



Key Messages on the Importance of NSF’s Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)

Updated April 2026

This guide was developed by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) for use by the scientific community and other stakeholders to help articulate the value of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences to policy and public audiences. A variety of messages are provided.

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For additional resources, visit cossa.org/action-center/save-sbe

I. Messages to Congressional Offices

The below text can be used with Congressional offices to discuss plans by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to eliminate the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE), as stated in NSF's FY 2027 [budget request](#). This language would be appropriate for emails, phone calls, or letters to Congressional offices, or for public statements expressing concern about the threat to SBE.

Please note that additional guidance is provided for communicating with Members of Congress who sit on important committees relevant NSF (see section (b) below).

It is important that all Congressional offices hear from their constituents regardless of party or past levels of support for our issues.

(a) General Message to your Members of Congress

This message can be sent to any Congressional office at any time or be used as the basis for a public or press statement.

On April 3, the Trump Administration released its budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2027. In it, the Administration states its intent to dismantle the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate in FY 2027. This proposal is alarming as the SBE Directorate is responsible for nearly two-thirds of funding for academic basic research in the social and behavioral sciences in the U.S.

Even more concerning are reports that NSF leadership may be taking steps now—in calendar year 2026—to begin dismantling the Directorate. If true, this raises several red flags and likely violates current statute, not to mention sidesteps Congress' oversight and funding authority. This news has come as a surprise to not just the research community, but NSF staff, the National Science Board (NSF's governing body) and other government officials.

I hope you will agree that the Administration's approach to reorganizing NSF—in secret with no external input—is not just misguided but sets a dangerous precedent. I am asking for your help with stopping the Trump Administration's abrupt plans to dismantle NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate

I urge that you please exercise your oversight authority by contacting NSF leadership and OMB to express concern about their plans to abruptly eliminate NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate with no notice, stated rationale, or Congressional or stakeholder engagement.

(b) Additional Talking Points for Members Sitting on Relevant Congressional Committees

*Your Members of Congress may sit on important committees that have funding and/or oversight authority for NSF. If that is the case, below is language you can add to the general message above to ask that they take specific actions in response to the SBE threat. See the **appendix** for a listing of relevant House/Senate committees and their members to identify if any represent your state/district.*

***** SENATE COMMITTEES *****

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

<https://www.help.senate.gov>

*This committee is responsible for confirming nominations put forward by the President of the United States. In March, the President **nominated** Jim O’Neill to be the next NSF Director. His nomination must be confirmed by the Senate. The Senate has not yet scheduled a hearing, providing time for you to communicate with Senators who sit on the HELP Committee.*

Additional talking points for communications with Senate HELP Committee Members:

As you know, the President has nominated Jim O’Neill to be the next NSF Director. In advance of a confirmation hearing, I urge you to meet one-on-one with Mr. O’Neill to discuss his goals for the agency. I hope you will share your concerns about the threat to SBE discussed above and ask if he will support SBE in his role as NSF Director. Please consider asking a question along these lines during any future confirmation hearing.

Senate Commerce, Science, Transportation Committee

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov>

This is an “authorizing committee” that has oversight responsibility for NSF. Most non-funding NSF legislation introduced in Congress will go through the Senate Commerce Committee. While the Senate HELP Committee is tasked with holding confirmation hearings for the President’s nominee for NSF Director, members of the Senate Commerce Committee may also wish to engage with Mr. O’Neill prior to his confirmation given the Committee’s oversight jurisdiction.

Additional text for communications with Senate Commerce Committee Members:

As you know, the President has nominated Jim O’Neill to be the next NSF Director. In advance of a confirmation hearing, I urge you to meet one-on-one with Mr. O’Neill to discuss his goals for the agency. I hope you will share your concerns about the

threat to SBE discussed above and ask if he will support SBE in his role as NSF Director.

Senate Appropriations Committee/Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee
(<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/subcommittees/commerce-justice-science-and-related-agencies>)

The Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee is responsible (along with its House counterpart) for drafting annual appropriations bills for NSF and other federal agencies under its purview. As such, it is very important that members of this subcommittee hear from constituents about their funding concerns within the bill.

Additional text for communications with Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Members:

As you know, for years, including the FY 2026 Senate CJS Appropriations Bill, the Committee has included report language about the importance of the SBE Directorate and directing NSF to provide adequate support. In addition, the explanatory statement accompanying the final FY 2026 appropriations bill included the following language:

“In developing the spending plan and allocating funds, the agreement directs NSF to equitably distribute funding to support all basic research directorates within R&RA, as well as the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate. No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level.”

NSF leadership has elected to ignore this language in their FY 2026 operating plan, as they did in FY 2025. It is my understanding that NSF intends to allocate \$50 million to SBE in FY 2026 (not including funding for the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics). For comparison, SBE received \$150 million in FY 2025 (also in defiance of Congressional report language) and \$216 million in FY 2024. Clearly, the agency continues to sidestep Congressional intent.

As a member of the CJS Subcommittee, I urge you to take the following actions:

1. Reject the President’s proposal to zero-out the SBE Directorate in FY 2027.
2. Make a formal inquiry to NSF about their decision to ignore FY 2026 report language in their operating plan.
3. Urge the Appropriations Committee to use last year’s report language, that *“No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level,”* as the basis for bill language in the FY 2027 bill, giving it the force of law.

4. Raise your concerns about NSF's plans for SBE during any NSF budget hearings scheduled this year.

***** HOUSE COMMITTEES *****

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

(<https://science.house.gov>)

This is an “authorizing committee” that has oversight responsibility for NSF. Most non-funding NSF legislation introduced in Congress will go through the House Science Committee. In addition, the Science Committee often holds hearings featuring federal agency leaders to discuss the Administration’s budget request. NSF leadership is often called to testify. Members of this Committee may be interested in learning more about the SBE issue and could offer assistance.

Additional text for communications with House Science Committee Members:

As you may recall, the explanatory statement accompanying the final FY 2026 appropriations bill included the following language:

“In developing the spending plan and allocating funds, the agreement directs NSF to equitably distribute funding to support all basic research directorates within R&RA, as well as the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate. No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level.”

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As a member of the Science Committee, I urge you to take the following actions:

1. Request the Committee hold an oversight hearing to discuss the President’s FY 2027 budget and the proposal to zero out the SBE Directorate.
2. Make a formal inquiry to NSF about their decision to ignore FY 2026 report language in their operating plan. I hope that you will consider asking a question along these lines during any future confirmation hearing.

