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COSSA's Save SBE Toolkit

As COSSA has been reporting, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) is currently **at risk** of being eliminated. The Trump Administration's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2027 would zero out funding for SBE starting next fiscal year without providing notice or explanation to the research community. COSSA is working with friends across the scientific community to fight back.

We have created a [Save SBE webpage](#) with resources you can use in your own efforts to defend SBE and promote the work of the social and behavioral sciences. The latest resource is the [SBE Messaging Guide](#). This document was prepared for you to use when communicating with Congress, other scientific communities, the general public, or with anyone else about the value of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. You are welcome to use language directly from the guide in your own communications.

Be sure to bookmark the page as additional materials are being added regularly.

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.

ACT:

- **NEW:** COSSA: [FY 2027 NIJ & BJS Stakeholder Sign-on Letter](#) (Closes: April 28, 2026)
- **NEW:** COSSA Action Alert: [Tell Congress to Save NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate!](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Urge Congress to Prioritize Robust Science Funding!](#)
- **DEADLINE EXTENDED!** Sign-on Opportunity: [Gun Violence Prevention \(GVP\) Research Roundtable FY 2027 Appropriations Sign-On Letter](#) (Closes: April 30, 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 to include in future Washington Updates.

New Action Alert: Tell Congress to Save NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate!



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 research in the social and behavioral sciences in the U.S. However, even more concerning are recent reports that NSF leadership plans to begin dismantling the Directorate this year. Such a move raises several red flags and likely violates current statute, not to mention sidesteps Congress' oversight and funding authority.

Now is the time to come together as a community and urge Congress to intervene and protect the SBE Directorate from the Administration's devastating plan. [Write to your House Representative and Senators TODAY](#) to share your concerns and urge them to intervene.

Congressional News

House Releases Markup Schedule for Science Funding Bills

On April 13, the House Appropriations Committee released the [markup schedule](#) for the fiscal year (FY) 2027 appropriations bills. The Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Bill (CJS), which provides annual appropriations for the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the U.S. Census Bureau, is scheduled to be reviewed by the CJS Subcommittee on April 30 with the full Appropriations Committee markup scheduled for May 13. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Bill (LHHS), which funds the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Education, Department of Labor, is scheduled to be reviewed by the LHHS Subcommittee on June 5 and full committee on June 9. The Senate has yet to release their schedule.

As the House and Senate draft their appropriations bills, several budget hearings have been scheduled on Capitol Hill, including several with Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (see related article).

Stay tuned for [COSSA's continued coverage](#) of the FY 2027 appropriations process.

HHS Secretary Defends FY 2027 Budget to House Appropriations Subcommittee

On April 16, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. [defended](#) the President's fiscal year (FY) 2027 budget request to the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee (LHHS). The hearing highlighted several priority areas for the Administration, including chronic disease, vaccine efficacy, agriculture and food safety, rural health, and cyber and national security.

During his opening statement, Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) offered his support to the Administration and the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) initiative; however, he stated that it would be unlikely for the Administration and Congress to "agree on areas for reduction." He continued that he is a "strong supporter of investments" for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and argued that "extreme swings in funding supporting biomedical research are counterproductive." Later in the hearing, Rep. Stephanie Bice (R-OK) also expressed her support for sustained and robust funding for the agency, stating, "Breakthroughs do not happen by accident, they grow from long term commitments to discovery, stable funding streams, and a national belief that medical innovation is both possible and necessary." The Administration proposed a 12 percent decrease to NIH in the FY 2027 budget request; the request to slash the NIH budget in FY 2026 was ultimately rejected by Congress ([see previous coverage](#)).

The hearing continued with several points of contention, including the Administration's proposal to reduce the overall HHS budget by 12.5 percent and reorganize several of the department's agencies and programs. In her opening statement, Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) criticized the request, arguing that it would harm the public health of the country. She further raised concerns about Secretary Kennedy's personal opinions on subjects like vaccine safety and food safety influencing policy without the support of evidence-based research. In his opening statement, Secretary Kennedy argued that the Administration's budget proposal was simply "challenging the status quo" and the system that upheld it.

Secretary Kennedy continued to field questions about the status of the department, including concerns from Ranking Member DeLauro about whether appropriated funds are being released by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to the appropriate agencies. Further, she requested that Secretary Kennedy share with the Committee the FY 2026 spend plans for the agencies within the department, claiming that they were being withheld. To this end, Secretary Kennedy agreed to work with staff to release the plans to Congress.

Under questioning from Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Secretary Kennedy told the Committee that HHS had replaced their nearly 20,000 terminated staff with "better" people to solve chronic disease, bringing the total employees back to the amount before the mass layoffs

last year. However, when pressed by Rep. Hoyer on whether the new employees were political or career scientists, Secretary Kennedy claimed that most of the employees were recalled from the layoffs.

