



An Update on the Year's Major Science Policy Developments

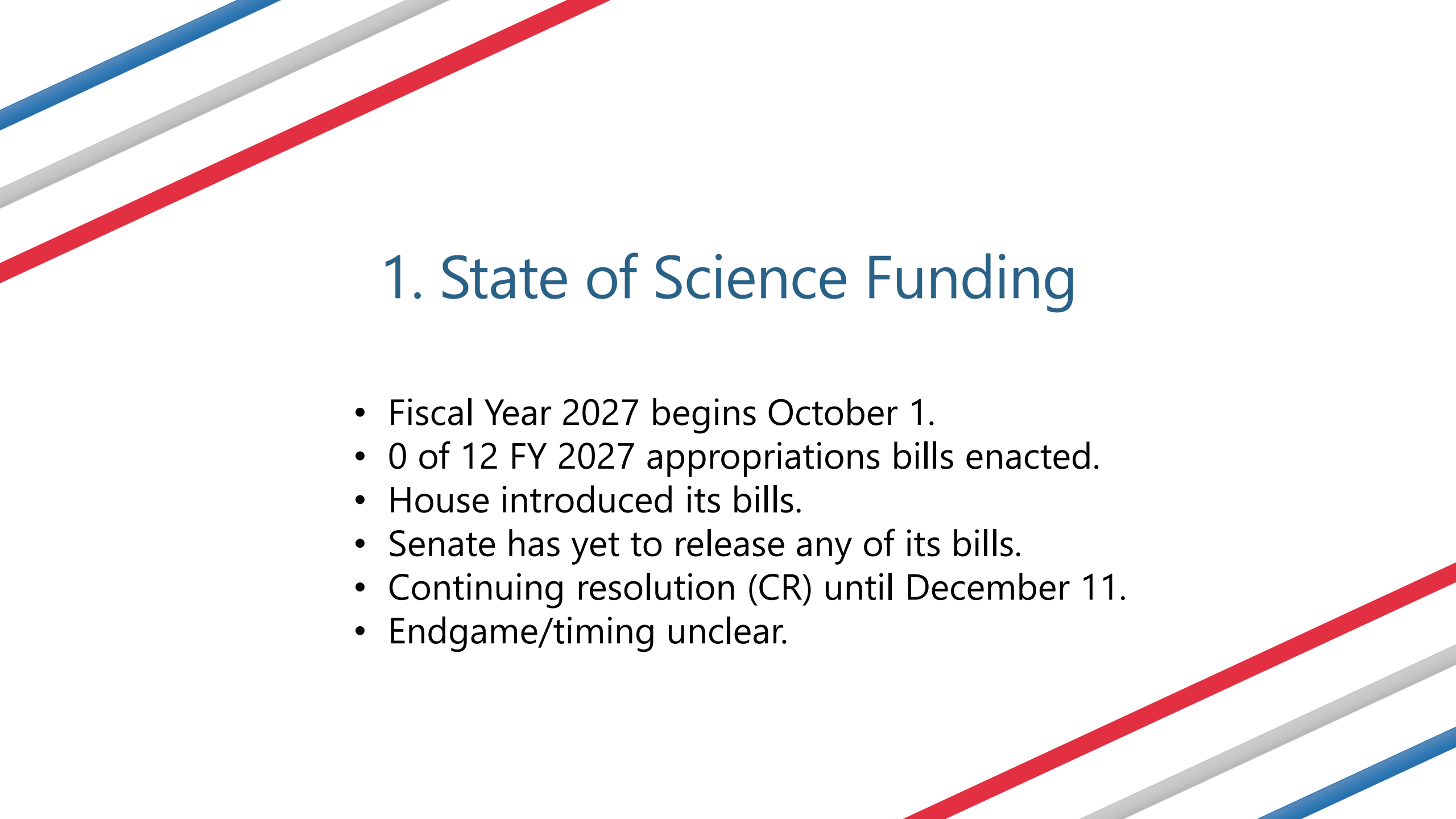
September 29, 2026

Wendy Naus, Executive Director
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

Today

1. State of Science Funding
2. Save SBE Update
3. OMB Proposed Rule Status
4. Other Issues & Additional Resources





1. State of Science Funding

- Fiscal Year 2027 begins October 1.
- 0 of 12 FY 2027 appropriations bills enacted.
- House introduced its bills.
- Senate has yet to release any of its bills.
- Continuing resolution (CR) until December 11.
- Endgame/timing unclear.