House Appropriations Committee/Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee
(<https://appropriations.house.gov/subcommittees/commerce-justice-science-and-related-agencies-0>)

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1. Reject the President’s proposal to zero-out the SBE Directorate in FY 2027.
2. Make a formal inquiry to NSF about their decision to ignore FY 2026 report language in their operating plan.
3. Urge the Appropriations Committee to use last year’s report language, that “No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level,” as the basis for bill language in the FY 2027 bill, giving it the force of law.
4. Raise your concerns about NSF’s plans for SBE during any NSF budget hearings scheduled this year.

II. The Value and Reach of NSF’s SBE Directorate

The language in this section discusses the genesis of and the unique role the SBE Directorate plays at NSF and within the research community. This language can be useful when discussing or responding to questions about why NSF requires a separate SBE Directorate.

While the smallest of NSF’s research directorates, SBE’s impact is significant. The Directorate provides nearly two-thirds of all funding for basic academic research in the social and behavioral sciences (excluding psychology) in the U.S., yet the budget for the directorate has historically fallen below five percent of the total NSF budget. For some fields like political science, anthropology, and linguistics, SBE is among the only sources of federal support.

Despite SBE’s challenging funding history, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine concluded in its 2017 consensus report, *The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities*¹, that “nearly every major challenge the United States faces—from alleviating unemployment to protecting itself from terrorism—requires understanding the causes and consequences of people’s behavior. Even societal challenges that at first glance appear to be issues only of medicine or engineering or computer science have social and behavioral components.”

Unfortunately, if the numbers rumored to be in NSF’s FY 2026 operating plan hold, SBE’s share of the NSF budget this fiscal year would fall to just one percent, providing further evidence that the agency is actively working to phase out the directorate. See the **appendix** for a recent history of SBE funding.

The impact of SBE’s closure would be felt across the foundation as SBE has a long track record of successful partnership with other NSF directorates. In terms of co-funding projects, SBE’s largest collaborator within NSF is the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE). SBE also partners with the Geosciences (GEO), Biological Sciences (BIO), Engineering (ENG), Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP), and STEM Education (EDU) directorates.

Below are a few examples of the impact SBE has had on the work of other directorates:

- SBE research into organizational behavior, human-computer interaction, and workforce dynamics are among the contributions made to the work of the **ENG & CISE Directorates**. This research helps in the design and deployment of advanced

¹ <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24790/the-value-of-social-behavioral-and-economic-sciences-to-national-priorities>

technologies—like AI and cyberinfrastructure—by considering security, ethics, privacy, and user experiences.

- Investments made by SBE have literally saved lives by studying how communities and individuals respond to extreme weather events, providing important context for the work of the **GEO Directorate**.
- SBE research puts the work of the **BIO Directorate** into human and social contexts. It can provide a layer of behavioral understanding that cannot be achieved through biology alone.
- SBE research strengthens **STEM education** at various levels and informs training pathways that sustain the scientific enterprise.

These are just some of the ways research supported by the SBE Directorate inform discoveries across scientific fields. The same levels of collaboration with experts in SBE disciplines would not be possible if the Directorate were closed and limited expertise were spread across the agency. As was observed when the social and behavioral sciences were moved out of the biological sciences directorate into a new SBE Directorate in 1991, “It is unrealistic to expect that a biological scientist would be the most effective spokesperson for areas of science outside his or her disciplines².” Further, the task force charged with studying whether the social and behavioral sciences should be separated from the biological sciences in the early 1990s concluded:

“Scientists in the [social, economic, and psychological sciences] disciplines need an environment within NSF which fosters the particular styles of research and education they practice, and which meets their needs more exactly... Proper administration of these disciplines requires special attention, talent, and policies.”³

Concerns at the time that separating the social and behavioral sciences from the biological sciences would stifle collaboration were quickly put to rest and SBE has successfully partnered with disciplines across the foundation since. See the **appendix** for a brief history of SBE.

² 137 Cong. Rec. 10472 (1991)

³ *Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences Task Force Looking to the 21st Century Report, 1991*

III. Why Social and Behavioral Sciences?

This section provides messages you can use to talk more generally about the value of social and behavioral science research, including contributions made to other scientific disciplines. Examples may not be specific to the SBE Directorate.

Social and behavioral science encompasses a collection of STEM disciplines engaged in the rigorous study of why and how humans behave as they do as individuals, groups and within institutions, organizations, and society. It often refers to the disciplines and fields within anthropology, communication, demography, economics, education and human development, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics, as well as countless multidisciplinary subfields.

The U.S. federal government’s modest annual investment in social and behavioral science research yields significant benefits for the American people. New findings continue to increase the efficiency of our industries, improve the quality of K-12 education, help us understand crime patterns and evaluate prevention strategies, manage natural resources, keep our troops safe, and help us be informed as consumers. Knowledge derived from social and behavioral science research has made our population healthier, our democracy fairer, our nation safer, and our economy stronger.

The social and behavioral sciences do not work in silos. Multidisciplinary research—needed to tackle the big, complex questions—is a strength of the social and behavioral sciences. The skills and knowledge at the heart of social science—analytical and critical thinking, historical awareness, and cultural literacy, among others—are the very skills sought after by decision makers.

For example:

- Advances in computer science, such as machine translation and artificial intelligence, would not be possible without basic research in linguistics.
- U.S. families are now saving more for retirement thanks to insights from psychology and economics.
- Research in political science can help leaders understand the causes of international conflicts and the growth of violent extremism.
- Thanks to economics research into matching markets, those suffering from kidney disease now have a better chance of finding a compatible donor and prolonging their lives.

Additional examples of the ways social and behavioral science research informs and addresses issues of national and international significance are available in the **appendix**, on the [COSSA website](https://www.cossa.org), and at www.whysocialscience.com.

IV. SBE’s Contributions to Technological Advancement

This section provides additional information on SBE’s contributions to technology. Given the Trump Administration’s stated priorities—notably AI and quantum computing—this language may be helpful for underscoring the human aspects of technology development and automation.

Technological innovation is only as good as its ability to improve people’s lives. Whether an emerging crisis or a long-standing challenge, global or local in scope, geopolitically driven or naturally caused, leaders in this country and abroad find themselves in urgent need of solutions that are based on unbiased, sound, and reliable science and expertise that puts the issue in context. The social and behavioral sciences do this every day.

