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## Featured News

### A Note from COSSA

Friends – As I'm sure you have heard by now, the Trump Administration released its **budget request** for fiscal year (FY) 2027 last week, which seeks to boost military spending by more than 44 percent by slashing funding for domestic programs. Among the domestic accounts affected are federal science agencies for which, once again, the Administration has put forward budget proposals that would all but hand American science leadership to our global competitors. See the related article below for preliminary details about the budget request.

There will always be budget proposals by unsupportive Administrations seeking to cut funding for things they don't view as priorities. But at the end of the day, Congress alone has the power to appropriate funding. In that sense, the FY 2027 budget is dangerous and not surprising, but also not insurmountable.

**However, this year the threat is even more serious, potentially existential for the social and behavioral science community.** The budget request states that the National Science Foundation (**NSF**) plans to dismantle the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate in FY 2027, which itself is alarming. However, recent **reports** and confidential sources have confirmed that NSF leadership (which is currently "acting" given no permanent **NSF Director** is in place) will begin the dismantling *this year*. Such a move raises several red flags and likely violates current statute, not to mention sidesteps Congress' oversight and funding authority.

We will have a lot more to say about this development in the days and weeks ahead. For now, know that nothing is more important to COSSA than protecting the social and behavioral science community and the federal agencies that support it. We will be calling for your assistance as we fight these actions, and I hope you will join us.

Finally, **COSSA will hold a virtual town hall meeting for member organizations on Tuesday, April 14 at 1:00 pm ET.** To allow for as much candor and information sharing as possible, this meeting will be limited to those affiliated with COSSA member organizations (members register [here](#)). If you don't see your organization on COSSA's current [membership list](#), please be in touch. At this challenging time, we need the community to come together as much as possible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance as we work collectively to ensure a brighter path forward for social and behavioral science research.

With gratitude,



Wendy Naus  
COSSA Executive Director

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## New from COSSA

### ACT NOW!

Interested in taking action in support of social and behavioral science research? Below is a list of ways you can stay informed and lend your support to COSSA's advocacy efforts.

#### READ:

- **NEW:** ITIF: [Fact of the Week: The CHIPS and Science Act Generated About 15,000 Direct Jobs in Affected Counties](#)
- **NEW:** NBER: [Employment Impacts of the CHIPS Act](#)

#### ACT:

- COSSA Action Alert: [Prioritize Research and Statistics Funding in the FY 2027 Appropriations Bills](#)
- National Humanities Alliance Action Alert: [Take Action for Title VI](#)
- Sign-on Opportunity: [Gun Violence Prevention \(GVP\) Research Roundtable FY 2027 Appropriations Sign-On Letter](#) (Closes: April 10, 2026)

#### HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- [COSSA At-Home Advocacy Guide](#)
- [COSSA 101: A Crash Course on the Federal Government](#)
- [The Nation's Data at Risk: Ongoing Monitoring](#)
- [Grant Watch](#): Website for tracking terminated federal grants
  - [National Science Foundation](#)
  - [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [NSF Updates on Priorities and FAQs](#)
- [NIH Grants and Funding Information Status](#)
- [HHS Terminated Grants](#) (managed by HHS)

Please send any additional opportunities to [ebailey@coffa.org](mailto:ebailey@coffa.org) to include in future Washington Updates.

## Register Now: Understanding NSF's Merit Review Updates with Wanda Ward



On April 9, join COSSA for the next Headlines webinar on changes to NSF's Merit Review Process, the recently published "[Merit Review for a Changing Landscape](#)" Report, and what that means for social and behavioral science research. The webinar will feature special guest Wanda Ward, Chair of the National Science Board's Commission on Merit Review. [Register now](#) and join the conversation.

If you missed our March Headlines webinar covering recent policy developments and tips on how to advocate from home, you can find the recording [here](#).

Headlines is a webinar series available to COSSA [member organizations](#). Watch for additional webinar announcements, and previous webinar recordings, on the COSSA [website](#).