FY 2027 Science Funding

		FY 2027				
<i>(in millions)</i>	FY 2026 Enacted	President's Request	House Bill	Senate Bill	House v. 2026	House v. Request
National Institutes of Health	47216.0	42023.0	47316.0	n/a	-11.3%	48.8%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	9203.0	5485.0	8164.4	n/a	-11.3%	48.8%
National Science Foundation	8750.0	3963.2	7000.0	n/a	-20%	77%
Bureau of the Census	1490.3	2011.5	1490.3	n/a	--	-26%
Institute of Education Sciences	789.6	261.3	493.5	n/a	-37.5%	88.8%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	708.5	668.0	716.5	n/a	1.1%	7.3%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	345.4	240.0	0	n/a	-100%	-100%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	110.3	111.7	119.5	n/a	9.2%	7%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	80.7	0	0	n/a	-100%	-100%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	35.0	33.0	33.0	n/a	--	--
National Institute of Justice	30.0	22.0	22.0	n/a	--	--

What you can do

Urge Congress to Prioritize Robust Science Funding!

The Trump Administration's budget request for FY 2027 represents a surrender of U.S. leadership in global research and development. The President's proposal would slash funding for U.S. science agencies—including a 55% cut to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a 13% cut to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—at a time when other countries are doubling down on their investments in scientific discovery. Taken together with recent attacks on the scientific research enterprise—including devastating reports of the Administration's plan to shutter NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) this year—it is essential that our community fights for federal science funding and the scientific workforce.

Now is the time to write to your Members of Congress to urge that they prioritize funding in FY 2027 for research and statistics by supporting increased appropriations for the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Institute of Education Sciences, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census Bureau, International Education and Foreign Language Programs, and the federal statistical system.

We encourage you to personalize our template message to highlight the points that matter most to you. When you're done, share this alert with others and spread the word on social media using #WhySocialScience. Thank you for [taking action!](#)

TAKE ACTION



FY 2026 Science Funding

	FY26 Awards	FY21-24 Avg	% Change
NIH	60,924	70,025	-13%
NSF	6,218	11,387	-45%

Source: Grant Witness



2. Save SBE

- President's budget proposes eliminating Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) in FY 2027.
- Growing evidence NSF is already starting to ramp down SBE – pre-complying with FY 2027 plans without Congressional approval.

Latest Developments

- Additional evidence NSF is sidelining SBE (and EDU)
 - No. of awards
 - “Foundational Research” funding opportunities
 - Graduate Research Fellowship Program



Number of Awards

1. SBE funding in FY 2026 significantly reduced, in violation of Congressional direction
2. Number of awards made by SBE so far in 2026:

Directorate	FY 2026 (Oct-Sept)	FY 26 v. FY 25	FY 26 v. FY 24	FY 2025 (Oct-Sept)	FY 2024 (Oct-Sept)
BIO	590	-18.2%	-29.5%	721	837
CISE	1106	-17.3%	-18.0%	1337	1348
EDU	673	-8.9%	-32.8%	739	1002
ENG	1074	-18.9%	-16.0%	1324	1278
GEO	757	-17.8%	-27.5%	921	1044
MPS	1683	-14.0%	-17.6%	1958	2043
SBE	115	-73.9%	-74.3%	441	447
TIP	578	-5.4%	73.1%	611	334

“Foundational Research” NOFOs

- 12 “foundational research” NOFOs released August 17
- Includes all directorates EXCEPT SBE and STEM Education (EDU)
- NOFOs for SBE/EDU were developed, but so far not approved by White House
- No funding through traditional SBE programs



Graduate Research Fellowship Program

- Latest [GRFP solicitation](#) released August 25.
- Excludes SBE from list of participating directorates.
- Removes subfields from eligibility:
 - Communications
 - Cultural Anthropology
 - International Relations
 - Law and Social Science
 - Political Science
 - Public Policy
 - Science Policy
 - Social Science Education
 - STEM Education and Learning (in the STEM Education Directorate).
- [Other SBE fields still eligible.](#)



What you can do

1. Keep talking about SBE
2. Take action!
 - Respond to COSSA Action Alerts
 - Organize action to take when Members of Congress are back in the state this fall:
 - Attend Town Hall meetings
 - Meet locally
 - Invite lawmakers to campus/lab



Key Messages on the Importance of NSF's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)

Updated April 2026

This guide was developed by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) for use by the scientific community and other stakeholders to help articulate the value of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences to policy and public audiences. A variety of messages are provided.

