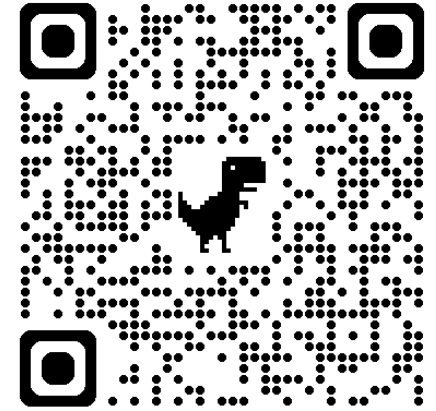
# Members-only resources

- Member Messages
- Monthly *Headlines* webinars
- Social Science Advocacy Day
- Action Alerts sent directly to members first



# Simple Ways to Use COSSA

- Encourage colleagues to subscribe to COSSA Washington Update.
- Forward/repurpose COSSA newsletter articles or analyses.
  - Include in your own newsletters, websites, etc.
- Share information about upcoming COSSA events.
  - Monthly webinars
  - Social Science Advocacy Day
- Post information about COSSA on your organization's website.
- Ask COSSA to write an article for your newsletter.
- Include info about COSSA in annual conference program.
- Promote COSSA membership as a benefit for joining YOUR association.



# Other Ways to Use COSSA

## Presentations

- Invite COSSA to speak to Boards/Councils/Committees
- Advocacy trainings for your members

## Assist with your Hill Activities

- Promote events (e.g., Congressional briefings)
- Advise on Hill/legislative strategy
- Assist with Hill meeting planning

## Why Social Science?

- Help with identifying guest authors – or volunteer yourself!

## Embed COSSA in your org's policy work

- Include us as part of your organization's advocacy strategy



# Questions?

**Email:** [wnaus@coffa.org](mailto:wnaus@coffa.org)

**Join COSSA:** [coffa.org/join](https://coffa.org/join)

**Donate to COSSA**



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