As technology continues to embed more deeply into our everyday lives (e.g., AI, smart appliances, self-driving cars, automation in manufacturing, etc.), social science is needed to add layers of understanding around security, equality, ethics, privacy, and ensure safeguards for protecting our most vulnerable. As one computer scientist observed:

“Social science is ... instrumental to computing not just to help answer the question of ‘what can we do?’, but also ‘what should we do?’ As algorithms and autonomous agents become increasingly part of daily life, the issue of algorithm bias, for example, requires much input from both social sciences and humanities. And as the world becomes ever more awash in digital data and as our technology becomes ever more adept at wading through it, social scientists are helping us understand the implications for privacy and offering ways to preserve it.”⁴

⁴ <https://www.whysocialscience.com/blog/2017/9/12/because-it-makes-computing-work-for-people>

V. SBE's Contributions to National Security

This section provides additional information on SBE's contributions to national security. This language may be helpful when communicating with policymakers who prioritize defense and national security funding.

The utility of the social and behavioral sciences to the broad topic of national security cannot be overstated. As one [Why Social Science?](#) contributor observed:

“The social sciences are what we use to make sense of international relations. Warfare and peacekeeping are fundamentally social, human activities, and the resources at stake in both are also essentially social: physical resources for survival, political identity, institutional prestige and influence, and shared ideation and values.”⁵

Although often painted with a broad brush, a particularly valuable attribute of the social sciences is its diversity of disciplines and fields. While all generally work toward a common goal of better understanding human behavior, organizations, and social contexts, the differences among individual fields—from sociology, anthropology, and economics, to linguistics, political science, psychology, and public opinion research—offer answers to human-centered questions from unique vantage points.

Few examples of social and behavioral science within the national security context:

- **Psychological scientists** address a broad a range of important issues and problems vital to our national security, including expertise in conflict prevention and resolution; promoting non-discriminatory and evidence-based recruitment and retention; modeling behavior of individuals and groups; as well as understanding and optimizing cognitive functioning, perceptual awareness, complex decision-making, stress resilience, and human-systems interactions.
- **Political science** elevates our understanding of the causes of international conflict and informs the means to prevent it. Research projects have tracked the growth of violent extremist organizations and relationships among groups to understand patterns in how they evolve and operate. Other political science work has mined foreign language data across the globe to understand causes of international strife and inform decision making on conflict prevention.

⁵ <https://www.whysocialscience.com/blog/2018/11/20/because-social-science-research-and-education-are-critical-for-national-security>

- In the domain of **linguistics** and **language science**, researchers investigated emotion recognition using nonverbal cues such as facial expressions, vocal tones, and body language. Based on this research, the Army Research Institute incorporated education on nonverbal communication into soldier training, enhancing troops’ ability to anticipate and diffuse conflict, as well as facilitate cooperation, negotiation, and compromise.⁶
- Recent years have seen a significant amount of recruitment into White supremacist extremist groups through gaming and other online communities, especially among young White males. **Sociologists** have found that once an individual is embedded within such groups, it is difficult to leave or shake off their hateful ideologies. Social science has informed the development of effective models for deradicalization, which can be shared among schools, parents, counselors, and mental health professionals. A model deradicalization policy can shrink the scope of White supremacist groups and reduce hate-motivated violence against ethnic, religious, and gender minorities.⁷

⁶ https://www.nsf.gov/about/congress/reports/sbe_research.pdf

⁷ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0003122417728719>

VI. Statutory Language and Congressional Directives

This section provides information on existing laws (statutes) governing social and behavioral science activities at the National Science Foundation. While SBE was not created by law, several laws were enacted by Congress directing NSF to engage in various social, behavioral, and economic science activities.

In addition, this section provides examples of other Congressional directives related to SBE, such as report language accompanying annual appropriations bill. Although not law and therefore not binding, appropriations report language expresses Congress' intent for the use of appropriated funds, which is expected to be considered by the agency.

Federal Statutes including Social and Behavioral Science

The National Science Foundation was created by the [National Science Foundation Act of 1950](#). The law has been amended in the intervening years to address the changing research landscape, new scientific frontiers, and policy changes.

According to the statute:

“The Foundation is authorized and directed –
“(1) to initiate and support basic scientific research and programs to strengthen scientific research potential and science education programs at all levels in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, social, and other sciences, and to initiate and support research fundamental to the engineering process and programs to strengthen engineering research potential and engineering education programs at all levels in the various fields of engineering...”

The Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate was created as a standalone directorate in 1991-1992 following intensive study by a taskforce of experts in biological science and social and behavioral sciences. It was formed by internal NSF directive, meaning there is no federal law that establishes SBE. See the **appendix** for a brief history of SBE.

However, countless laws have been enacted over the years directing NSF to invest in the social, behavioral, and economic science research.

For example:

- [15 USC Ch. 119 § 9411](#) – National Artificial Intelligence Initiative
- [42 USC Ch. 16, §1862u](#) – Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act

- [42 USC Ch. 16, §1862v](#) – Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act

Appropriations Report Language

For years, report language has appeared alongside the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Bill reinforcing Congress’s support for SBE and directing NSF to fund the directorate accordingly. Unlike bill language (which is what becomes law), “report language” is not binding. However, “Committee reports” are produced alongside appropriations bills to provide guidance to the agency about how Congress expects the agency to use the appropriated funds. The language is not law, but it does represent Congress’s intent when appropriating funds.

For example, a version of the following language has appeared in House, Senate, and final appropriations reports since at least FY 2020:

“Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The Committee encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.

This language sends a message to NSF that Congress believes SBE is a worthwhile investment and should be funded appropriately.

Other report language may direct the agency to allocate its appropriation in a specific way. For example, the explanatory statement accompanying the final FY 2026 CJS Bill (P.L. 119-4) states:

“In developing the spending plan and allocating funds, the agreement directs NSF to equitably distribute funding to support all basic research directorates within [Research and Related Agencies account – where SBE resides], as well as the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate. **No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level.**”

The intent behind this language is to prevent NSF from raiding the budget of one directorate in order to boost another. However, that is exactly what NSF is reportedly doing by cutting the SBE Directorate’s budget from \$150 million in FY 2025 to a rumored \$50 million in FY 2026. For reference, prior to the change of Administration, the SBE budget sat at approximately \$216 million for FY 2024 (not including funding for the National Center for

Science and Engineering Statistics). The FY 2025 and FY 2026 numbers provide further evidence that the agency is actively working to phase out the directorate with no attention to Congressional direction and intent.

Additional examples of federal law and Congressional direction related to the SBE sciences can be found in the **appendix** and on the [COSSA website](#).

