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Featured News

COSSA's Analysis of the President's FY 2027 Budget Request for Social and Behavioral Science

On April 3, the Trump Administration released its [budget proposal](#) for fiscal year (FY) 2027. The document released by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) highlights actions the Administration has taken during its first year in office to cut spending across the federal government, stating that, "The full-year 2026 appropriations bills enacted the first real cut to spending in 12 years...[and] put us on a path to eliminate ineffective Federal agencies that do not serve a useful purpose..."

The FY 2027 budget seeks additional cuts, including a 10 percent reduction to non-defense discretionary spending, while proposing a staggering \$1.5 trillion budget for national defense (a 44 percent increase).

With respect to federal science agencies, in some cases the budget proposes similar levels to the FY 2026 budget (which were ultimately rejected by Congress). For example, the budget once again proposes slashing funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) by more than half and continues down the path of shuttering the Department of

Education. In addition, the FY 2027 budget again seeks a major reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

For other agencies, like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the budget changes course. While still slated for a 12 percent cut under the proposal, this year's request for NIH is a far cry from the 40 percent reduction sought last year by the Administration.

Snapshot of the President's FY 2027 Budget Request			
	(in millions)	FY 2027 Request	% Change
National Institutes of Health		41,429.0	-11.8%
National Science Foundation		3,963.2	-54.7%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention		5,485.0	-40.4%
Census Bureau		2,011.5	35.0%
Bureau of Labor Statistics		668.0	-5.7%
Institute of Education Sciences		261.3	-66.9%
National Center for Health Statistics		175.0	-6.6%
Bureau of Economic Analysis		111.7	1.3%
Bureau of Justice Statistics		33.0	0%
National Institute of Justice		22.0	0%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies (Dept. of Education)		0	-100%

As always, 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.

COSSA will continue to report on the progress of FY 2027 funding legislation in the weeks and months ahead. You can follow our coverage [here](#).

In the meantime, we invite you to [read on](#) to learn about the President's proposals as they pertain to social and behavioral science research.

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:

- House Science, Space, and Technology Committee [letter to NASEM](#), requesting information related to NASEM's Committee on Attribution of Extreme Weather and Climate Events and Their Impacts.

ACT:

- [★ Save SBE Toolkit](#)
- 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!](#)

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.

Advocates Answer "Why Social Science?"



The most [recent Why Social Science? post](#) comes from three participants from this year's Social Science Advocacy Day who reflected upon their advocacy experiences and the importance of advocating for the social sciences.

[Read on](#) for more.

Meet COSSA's Policy Intern: Malia Gunterman

Malia Gunterman started as COSSA's policy intern in January. Before she signs off and enjoys her summer, she provided some reflections from her time at COSSA.

How did you learn about COSSA and the opportunity to serve as a policy intern?

I learned about COSSA in my search for internship opportunities last summer. After discovering that my university is a COSSA member, I became interested in how social sciences might fit into my academic career. I was fortunate to connect with the COSSA team and become a policy intern for the Spring term.



How did the internship fit into your academic or career planning?

I am a rising Junior at Georgetown University studying International Politics with a concentration in Foreign Policy and minoring in French and Statistics. I knew what fields interested me individually before working with COSSA but have since developed a better idea of how I may apply my strengths and interests in politics and statistics to a career. I learned that social science lies at the root of everything, and it has been interesting to apply what I have learned at COSSA into my schoolwork.

What stood out to you most about your internship (i.e., did you learn anything interesting/eye opening or was there a task that you enjoyed most)?

I was initially attracted to the internship's wide scope in subject matter. I was able to research the areas of social science that interested me most and meet professionals in the fields I want to enter. The hands-on experiences offered by this internship were invaluable. I attended meetings with Congressional staffers, reported on Senate and House Committee hearings, and researched issues facing social and behavioral science on the federal level. I greatly enjoyed the chance to see behind-the-scenes of the legislative process and advocacy work.

What would you tell future policy interns about the opportunity and/or about interning in-person in Washington, DC?

I implore future policy interns to take advantage of every opportunity their position offers. Whether that means attending a congressional hearing or listening in on a board meeting, gaining as many experiences as possible will make your internship that much more valuable. DC is a great place to learn and improve your academic and professional life.

Professionals here are inviting and generally happy to share their experiences with young people interested in their work; don't hesitate to grow your network as you consider what pathways you might take after your internship comes to an end.

What's next for you?

I am eager to study abroad in Fall 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland to research International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy. After studying abroad, I will continue my studies in DC. I hope to gain more experience in legislative politics and policy research before graduation in Spring 2028.

Congressional News

House Releases Science Funding Bill that would Slash NSF Budget

On April 30, the House Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee [advanced](#) their fiscal year (FY) 2027 CJS bill along party lines. The CJS bill includes funding proposals for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). Notably, the House has once again rejected the 55 percent funding cut to NSF included in the President's budget request; however, NSF would still see a 20 percent reduction under this bill.

Included in the bill are the following amounts:

- \$7 billion to the National Science Foundation (NSF), a nearly 20 percent cut from the FY 2026 level.
- \$1.49 million to the Census Bureau, which represents flat funding with the FY 2026 level;
- \$119.5 million to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), which represents an increase of 1.3 percent above the FY 2026 level;
- \$55 million to the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Research, Evaluation, and Statistics account, which includes \$33 million to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and \$22 million to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). These amounts are equal to the FY 2026 appropriation.