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## Congressional News

### Trump Proposes Steep Cuts to Federal Funding in FY 2027 Budget Request

On April 3, the Trump Administration transmitted its [fiscal year \(FY\) 2027 budget request](#) to Congress. Included in the budget request are significant cuts that would decimate the U.S. scientific enterprise, including a repeated proposal to slash the National Science Foundation's (NSF) budget by more than half (see NSF's budget proposal [here](#)). The Administration has also proposed eliminating funding for NSF's Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE). Notably in previous appropriations bills, Congress has directed the agency to fully-fund the SBE directorate.

The Administration's proposal also repeats several provisions and reorganization proposals from the previous year's request, including a proposal to cap indirect costs at 15 percent and to create a new Administration for a Healthy America (AHA).

See the table below for a snapshot of the President's budget request. Note that details remain limited for some federal departments and agencies and will be released in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned for COSSA's full analysis of the President's budget request in the coming weeks.

	(in millions)	FY 2026 Final	FY 2027 Request	Request vs. FY 2026
National Science Foundation		8750.0	3963.15	-54.7%
National Institutes of Health		47216.0	41471.0	-12.2%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality		345.4	0.0	-100%
Institute of Education Sciences		789.6	261.3	-66.9%
International Education & Foreign Language Studies		80.7	0.0	-100%
Bureau of Labor Statistics		708.5	668.0	-5.7%

When considering an Administration's budget proposal, it is important to remember that it remains a largely symbolic policy document outlining the Administration's priorities for the year ahead. While it is possible that some of the President's requests will be enacted, Congress has the final say over the appropriation of funds.

## Sen. Welch Requests GAO Report on Impact of Scientific Research

On March 24, Senator Peter Welch (D-VT) sent a [letter](#) to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting a full review of the economic, scientific, and national security impacts of the elimination of federal funding for scientific research. In the letter, he raised concerns about the Administration's proposal of a 15 percent cap on indirect rates, arguing it would "cut \$5 billion annually from university-based research nationwide". Further, Sen. Welch highlighted the positive economic impact of scientific research, claiming that cuts to agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) would result in a loss of economic output between \$10 and \$16 billion annually, and significantly reduce American jobs. Federal funding, argued the Senator, is the "backbone" of the U.S. scientific research enterprise. To this end, Sen. Welch requested GAO produce a report that details the current state of research programs at colleges and universities and recent changes to available federal funding for grants and training programs, and the impacts of these changes on academic research output, workforce and economic development, U.S. global competitiveness, and research security.

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## Executive Branch News

### NIH Requesting Comments on Strategic Plan

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a [request for information](#) (RFI) asking for stakeholder comments on the proposed framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2027-2031 slated for an FY 2027 release. Rather than focus on specific research opportunities or institute initiatives, NIH releases a strategic plan every five years to highlight the achievements of the agency and set broader priorities.

The proposed framework for the new strategic plan highlights several goals, including improving foundational knowledge of human health and disease, addressing public health challenges across the lifespan, developing and advancing interventions, treatments, and cures, improving infrastructure and sustaining a research workforce, and improving public trust in science.

Comments will be accepted through May 26, 2026, and can be submitted [here](#).

### Trump Announces New Members to PCAST

On March 25, President Trump [announced](#) his first appointments to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), the body of external advisors charged with making science, technology, and innovation policy recommendations to the President and the White House. In a departure to past PCASTs, the appointees include several private sector executives in the tech sphere, including returning members Lisa Su and Michael Dell who served in the Council during the Biden and Bush Administrations, respectively, in addition to Mark Zuckerberg and Larry Ellison. Additional members are expected to be appointed at a later date. Notably, none of the appointees have experience in social or behavioral science.

According to the President's announcement, the Council will be charged with addressing "topics related to the opportunities and challenges that emerging technologies present to the American workforce." The Council has yet to set a date for their first meeting.

See [COSSA's previous coverage](#) on PCAST.

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# People in the News

- Research!America announced its selection of [Russ Paulsen](#) as its next President and Chief Executive Officer, effective May 4.
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that [Elisabeth Armstrong](#) has been named chief of staff in the NIH Office of the Director. As chief of staff, Dr. Armstrong will oversee the Office of the Director.