VII. Appendix

- a. Congressional Committees Relevant to NSF
- b. SBE Budget History
- c. Brief SBE History
- d. Social and Behavioral Science Research Examples
- e. Statutes and Congressional Directives Pertaining to SBE

Congressional Committees Relevant to NSF

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

(<https://www.help.senate.gov>)

Republicans (majority)

Chair: Bill Cassidy, R-LA
Rand Paul, R-KY
Susan Collins, R-ME
Lisa Murkowski, R-AK
Roger Marshall, R-KS
Tim Scott, R-SC
Josh Hawley, R-MO
Tommy Tuberville, R-AL
Jim Banks, R-IN
Jon Husted, R-OH
Ashley Moody, R-FL
Alan Armstrong, R-OK

Democrats (minority)

Ranking Member: Bernie Sanders, D-VT
Patty Murray, D-WA
Tammy Baldwin, D-WI
Christopher Murphy, D-CT
Tim Kaine, D-VA
Maggie Hassan, D-NH
John Hickenlooper, D-CO
Edward Markey, D-MA
Andy Kim, D-NJ
Lisa Blunt Rochester, D-DE
Angela Alsobrooks, D-MD

Senate Commerce, Science, Transportation Committee

(<https://www.commerce.senate.gov>)

Republicans (majority)

Chair: Ted Cruz, R-TX
John Thune, R-SD
Roger Wicker, R-MS
Deb Fischer, R-NE
Jerry Moran, R-KS
Dan Sullivan, R-AK
Marsha Blackburn, R-TN
Todd Young, R-IN
Ted Budd, R-NC
Eric Schmitt, R-MO
John Curtis, R-UT
Bernie Moreno, R-UT
Tim Sheehy, R-MT
Shelley Capito, R-WV
Cynthia Lummis, R-WY

Democrats (minority)

Ranking Member: Maria Cantwell, D-WA
Amy Klobuchar, D-MN
Brian Schatz, D-HI
Edward Markey, D-MA
Gary Peters, D-MI
Tammy Baldwin, D-WI
Tammy Duckworth, D-IL
Jacky Rosen, D-NV
Ben Ray Lujan, D-NM
John Hickenlooper, D-CO
John Fetterman, D-PA
Andy Kim, D-NJ
Lisa Blunt Rochester, D-DE

Senate Appropriations Committee/Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee
(<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/subcommittees/commerce-justice-science-and-related-agencies>)

Republicans (majority)

Chair: Jerry Moran, R-KS
Lisa Murkowski, R-AK
Susan Collins, R-MA
Lindsey Graham, R-SC
Shelley Capito, R-WV
John Kennedy, R-LA
Bill Hagerty, R-TN
Katie Britt, R-AL
Deb Fischer, R-NE

Democrats (minority)

Ranking Member: Chris Van Hollen, D-MD
Jack Reed, D-RI
Jeanne Shaheen, D-NH
Christopher Coons, D-DE
Brian Schatz, D-HI
Jeff Merkley, D-OR
Gary Peters, D-MI
Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee
(<https://science.house.gov>)

Republicans (majority)

Chair: Brian Babin, R-TX-36
Randy Weber, R-TX-36
James Baird, R-IN-4
Daniel Webster, R-FL-11
Jay Obernolte, R-CA-23
Chuck Fleischmann, R-TN-3
Darrell Issa, R-CA-48
Claudia Tenney, R-NY-24
Scott Franklin, R-FL-18
Richard McCormick, R-GA-7
Mike Collins, R-GA-10
Vince Fong, R-CA-20
David Rouzer, R-NC-7
Keith Self, R-TX-3
Sheri Biggs, R-SC-3
Mike Haridopolos, R-FL-8
Pat Harrigan, R-NC-10
Jeff Hurd, R-CO-3
Mike Kennedy, R-UT-3
Nicholas Begich, R-AK-At Large
Matt Van Epps, R-TN-7

Democrats (minority)

Ranking Member: Zoe Lofgren, D-CA-18
Suzanne Bonamici, D-OR-1
Haley Stevens, D-MI-11
Deborah Ross, D-NC-2
Andrea Salinas, D-OR-6
Valerie Foushee, D-NC-4
Emilia Sykes, D-OH-13
Gabe Amo, D-RI-1
Suhas Subramanyam, D-VA-10
Luz Rivas, D-CA-29
Sarah McBride, D-DE-At Large
Laura Gillen, D-NY-4
George Whitesides, D-CA-27
Laura Friedman, D-CA-30
April McClain Delaney, D-MD-6
Josh Riley, D-NY-19
Christian Menefee, D-TX-18
Bill Foster, D-IL-11
Suzanne Bonamici, D-OR-1
Haley Stevens, D-MI-11

House Appropriations Committee/Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee
(<https://appropriations.house.gov/subcommittees/commerce-justice-science-and-related-agencies-0>)

Republicans (majority)

Chair: Hal Rogers, R-KY-5
Vice Chair Dale Strong, R-AL-5
John Carter, R-TX-31
Ben Cline, R-VA-6
Andrew Clyde, R-GA-9
Mark Alford, R-MO-4
Riley Moore, R-WV-2

Democrats (minority)

Ranking Member: Grace Meng, D-NY-6
Glenn Ivey, D-MD-4
Joe Morelle, D-NY-25
Madeleine Dean, D-PA-4
Frank Mrvan, D-IN-1

SBE Budget History (FY 2017 – FY 2026)

FY	Total Budget*	+/-	Administration
2026	\$50 million**	-66.7%	Trump
2025	\$150 million	-30.6%	Trump
2024	\$216 million	-5.7%	Biden
2023	\$229 million	0%	Biden
2022	\$229 million	1.2%	Biden
2021	\$227 million	0.7%	Biden
2020	\$225 million	3.8%	Trump
2019	\$217 million	10%	Trump
2018	\$197 million	-10.2%	Trump
2017	\$220 million	-0.8%	Trump

*Does not include funding for the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

**According to rumored FY 2026 operating plan sent to Congress in April 2026.

Brief History of the SBE Directorate

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the advisory committee to the then-Directorate for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences (BBS) started asking questions about the future of the social and behavioral sciences and whether their current placement alongside biological sciences was the best path forward. A task force was established in 1990 to review the activities of the current BBS Directorate and make recommendations about the future directions of the directorate, including whether creating a separate directorate for the social and behavioral sciences was warranted.

