



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

## Analysis of the FY 2027 House CJS Appropriations Bill for Federal Science Agencies | May 18, 2026

The House Appropriations Committee has begun consideration of its fiscal year (FY) 2027 appropriations bills. The Committee is working to approve all 12 funding bills by the end of June. On May 13, the Appropriations Committee reported out the FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Bill, which includes funding proposals for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and other agencies.

As we saw last year, the FY 2027 House CJS bill includes cuts to federal science agencies but does not go as far as the President’s budget request, which proposed massive reductions, specifically to NSF (see COSSA’s [full analysis](#) of the President’s FY 2027 budget request to Congress).

### Snapshot of the House CJS Appropriations Bill, FY 2027

<i>(in millions)</i>	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027			
		President’s Request	House Bill	House v. 2026	House v. Request
National Science Foundation	8750.0	3963.2	7000.0	-20%	77%
Bureau of the Census	1490.3	2011.5	1490.3	--	-26%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	110.3	114.0	114.2	3.5%	0.2%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	33.0	33.0	33.0	--	--
National Institute of Justice	22.0	22.0	22.0	--	--

On the other side of the Capitol, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees are busy drafting their own FY 2027 bills. While not scheduled yet, the Senate Appropriations Committee is reportedly seeking to start considering their bills in June.

Read on for COSSA’s analysis of the House CJS Appropriations bill. The bill language and accompanying report are available [here](#).

Stay tuned to [COSSA’s coverage](#) for the latest developments.

## National Science Foundation

The House CJS bill includes a total of \$7.0 billion for NSF, about \$1.75 billion or 20 percent below its current level. However, the President's budget request proposed a cut of nearly 55 percent to NSF. As [previously reported](#), the President's budget for FY 2027 proposed eliminating the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE). The House bill is silent on SBE, neither supporting nor rejecting the Administration's proposal. Stay up to date on COSSA's efforts to save the SBE directorate by visiting [cossa.org/action-center/save-sbe](https://cossa.org/action-center/save-sbe).

Notably, both the President's budget request and the House CJS bill propose eliminating the direct appropriation for NSF's **STEM Education Directorate (EDU)**. The CJS appropriations bill has traditionally provided a specific funding level for Research and Related Activities, which funds NSF's research directorates, and separate funding for STEM Education. The House bill endorses the President's plan to roll EDU into the Research and Related Activities line. As a result, under the House bill it is unclear at what level the EDU directorate would be funded in FY 2027. If it were to become law (which is unlikely), the House bill would leave lots of questions still to be answered.

### Notable Report Language

The Committee report accompanying the House bill includes notable provisions of interest to the research community.

#### Maintaining American Leadership in Research

The Committee report contains repeated language directing NSF to prioritize research in AI, quantum computing, and other emerging technologies. This language continues the recent trend of steering NSF away from its basic science mission and toward translation. The language reads:

*"The Committee recognizes the vital role NSF plays in maintaining American leadership in research and supporting U.S. global competitiveness. The Committee directs NSF to prioritize research that aligns with vital national security priorities, including initiatives to advance AI and quantum computing. Further, the Committee encourages NSF to leverage the Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships Directorate to expand partnerships with the private sector through cooperative agreements and consortia that strengthen the domestic science and technology ecosystem. The Committee notes that such collaboration is essential to translate taxpayer-funded discoveries into real-world applications that strengthen economic competitiveness and national security readiness."*

#### Artificial Intelligence

Unsurprisingly, the House report is replete with guidance related to artificial intelligence. The Committee commends NSF for its recent investments in AI and calls for additional efforts related to workforce development in this space. Notably, the language also states, "...the Committee encourages NSF, as it implements partnerships and cooperative agreements, to support **research on AI's implications on society**."

#### Public Access to Federally Funded Research

The House report calls on NSF to cease implementation of public access [policies](#) put in place during the previous Administration, stating:

*“The Committee is concerned that NSF continues to implement public access policies without Administration guidance and coordination. The Committee directs NSF to pause implementation of new public access policies until OSTP has had the time to repeal the August 2022 memo titled “Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research,” pursuant to the instruction in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 119–74. The Committee directs NSF to provide an update within 30 days of the enactment of this Act on the status of its implementation of this direction.”*

### Dyslexia Research

The Committee report repeats language seen in previous bills calling on NSF to prioritize dyslexia research:

*“The Committee encourages NSF to continue research on the science of dyslexia, and to support multi-directorate, merit reviewed, and competitively awarded research on the science of specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia, such as research on the early identification of children and students with dyslexia, professional development for teachers and administrators of students with dyslexia, curricula and educational tools needed for children with dyslexia, and the implementation and scaling of successful models of dyslexia intervention.”*