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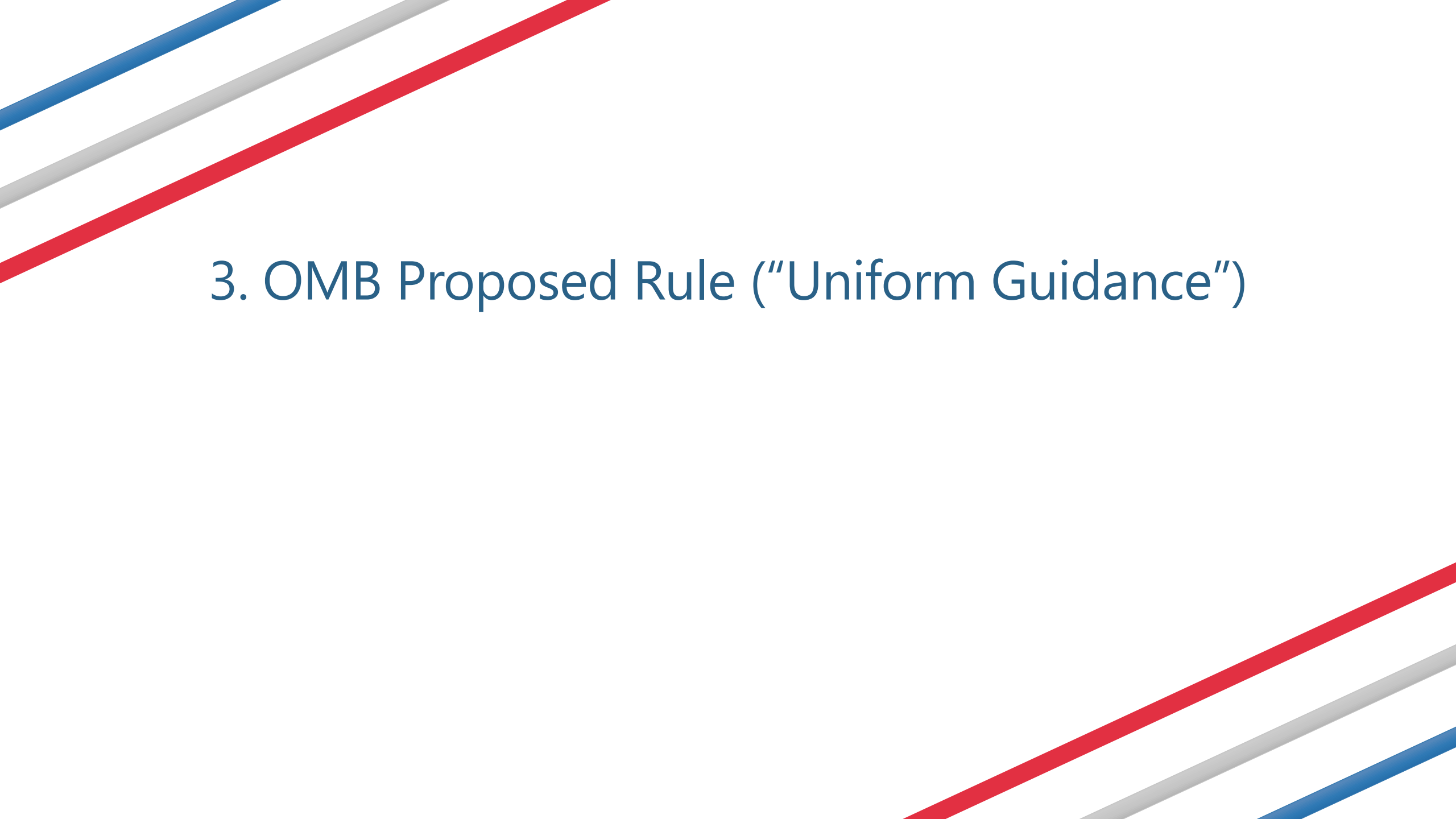
At-Home Advocacy Guide

YOUR GUIDE TO ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH, FUNDING, AND POLICY
WITHOUT LEAVING HOME.