The task force held public meetings, including two days of in-person testimony by stakeholders in the scientific community, and invited almost 200 scientific societies spanning the BBS disciplines to provide input into the deliberations. In the end, the taskforce of 12 biologists and 8 social and behavioral scientists delivered a report in nine months concluding that the breadth and diversity of the research interests within BBS and the research potential of the social and behavioral sciences merited the creation of a separate SBE directorate:

“The Task Force came to the conclusion that the scope of the present directorate is far too broad to give sufficient attention to the social, economic, and psychological sciences while still encompassing the full range of fields within the biological sciences. Scientists in the [social, economic, and psychological sciences] disciplines need an environment within NSF which fosters the particular styles of research and education they practice and which meets their needs more exactly... Proper administration of these disciplines requires special attention, talent, and policies.” (BBS Sciences Task Force Looking to the 21st Century Report, 1991)

Following this work, the creation of the SBE Directorate was announced in October 1991 and started to take shape over the next year.



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY

Insights from the Social and Behavioral Sciences



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Ethical Development and Application of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming commonplace in daily life. Discussions about the development, use, and potential impacts of AI are happening across all aspects of society. From the perspective of social scientists, it is essential that people are mindful of how AI is designed and used. Ignoring human needs and interests in the development of AI will have negative effects on the usability and accessibility of those programs. Instead, human-centric perspectives on AI systems can generate high-quality and reliable processes while encouraging continuous evaluation and assessment of those systems. (Source: *Human-AI Teaming: State-of-the-Art and Research Needs, 2022, The National Academies Press*)



HEALTH CARE

Better Understanding of Vaccine Efficacy

Public mistrust of medical and scientific research can be exacerbated by a misunderstanding of how to interpret medical data from vaccine reports. For example, the success of a vaccine is measured by a *vaccine efficacy rate*, or how much a vaccine decreases your chances of being infected with a disease. If a vaccine has an efficacy rate of 95 percent, you are 95 percent less likely to contract the disease after vaccination compared to if you do not get vaccinated. However, researchers observed a common misinterpretation of this information by the public, with many believing that an efficacy rate of 95 percent means that a patient has a 5 percent chance of contracting the disease post-vaccination. This type of discrepancy can lead to confusion and mixed reporting, which, as underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, can deter the public from getting vaccinated at all. Social scientists determined that using visual graphics and general mathematics to present medical data in an easy-to-understand way can help people make more informed decisions about their health and reduce the overall mistrust of vaccines across the country. (Source: *NSF, DDRIG in DRMS: Lay Understanding of Vaccine Efficacy*)



WORKPLACE

Strengthening the Workforce of Tomorrow

As industries face increasing global complexities, the demand for a workforce with diverse, innovative problem-solving skills grows. Social and behavioral science has identified and responded to the challenges of strengthening the labor sector. Recognizing the social, political, and economic effects of workforce preparation, researchers have bridged the gap between employer needs and the educational institutions preparing future employees. Across fields, employers express a need for adaptability, continuous learning capacity, and social and emotional intelligence. Research has thus helped raise awareness of and establish experiential learning programs that engage communities and prepare students for future career success. (Source: *NSF, Crossing the bridge from network training to development: A guide to move trainees from classroom insights to effective networks*)



EDUCATION

Educational Impacts Outside the Classroom

Students' ability to succeed academically (in the traditional sense) goes beyond classroom instruction. Factors related to home life (e.g., socioeconomic status, family composition, family history of academic achievement, etc.) as well as external, societal forces (e.g., discrimination, school funding, stigmas, etc.) greatly impact an individual's disposition as it relates to education. Identifying these elements and measuring their respective effects can inform the implementation of educational equity into current systems, thereby better supporting students according to their individual needs. (Source: *Social Determinants of Learning: Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice. AERA Open, 9*)



INFRASTRUCTURE

Removing Barriers to Housing

Housing plays a crucial role in families securing opportunities for upward mobility. Whether this takes the shape of financial gain through low rent costs, zoning for better schools, or closer proximity to jobs, access to high-opportunity neighborhoods can

significantly improve quality of life for certain groups. However, with a lack of effective policy in place, this issue disproportionately affects families of color and increases residential segregation by income. Social science research studies these patterns and produces evidence-backed solutions, such as providing tailored material and information resources to low-income families to remove traditional housing barriers to upward mobility. (Source: *NSF, Creating Moves to Opportunity: Experimental Evidence on Barriers to Neighborhood Choice*)



DISASTERS Improving Crisis Resilience

Social and behavioral science researchers have identified and analyzed disparities in disaster preparedness and management. They have recognized gaps in communication of disaster management plans, identification of disaster risk, and access to social resources. In a crisis, citizens are left to rely on community and government response for support and resources, which is often worsened by racial and economic inequalities. Without proper response from these support systems, high-risk populations face greater hazards and longer recovery. Constructive solutions must focus on fostering collaborative and communicative relationships between the public and local government, encouraging civic participation in disaster preparedness, and addressing individuals' social and economic contexts. This body of work has helped federal, state, and local authorities better understand the lived experience of citizens during crisis and develop more effective policy responses. (Source: *NSF, RAPID: Capital, Coping, and the Displaced: Health, Well-Being, and Resiliency Among Hurricane Harvey Evacuees*)



POPULATION Broad Use of Demographics Studies

Research on human demographics (such as the decennial census) tells us *who* makes up a population. The results of these studies are applied to other research purposes to illustrate *how* outside factors affect people differently. In other words, the application of demographics data is endless, for both research and policy purposes. Demographics are used in medicine to identify at-risk populations of disease, in education to measure academic achievement, in business to market towards target audiences, in criminology to understand victimizations, and in politics

to determine campaign targets. Researchers can develop their own collections of population data for specific purposes, but free-to-access, large-scope, holistic collections can serve as the foundation for any topic of inquiry. (Source: *Census.gov*)



JUSTICE Preventing Wrongful Convictions

Psychological research has informed best practices for avoiding biased recordings of interrogations and false confessions made under coercion, which can lead to wrongful convictions. One study showed that when the camera is focused squarely on a suspect—with the interrogator either outside of the frame or only visible from behind—viewers are more likely to believe that any self-incriminating statement is voluntary, even in cases in which the interrogator seems to be coercing the suspect. When the camera is positioned so that both the interrogator and suspect can be seen in profile, the bias toward believing that the suspect is making statements willingly is gone. These findings have been used to develop guidelines for state agencies to ensure juries see accurate representations of interrogation. (Source: *NSF, Video-recorded Interrogations: Beyond Camera Perspective*)