	(in millions)	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027		
			President’s Request*	House Bill	House vs. FY 2026
<b>National Science Foundation</b>		<b>8750.0</b>	<b>3963.2</b>	<b>7000.0</b>	<b>-20.0%</b>
Research and Related Activities		7176.5	3409.5	6440.1	-10.3%
STEM Education*		938.3	427.7	n/a	n/a
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction		251.0	1073.0	174.0	-30.7%
Agency Operations and Award Management		355.0	359.7	359.8	1.3%
National Science Board		5.1	3.1	3.1	-40.1%
Office of the Inspector General		24.2	18.0	24.2	0.0%

*\*The President’s budget request and the House bill both propose eliminating the direct appropriation for the STEM Education Directorate and incorporating its programs into R&RA. Therefore, a specific EDU funding level is not available in the House bill.*

## Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Institute of Justice

The House bill rejects the President’s proposal to consolidate the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) with the Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS) and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). Instead, the House bill maintains separate appropriations for each office.

The House bill includes flat funding for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and National Institute of Justice (NIJ). However, it is important to note that both agencies saw reductions to their budgets in the final FY 2026 appropriations bill. Therefore, the amounts included in the House bill (which are the same as the President’s budget request) represent cuts of 6 percent and 27 percent to BJS and NIJ, respectively, when compared to the FY 2025 level.

With respect to the Research and Statistics Set-Aside (RSS), which allows for the transfer of additional funds from OJP to BJS and NIJ for research, evaluation, and statistical activities, the House bill proposes lowering the set-aside from 2 percent to 1 percent. The President’s budget proposed raising the set-aside to 2.5 percent.

### Notable Report Language

**Rural Criminal Justice Data Pilot Program** – The House bill directs \$5 million within the BJS budget for “the establishment of a pilot program which specializes in high performance computing research on rural indigent defense to improve America’s rural criminal and juvenile courts.” The language continues:

*“The Committee encourages BJS to utilize this pilot program to develop tools and methods to assess justice activities in rural jurisdictions, with emphasis on agency performance, capabilities, defendant utilization of rights and resources, and other challenges relevant to the administration of justice.”*

**National Center for AI and Digital Evidence Forensics** – The House report calls on NIJ—but does not include additional funding—to “support the establishment of a National Center for AI and Digital Evidence Forensics,” stating:

*“The Committee recognizes the growing challenges posed by synthetic and manipulated digital content and the need for reliable digital forensic methods to support criminal investigations and judicial integrity. The Committee directs NIJ to support the establishment of a National Center for AI and Digital Evidence Forensics to advance practitioner-focused research, validation of forensic tools and investigative workflows, and the development of technologies capable of detecting manipulated or AI-generated digital content. The Committee further encourages the Department to partner with public research universities that operate nationally recognized digital forensics and cybercrime programs, maintain dedicated digital forensics laboratory infrastructure supporting law enforcement training and evidentiary validation, and demonstrate sustained collaboration with Federal, State, and local investigative agencies to advance applied digital forensic research and workforce development.”*

### Deepfake Research

The House report includes language similar to previous years encouraging NIJ to fund research that evaluates the impact of AI technologies on sexual violence.

	(in millions)	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027		
			President’s Request*	House Bill	House vs. FY 2026
<b>Research, Evaluation and Statistics</b>		55.0	55.0	55.0	0.0%
Bureau of Justice Statistics		33.0	33.0	33.0	0.0%
National Institute of Justice		22.0	22.0	22.0	0.0%

## Bureau of Economic Analysis

The House bill includes \$114.2 million for the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), an increase of \$3.9 million or 3.5 percent above the FY 2026 enacted level and nearly equal to the Administration’s request.

### Notable Report Language

The House report includes new language regarding the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Calculation**:

*“The Committee is aware the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) announced it will no longer produce GDP statistics for U.S. territories. The Committee directs BEA, in coordination with the Bureau of the Census (Census), to provide a report within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, on the methodological limitations preventing BEA from producing GDP estimates for U.S. territories. The report should include the estimated cost for BEA and Census to produce economic data for U.S. territories using consistent stateside methodology.”*

## Census Bureau

The House’s proposal would provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$1.49 billion for FY 2026, which represents flat funding with the FY 2026 appropriation but a decrease of \$521.5 million or 25.9 percent below the Administration’s request.

Under the proposal, **Current Surveys and Programs** and **Periodic Census and Programs** would receive \$288.5 million and \$1.2 billion, respectively. The House Committee’s accompanying report includes language directing the Census Bureau to **improve annual poverty data collection** and **modernize digital services** ahead of the 2030 Decennial Census.

	(in millions)	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027		
			President’s Request*	House vs. FY 2026	
Bureau of Economic Analysis		110.3	114.0	114.2	3.5%
Bureau of the Census		1490.3	2011.5	1490.3	0.0%
Current Surveys and Programs		329.0	288.5	288.5	-9.4%
Periodic Census and Programs		1054.0	1723.0	1201.8	2.6%

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