More details are expected to be released in the coming weeks when the full House Appropriations Committee considers the bill on [May 13](#). Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) of the appropriations process.

HHS Secretary Defends FY 2027 Budget before House Energy and Commerce Committee

On April 21, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. defended the HHS fiscal year (FY) 2027 budget request to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which provides oversight to public health agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Following his [testimony](#) to the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee the previous week, Secretary Kennedy again highlighted several priority areas for the Administration, including vaccine efficacy, agriculture and food safety, rural health, national security, and the cost of health insurance and medicine in the United States.

During the hearing, Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA) questioned Secretary Kennedy's ability to work with the new nominee for CDC Director, Dr. Erica Schwartz, who has a background in public health and deploying vaccines. This line of questioning comes after the abrupt termination of the previous CDC Director, Dr. Susan Monarez, last year ([see previous coverage](#)). Rep. Ruiz requested a promise from Secretary Kennedy to follow Dr.

Schwartz's vaccine guidance if confirmed and without interference, to which the Secretary refused.

Later, Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), pressed Secretary Kennedy on the proposed funding cuts to several scientific research agencies in the President's budget request, including NIH, and expressed concern that it would undermine biomedical research in the country and cede global leadership to countries like China. Further, Rep. Fletcher raised concerns on the impacts of the Trump Administration's continued effort to set a flat 15 percent rate for facilities and administrative (F&A) costs for grants awarded by federal agencies. To this end, Secretary Kennedy argued that due to the overall national debt, the cuts and proposals outlined in the President's budget request were necessary.

A recording of the hearing, as well as witness testimony, can be found [here](#). Stay tuned for [COSSA's continued coverage](#) of the appropriations process.

Executive Branch News

Trump Administration Fires National Science Board

On April 24, all 22 members of the National Science Board (NSB) received an email from the Trump Administration stating that they have been "terminated, effective immediately." The NSB, which was established by statute in 1950, serves as the policymaking and oversight body of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and as an independent advisor to the President and Congress on federal science policy. COSSA issued a [statement](#) on the dismissal.

White House officials are stating that the decision responds to a 2021 Supreme Court case, [U.S. v. Arthrex](#), that "raised constitutional questions about whether non-Senate confirmed appointees can exercise the authorities that Congress gave the National Science Board." NSB members are presidentially appointed for six-year terms but do not require Senate confirmation. Legal experts are divided on whether the dismissal was justified.

The firing of the Board members is just the latest action aimed at NSF. The President's [budget request](#) for fiscal year (FY) 2027 proposed a 55 percent cut to the NSF budget (see related article). In addition, the agency has been without a [permanent director](#) for more than a year and has seen most of its external advisory committees [eliminated](#). Further, Trump's [nominee](#) for NSF Director, Jim O'Neill, has not yet been considered by the Senate. The dismissal of the NSB exacerbates the leadership vacuum at NSF, all while its [acting leadership](#) continues to reorganize agency and shift priorities.

Science Community News

AAAS Accepting Nominations for 2027 Awards & Prizes

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) announced that nominations are now open for the following awards and prizes:

- [David and Betty Hamburg Award for Science Diplomacy](#)
- [Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#)
- [Newcomb Cleveland Prize](#)
- [Philip Hauge Abelson Prize](#)
- [Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science](#)
- [John P. McGovern Award Lecture in the Behavioral Sciences](#)
- [Mentor Awards](#)
- [Mani L. Bhaumik Award for Public Engagement with Science](#)
- [Kavli Science Journalism Awards](#)

AAAS also sponsors a wide range of other awards and prizes recognizing scientists, engineers, authors, journalists and public servants for significant contributions to science and the public's understanding of science.

The deadline for all nominations is June 30, 2026 and winners will be announced in early 2027. Learn more on the [AAAS website](#).

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 4/27/2026: [COSSA Statement on the Dismissal of Members of the National Science Board](#)
- **NEW:** 4/21/2026: [Census Project Letter to CJS Appropriators on FY 2027 Funding for the Census Bureau](#)
- **NEW:** 4/9/2026: [COSSA Statement on the President's FY 2027 Budget Request](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** AAAS: [2027 AAAS Awards & Prizes](#) (Closes: June 30, 2026)

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

- 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:** United for Medical Research: [The Economic Impact of Proposed Cuts to the NIH Budget](#)
- GAO: [STEM: Additional Data Needed on Graduate Researcher and Postdoctoral Scholar Compensation](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** Office of Naval Research: [Science Advisor](#) (Closes: May 7, 2026)
- **NEW:** APLU: [Data & Policy Analysis Senior Associate](#) (Closes: May 8, 2026)
- ANS: [Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship](#) (Closes: June 5, 2026)
- **NEW:** AAU: [Fall 2026 AAU Internship](#) (Ongoing)
- Science Philanthropy Alliance: [Civic Science Fellow](#) (Ongoing)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Ongoing)

Upcoming Events

- **NEW:** SRCD: [Advancing Research on AI and Child Development: Interactive Discussion of Priority Questions, Methods, Safety, and Policy Webinar](#), May 6, 2026, Virtual
- **NEW:** AAA: [Annual Meeting Call for Submissions](#), May 6, 2026
- AAPOR: [AAPOR 81st Annual Conference](#), May 13-15, 2026, Los Angeles, CA
- 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
 American Evaluation Association
 American Historical Association
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
 Association of American Law Schools

Colleges and Universities

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 Brown University
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 Columbia University
 Cornell University
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 University of Maryland
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 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh

Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
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

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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.*

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