HEALTH CARE Diagnosing and Treating PTSD

Social and behavioral science research has informed the development of diagnostic tools and treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The PTSD Checklist enables researchers and clinicians to monitor how symptoms change in response to treatment, aiding development and optimization of new therapies. Researchers have also helped to develop evidence-based interventions for treating individuals battling both PTSD and substance abuse, which often occur together when traumatized people turn to alcohol or drugs to manage pain. Anti-stigma public education campaigns informed by social and behavioral science research have been proven to reduce stigma related to PTSD and increase patients' willingness to seek treatment. (Source: *Treatment for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Military and Veteran Populations: Final Assessment, 2014, The National Academies Press*)

Why Social Science Matters for EDUCATION & WORK

UNDERSTANDING HOW PEOPLE’S CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE OVER TIME

Studies of education, the labor force, and aging that follow people over long periods of time provide important information about the factors that may lead to life outcomes. One example is the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) of people aged 50 and older—the premier source of information on the nation’s aging population. This large body of data from multiple sciences can help address a wide range of important questions about aging, such as how work, exercise, income, and other factors in middle age, affect circumstances in old age. Many countries around the world have modeled their own surveys after the HRS to understand their own aging populations. This type of research is made possible by access to large datasets—including data from federal statistical agencies and state administrative data systems—and helps to provide a more complete understanding of people and their well-being over time.



BILINGUALISM AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



A growing number of children in the United States live in homes in which a language other than English is spoken, leading to concerns from parents and teachers that speaking to their child in their home language will interfere with their child’s ability to learn English and succeed in school. However, social science research demonstrates that learning two languages either at home or in an early child care setting neither confuses children nor puts them at risk for slower language development.

Indeed, social science research indicates an underlying human capacity for learning two languages as easily as one. Newborns as young as 0-5 days old can discriminate between the sounds used in different languages. In addition, adults and children who are competent in two languages may have some cognitive advantages relative to those who only speak one language, such as greater cognitive flexibility, greater ability to regulate behavior, and less cognitive decline at older ages .

THE IMPORTANCE OF WILLPOWER

A person’s ability to delay gratification, to exert willpower, at an early age has surprising power to predict important outcomes in school and in life, according to social science research. A landmark study demonstrated that the longer that preschool children could wait for a reward, the higher were their later SAT scores, the better their emotional coping in adolescence, the higher their educational achievement as adults, the lower their rates of substance abuse, and the higher their sense of self-worth.

Social and behavioral research also uncovered a set of techniques that can help children delay gratification and control their impulses. When children learned these skills, their long-term outcomes as adolescents and adults were the same as those children who had initially been able to delay gratification.



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Adapted from: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities: A Report for the National Science Foundation* (2017). Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/24790>.

Why Social Science Matters for INDUSTRY & BUSINESS

DEVELOPING INTERNET SEARCH ENGINES



With a market capitalization of more than \$570 billion, Google is the world's second-most valuable company. Google's economic value rests on two pillars: its search engine, which processes over 3.5 billion search queries every day, and its advertising network, which features nearly 30 billion ads per day. Both these capabilities are based on developments in the social and behavioral sciences. Research cited in Google's patent was supported by four federal science agencies, including an \$81,800 grant in 1984 from the sociology program at the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study networks of corporate board members. The original version of the search engine resulted from a formula developed with NSF funding in the late 1990s by two graduate students.

IMPROVING SAFETY IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Airline accidents have decreased dramatically over the past 30 years. This reduction is partly due to improved aircraft crew training that is based on fundamental social and behavioral research. The airline industry used this basic research, in combination with applied research conducted in cockpit simulators and analyses of actual cockpit flight recordings, to develop a training program called crew resource management or cockpit resource management (CRM).

Other industries have copied and tailored CRM techniques. For example, medical schools and hospitals in the United States and around the world now teach and use anesthesia crisis resource management, which draws on the principles of team training. Firefighting crews and emergency responders have also applied CRM principles and training.



USING THE ALTITUDES OF THE WORLD POPULATION TO INFORM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING



In 1998, researchers developed an entirely new mapping technique that divided the earth into grids that were indexed by population size and by altitude. Many private firms became interested in the findings of this research because of the implications of altitude on several types of products. For instance, Frito-Lay used the data to understand the market for its products at different altitudes because air pressure in packaging needs to be different at different altitudes. Procter & Gamble also had an interest in the altitude distribution because soap and bubbles form differently at various altitudes. Intel was similarly interested because its computer chips cool differently at various altitudes.

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Why Social Science Matters for NATIONAL SECURITY

TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM



The National Science Foundation (NSF) played an early role in supporting research on terrorism and counterterrorism, beginning in the late 1980s. Recognizing that terrorists' behavior responds to counterterrorism policies in rational ways, this research used game theory to develop a model to inform counterterror policy. The U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Defense have sponsored subsequent applications of this research. These applications have focused on government hostage negotiations; an evaluation of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) cooperative program for combating international terrorism; the value of counterterror intelligence; and the first evaluation of the use of metal detectors to screen airline passengers.

FORECASTING POLITICAL INSTABILITY

NSF has funded research examining the root causes of political instability and indicators of early observable cues that a change in governance or political state is imminent. That research specifically studied cooperation and conflict, ethnic conflict, state stability, governance, and terrorism. Social science research was applied through support from DARPA and the U.S. Navy to create the Worldwide Integrated Crisis Early Warning System, which provides policy makers, operational commanders, and intelligence analysts insights and forecasts of changes in political stability.



SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS FOR THE MILITARY AND NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE



Social network analysis identifies and allows people to understand the relationships among individuals, organizations, and entities. It can illuminate key characteristics of relationships, such as the frequency of communication, affiliation, and other social relationships. Social network analysis can be applied to telephone data, school records, organizational structures, or any other relationship-based data. Some NSF-supported research has combined social network analysis with automated text analysis techniques to provide valuable information about the patterns of behavior of hackers and the vulnerabilities of the nation's cyber networks. These tools analyze hacker chats and other data more efficiently than had previously been possible, with the potential to improve predictions about future threats that are based on hackers' intentions.

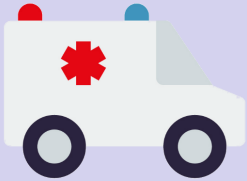
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Why Social Science Matters for PUBLIC HEALTH

DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND MORTALITY



Social and behavioral science research comparing generations born in 1912 and 1941 showed that, between these two generations, life expectancy at age 65 rose by 6 years for people in the top half of the earnings distribution, but by only 1 year for those in the bottom half.