## Resources & Opportunities

### COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 3/27/2026: [Friends of NCHS Letter to Congress on FY 2027 Funding for the National Center for Health Statistics](#)
- 3/23/2026: [Friends of IES Letter to LHHS Appropriators on FY 2027 Funding for the Institute of Education Sciences](#)

### Funding Opportunities

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

### Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- USDA: [Request for Information on Opportunities, Challenges, and Emerging Areas in Statistical Data, Analysis, and Research](#) (Closes: April 9, 2026)
- NSF: [Request for Comment on Renewal of the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering](#) (Closes: May 8, 2026)
- NIST: [Request for Comment on CHIPS Workforce Solution Participant Data Collection](#) (Closes: May 18, 2026)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Request for Information Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031](#) (Closes: May 26, 2026)
- NSF: [Request for Comment on Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation Program](#) (Closes: June 30, 2026)

### Notices, Resources, & Reports

- SPSSI: [Rethinking Inequality: Leveraging Psychological Science to Advance Economic Justice](#)
- **NEW:** [Availability of Federal Data: Policy Considerations for Disclosure, Preservation, and Governance](#)

### Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- AAS: [John N. Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship](#) (Closes: April 15, 2026)
- AIP: [Science Policy News, Director](#) (Rolling Deadline)

- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Rolling Deadline)

## Upcoming Events

- NIH: [Developing the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031 Webinar](#), April 8, 2026, Virtual
- **NEW:** NSF: [NSF Introductory Webinar to FINDERS FOUNDRY](#), April 8, 2026, Virtual
- **NEW:** COSSA: [April Headlines Webinar: Understanding NSF's Merit Review Updates with Wanda Ward](#), April 9, 2026, Virtual
- MPSA: [MPSA Annual Conference](#), April 23-26, 2026, Hybrid or Chicago, IL
- **NEW:** NIH: [2026 NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Festival Webinar Series](#), April 30, 2026, Virtual
- AAPOR: [AAPOR 81st Annual Conference](#), May 13-15, 2026, Los Angeles, CA
- APPAM: [Fall Research Conference](#), November 5-7, 2026, Boston, MA

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the [COSSA events page](#). COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to [ebailey@coffa.org](mailto:ebailey@coffa.org).

## COSSA Members

### Governing Associations

American Association for Public Opinion Research  
 American Economic Association  
 American Educational Research Association  
 American Political Science Association  
 American Society of Criminology  
 American Sociological Association  
 American Statistical Association  
 Law and Society Association  
 Midwest Political Science Association  
 National Communication Association  
 Population Association of America  
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
 Society for Research in Child Development

### Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
 African Studies Association  
 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
 American Anthropological Association  
 American Association of Geographers  
 American Council of Learned Societies  
 American Evaluation Association  
 American Historical Association  
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
 Association of American Law Schools  
 Association of Research Libraries  
 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences

### Colleges and Universities

Boston University  
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 California State University, San Bernardino  
 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 George Mason University  
 Georgetown University  
 Harvard University  
 Indiana University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Michigan State University  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northwestern University  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Princeton University  
 Stanford University  
 University of Arizona  
 University of California, Irvine  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of California, Riverside  
 University of California, Santa Barbara  
 University of Colorado, Boulder  
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 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Texas, Austin

Division for Research of the Council for  
Exceptional Children  
Economic History Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Council on Family Relations  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Prevention Research  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of  
Social Issues  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southwestern Social Science Association

### Affiliates

SAGE Publishing

University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
Yale University

### Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social  
Science  
American Institutes for Research  
Center for Advanced Study in the  
Behavioral Sciences  
Child Trends  
Institute for Social Research, University of  
Michigan  
Institute for Social Science Research,  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

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### About COSSA

*The Consortium of Social Science  
Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit  
advocacy organization working to promote  
sustainable federal funding for and  
widespread use of social and behavioral  
science research and federal policies that  
positively impact the conduct of research.  
COSSA serves as a united voice for a  
broad, diverse network of organizations,  
institutions, communities, and stakeholders  
who care about a successful and vibrant  
social science research enterprise. The  
COSSA membership includes professional  
and disciplinary associations, scientific  
societies, research centers and institutes,  
and U.S. colleges and universities.*

### Our Team

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