CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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

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I. NSF Statutes Related to SBE

42 U.S.C. 1862	**§1862. Functions** (a) Initiation and support of studies and programs; scholarships; current register of scientific and engineering personnel 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, 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;
42 U.S.C. 1862p	**§1862p. National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics** Pub. L. 115–402, (Dec. 31, 2018) provided that: (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.
42 U.S.C. 1862o-5	**§1862*o*–5. Meeting critical national science needs** (a) In general 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,**

	competitiveness, safety and security, the physical and natural sciences, technology, engineering, social sciences, and mathematics. (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.
42 U.S.C. 1862v	**§1862v. National Science Foundation research** (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- **(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	**§1862w. NSF support of research on impacts of social media on human trafficking** (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- (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;

	(3) **social and behavioral research related to social media platform users who engage with those promoting or involved in human trafficking;** **(4) research on the effectiveness of expanding public understanding, awareness, or law enforcement efforts in combating human trafficking through social media platforms; and** (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.
42 U.S.C. 19055	**§19055. Social, behavioral, and economic sciences** The Director shall- **(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 **(2) ensure social, behavioral, and economic science researchers are represented on relevant merit review panels for such activities.**
42 U.S.C. 19056	**§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.**
42 U.S.C. 19066	**§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- (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 (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. (b) Coordination to avoid duplication

	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.

II. Appropriations Report Language Pertaining to SBE

FY 2020	**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.**
FY 2021	**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.**
FY 2021	**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.
FY 2022	**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

	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.**
FY 2023	**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.**
FY 2023	**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.**
FY 2024	**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.**
FY 2025	**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

	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.** **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.**
FY 2026	**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.** **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.**
FY 2026	**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.**

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