Some groups with lower levels of education have experienced rising death rates over the last two decades; opioids, suicide, and alcohol-related diseases have played a role in this trend. This and other findings about the health and mortality of the U.S. population provide important data for decisions about public health and government programs, such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF “TOXIC” STRESS & SOCIAL ISOLATION

Social and behavioral researchers and neuroscientists working together have found a variety of ways in which behavior and biology affect each other. For example, adversities in life and how people perceive those adversities can determine whether genes are “turned on” (“expressed”), setting up conditions that affect health over the long term. Poverty, violence, and other sources of stress early in life alter children’s rapidly developing biological systems.

Research at the intersection of behavior and biology has also revealed that social isolation is a risk factor for early death, comparable in magnitude to well-established risk factors, such as smoking, obesity, and lack of physical activity. Identifying such risks in children before problems occur is critical for intervening early enough to prevent permanent damage to biological systems and avoid the costs they impose on individuals, families, and society.



CONTAINING EBOLA



Use of anthropological and ethnographic methods played an important role in containing the 2014 Ebola epidemic in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Anthropologists helped to save lives in these nations and to contain the disease, which had the potential to become a global threat. For example, because traditional methods of burial that call for the washing and touching of the dead are believed to have been responsible for 70 percent of new cases of infection in Sierra Leone, anthropologists developed a burial framework that allowed local people to see the body, but not have direct contact with it, and to include burial objects in the body bag prior to burial. The success of anthropologists as mediators in these situations led Doctors Without Borders to include anthropologists as part of their outbreak response to increase understanding and to facilitate relationships with local populations.

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Why Social Science Matters for SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

SIMULATIONS, MODELING, AND FORECASTING



Models and simulations that apply theories and principles of behavior can be used to develop and test policy ideas and interventions quickly, inexpensively, and safely. Social science research has been incorporated into models and algorithms that forecast life expectancy, help businesses manage risk, and protect U.S. ports by preventing terrorist attacks and maximizing the detection of illicit and hazardous cargo. Social science research can now be applied to anonymized and aggregated datasets (“big data”) generated by search engines, browsing logs, and social media posts to predict a wide range of collective human behaviors, such as consumer demand, unemployment claims, and mortgage default rates.

NEW METHODS OF COLLECTING AND ANALYZING DATA

Data collected from web-based surveys and smartphones can be biased and nonrepresentative. Social science research has begun to develop new models that use sophisticated statistical techniques for converting these inherently biased samples into unbiased estimates. These new methods could dramatically increase the scale, scope, and frequency of obtaining information from survey data by using real-time measures that draw on millions of responses to measure, for example, consumer or business activity, worker productivity, community well-being, or disease caseloads.

Respondent-driven sampling (also known as network sampling) is a relatively new method that allows researchers to collect important information about “hidden” or hard-to-reach groups, such as those at the greatest risk of infection from HIV/AIDS.



SHAPING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR



The theory of “nudging” describes an approach to policy design that accounts for systematic, irrational tendencies in people’s behaviors and decision making, building on Nobel Prize-winning work on the psychology of decision making. Nudging involves small changes in how choices or options are presented. These near-costless interventions can have remarkable effects. Examples that have yielded demonstrable results include changing the default on organ donation or retirement saving decisions from opt in to opt out (so that no action is required to be in the donation or savings pool) and notifying consumers about their neighbors’ energy consumption. The individual and societal benefits of these interventions have been so large that both the U.K. and U.S. governments have established offices dedicated to implementing nudging approaches to a wide range of government programs, with demonstrated policy results.

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Why Social Science Matters for THE ECONOMY

NEW WAYS TO ENCOURAGE SAVING FOR RETIREMENT



Despite the rise of 401(k) and related investments that allow individuals to save through tax-deferred pension plans, employers found that surprisingly few of their eligible employees (only 30%) signed up (“opted in”) to put any of their salary into those plans, even when their employers matched funds. A dramatic increase—to 90%—occurred as a result of a simple change: automatically enrolling workers and then allowing them to opt out rather than requiring them to opt in. Although this change may seem obvious in hindsight, it was informed by research on how people make decisions, process complex information, and think about the future.

MOVING FROM WELFARE TO WORK

Data from the National Science Foundation-funded Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), an ongoing study of a nationally representative sample of families and individuals that gathers data on employment, income, wealth, expenditures, health, marriage, childbearing, child development, philanthropy, education, and many other topics, was used to determine how and why women moved off of welfare. While many believed that women left welfare through marriage, the data showed that most women left welfare through work. The PSID also showed that women on welfare worked much more than most people assumed, but that their work was too poorly paid to lift them out of poverty.

These findings influenced the inclusion in welfare reform legislation of work requirements on welfare recipients combined with programs to provide the work-based assistance women needed to care for their families and become self-sufficient. As a result, there was a significant increase in the number of single mothers who became employed and improved their own economic status and that of their children.



AUCTIONING OFF RADIO FREQUENCIES



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sells the radio frequency spectrum to companies that need bandwidth to transmit sound, data, and video to individual and corporate customers. Before the 1990s, the FCC used simple auctions, such as lotteries with random winners, from the list of all bidders. Then, beginning in the early 1990s, the FCC began using research (some of which had been funded by NSF’s Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorate) that had developed mathematical principles to ensure that auction winners would pay a fair price. The FCC tested and adopted an algorithm to use with communication companies that allows companies to compete profitably but also ensures that consumers are not overcharged and taxpayers are not subsidizing unreasonable corporate profits. The additional government revenue from the initial auctions has been estimated at \$60 billion; because this auction design was adopted by the FCC for later auctions and then spread worldwide, the estimated additional government revenue now totals about \$200 billion.