A recording of the hearing and witness statements can be found [here](#). Stay tuned for [COSSA's continued coverage](#) of the FY 2027 appropriations process.

House SST Investigation and Oversight Subcommittee Holds Hearing on the State of Scientific Publishing

On April 15, the House Science, Space, and Technology (SST) Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) on the State of Scientific Publishing. During the hearing, several members raised concerns over scientific integrity and reproducibility in research, publishing corporations and paper mills, open access to federally funded research, and the potential risks that artificial intelligence (AI) and competition with China pose on the scientific ecosystem. Witnesses included Carl Maxwell, Senior VP for Public policy at the Association of American Publishers; Kate Travis, Managing Editor at Retraction Watch; and Jason Owen-Smith, Executive Director at the Institute for Research on Innovation and Science at the University of Michigan.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Rich McCormick (R-GA) highlighted the importance of enforcing credibility requirements in research to avoid AI hallucinations, falsified research findings, and scientific misconduct. On the other side of the aisle, Ranking Member Emilia Sykes (D-OH) criticized President Trump's Executive Order to [Restore the Gold Standard of Science](#) ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)) and the current administration's continued cuts to federally funded research and academic institutions. The Ranking Member also warned that the proposal to restrict the use of federal dollars for publishing and subscription fees suggested in the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Presidential Budget Request would "pull the rug out from under the research field". The Committee explored the implications of open access on research and national security ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)) with concerns of predatory publishing corporations potentially putting scientific integrity at risk and foreign competition.

A recording of the hearing and witness statements can be found [here](#).

Executive Branch News

NSF to Host Webinar on Funding Opportunities for Research Security Practices

On April 29, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will [host a webinar](#) on the different funding opportunities offered across the foundation's directorates related to research security practices. The following NSF programs will participate: Research on Research Security; Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Economic Development; Law & Science; Security and Preparedness; Security, Privacy, and Trust in Cyberspace; Science of Science: Discovery, Communication and Impact; and Cybersecurity Innovation for Cyberinfrastructure. Register [here](#).

Science Community News

Register Now: Enhancing Scientific Integrity: Progress and Opportunities in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Workshop

On April 23-24, the National Academy of Sciences will be hosting a workshop on "[Enhancing Scientific Integrity: Progress and Opportunities in the Social and Behavioral](#)

[Sciences](#)".

This virtual workshop will bring together researchers, journal editors, publishers, funders, and scientific association leaders to identify practical, forward-looking strategies for strengthening data integrity and transparency in the social and behavioral sciences. Participants will explore innovative tools and frameworks to detect and prevent errors, promote accountability, and reinforce public trust in research. Discussions will also consider how journals, institutions, and professional societies can adopt fair, sustainable practices that support scientific rigor while ensuring accessibility for researchers across many contexts and settings.

Register for the workshop [here](#).

People in the News

- President Trump nominated [Erica Schwartz](#) to be director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tapping a former public health leader for a position that has been filled mostly on a part-time or interim basis during the second Trump administration.

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 3/27/2026: [Friends of NCHS Letter to Congress on FY 2027 Funding for the National Center for Health Statistics](#)

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

- **NEW:** House Appropriations Committee: [Call for Submissions: Written testimony on FY27 Science Budget](#) (Closes: May 8, 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)
- 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

- **NEW:** GAO: [STEM: Additional Data Needed on Graduate Researcher and Postdoctoral Scholar Compensation](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** ANS: [Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship](#) (Closes: June 5)
- **NEW:** Science Philanthropy Alliance: [Civic Science Fellow](#) (Ongoing)
- **NEW:** Oceana: [Science and Strategy Fellow](#) (Ongoing)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Rolling Deadline)

Upcoming Events

- **NEW:** AAAS: [Engage with AAAS: What the Administration's FY27 Budget Request Means for Science](#), April 22, 2026, Virtual
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Enhancing Scientific Integrity: Progress and Opportunities in the Social and Behavioral Sciences - A Workshop](#), April 23-24, 2026, Virtual
- MPSA: [MPSA Annual Conference](#), April 23-26, 2026, Hybrid or Chicago, IL
- 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
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Annual State of the Science Address](#), June 2, 2026, Virtual and Washington, DC
- 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@coсса.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

Colleges and Universities

Boston University
 Brown University
 California State University, San Bernardino
 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 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

American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of American Law Schools
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
Division for Research of the Council for Exceptional Children
Economic History Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Sociological Society
National Council on Family Relations
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Southern Political Science Association
Southwestern Social Science Association

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing

University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Texas, Austin
University of 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

About COSSA

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

Our Team

Executive Director

Wendy A. Naus

Director of Public Affairs

Elyse Bailey

Associate Director of Government Relations

Kenzie Shelstad

Spring Term Intern

Malia Gunterman

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