Statutes and Congressional Directives Pertaining to NSF’s Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)

Updated April 2026

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I. NSF Statutes Related to SBE

42 U.S.C. 1862	<p>§1862. Functions</p> <p>(a) Initiation and support of studies and programs; scholarships; current register of scientific and engineering personnel</p> <p>The Foundation is authorized and directed-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) to initiate and support basic scientific research and programs to strengthen scientific research potential and science education programs at all levels in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, social, and other sciences, and to initiate and support research fundamental to the engineering process and programs to strengthen engineering research potential and engineering education programs at all levels in the various fields of engineering, by making contracts or other arrangements (including grants, loans, and other forms of assistance) to support such scientific, engineering, and educational activities and to appraise the impact of research upon industrial development and upon the general welfare;</p>
42 U.S.C. 1862p	<p>§1862p. National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics</p> <p>Pub. L. 115–402, (Dec. 31, 2018) provided that:</p> <p>(a) Efficiency of Skilled Technical Labor Markets.-The Director of the National Science Foundation, working through the Directorate of Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, shall support research on labor market analysis innovations, data and information sciences, electronic information tools and methodologies, and metrics.</p>
42 U.S.C. 1862o-5	<p>§1862o–5. Meeting critical national science needs</p> <p>(a) In general</p> <p>In addition to any other criteria, the Director shall include consideration of the degree to which awards and research activities that otherwise qualify for support by the Foundation may assist in meeting critical national needs in innovation,</p>

	<p>competitiveness, safety and security, the physical and natural sciences, technology, engineering, social sciences, and mathematics.</p> <p>(b) Priority treatment The Director shall give priority in the selection of awards and the allocation of Foundation resources to proposed research activities, and grants funded under the Foundation's Research and Related Activities Account, that can be expected to make contributions in physical or natural science, technology, engineering, social sciences, or mathematics, or that enhance competitiveness, innovation, or safety and security in the United States.</p>
42 U.S.C. 1862v	<p>§1862v. National Science Foundation research</p> <p>(a) In general The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and taking into consideration prioritized research agendas or strategic plans, as appropriate, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of higher education (or consortia of such institutions) to support multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment, including, but not limited to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) basic understanding of human social behavior; (2) the neural basis of human cognition; (3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural, and biological processes related to human development across the lifespan; (4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor, and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in typical human behavior; and (5) basic understanding of the relevance of drug and alcohol abuse.
42 U.S.C. 1862w	<p>§1862w. NSF support of research on impacts of social media on human trafficking</p> <p>(b) Support of research The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the impact of online social media platforms on the maintenance or expansion of human trafficking, which may include-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) fundamental research on digital forensic tools or other technologies for verifying the authenticity of social media platform users and their materials, that are utilized in the promotion or operation of human trafficking networks; (2) fundamental research on privacy preserving technical tools that may aid law enforcement's ability to identify and prosecute individuals or entities promoting or involved in human trafficking;

	<p>(3) social and behavioral research related to social media platform users who engage with those promoting or involved in human trafficking;</p> <p>(4) research on the effectiveness of expanding public understanding, awareness, or law enforcement efforts in combating human trafficking through social media platforms; and</p> <p>(5) research awards coordinated with other Federal agencies and programs, including the Information Integrity Research and Development Interagency Working Group and the Privacy Research and Development Interagency Working Group of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice, the Blue Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the Department of State, and activities of the Department of Transportation and the Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking.</p>
42 U.S.C. 19055	<p>§19055. Social, behavioral, and economic sciences The Director shall-</p> <p>(1) actively communicate opportunities and solicit proposals for social, behavioral, and economic science researchers to participate in cross-cutting and interdisciplinary programs, including the Convergence Accelerator and agency priority activities, and the Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure program; and</p> <p>(2) ensure social, behavioral, and economic science researchers are represented on relevant merit review panels for such activities.</p>
42 U.S.C. 19056	<p>§19056. Measuring impacts of Federally funded research and development The Director shall make awards on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of higher education or non-profit organizations (or consortia of such institutions or organizations) to support research and development of data, models, indicators, and associated analytical tools to improve our understanding of the impacts of Federally funded research on society, the economy, and the workforce, including domestic job creation.</p>
42 U.S.C. 19066	<p>§19066. Technology and behavioral science research (a) In general The Director shall make awards on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis for research and development to-</p> <p>(1) increase understanding of social media and consumer technology access and use patterns and related mental health, behavioral, and substance use disorder issues, particularly for children and adolescents; and</p> <p>(2) explore the role of social media and consumer technology in rising rates of mental health and substance use disorder issues, including within communities experiencing long-term economic distress.</p> <p>(b) Coordination to avoid duplication</p>

	In making awards under this subsection, the Director shall, for purposes of avoiding duplication of activities and research, consult, collaborate, and coordinate with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services.
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II. Appropriations Report Language Pertaining to SBE

FY 2020	<p>H. Rept. 116-101 accompanying H.R. 3055 (link) Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2019 level for SBE.</p>
FY 2021	<p>H. Rept. 116-455 accompanying H.R. 7667 (link) Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE).—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains one of the smallest NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The committee believes SBE-supported research makes the US unique among other nations and recommends no less than the fiscal year 2020 levels for SBE activities.</p>
FY 2021	<p>Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 116-260 (link) Maintaining Core Research.—NSF shall maintain its core research at levels not less than those provided in fiscal year 2020, including supporting existing observational networks and research infrastructure, including astronomy facilities, the academic research fleet, federally funded research and development centers and the national high-performance computing centers.</p>
FY 2022	<p>H. Rept. 117-97 accompanying H.R. 4505 (link) Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our</p>

	<p>understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The Committee encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p>
FY 2023	<p>H. Rept. 117-395 accompanying H.R. 8256 (link) Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The Committee encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p>
FY 2023	<p>Explanatory Statement accompanying S. 4664 (link) Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].—The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The SBE directorate funds more than half of our Nation’s university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate’s unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p>
FY 2024	<p>S. Rept. 118-62 accompanying S.2321 (link) Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].—The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The SBE Directorate funds more than half of our Nation’s university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate’s unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p>
FY 2025	<p>S. Rept. 118-198 accompanying S. 4795 (link) Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].—The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in</p>

	<p>advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The SBE Directorate funds more than half of our Nation’s university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate’s unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p> <p>NSF is encouraged to support broad-based research in the SBE Directorate to develop and publish recommendations, including from researchers in the social sciences and ethics and technical subject matter experts, on concrete and practical guidelines for how organizations will and should deploy AI systems and identify limitations and concerns about specific deployment of AI systems in settings.</p>
FY 2026	<p>S. Rept. 119-44 accompanying S. 2354 Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].—The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The Committee provides not less than the fiscal year 2024 enacted level for the SBE Directorate. The SBE Directorate funds more than half of our Nation’s university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate’s unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p> <p>NSF is encouraged to support broad-based research in the SBE Directorate to develop and publish recommendations, including from researchers in the social sciences and ethics and technical subject matter experts, on concrete and practical guidelines for how organizations will and should deploy AI systems and identify limitations and concerns about specific deployment of AI systems in settings.</p>
FY 2026	<p>Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 119-4 (link) The agreement includes \$7, 176,500,000 for Research and Related Activities (R&RA). In developing the spending plan and allocating funds, the agreement directs NSF to equitably distribute funding to support all basic research directorates within R&RA, as well as the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate. No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level.</p>

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