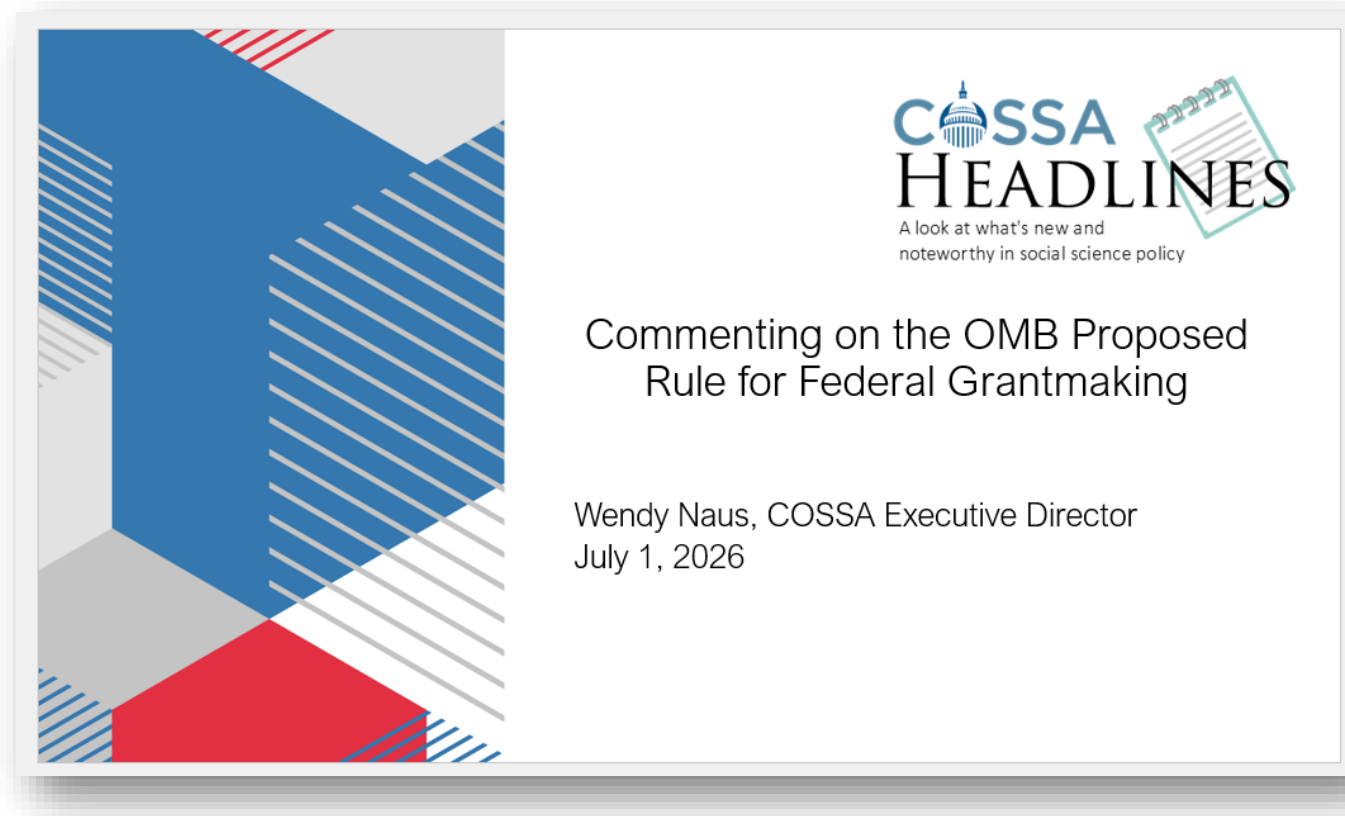
Other NSF Updates

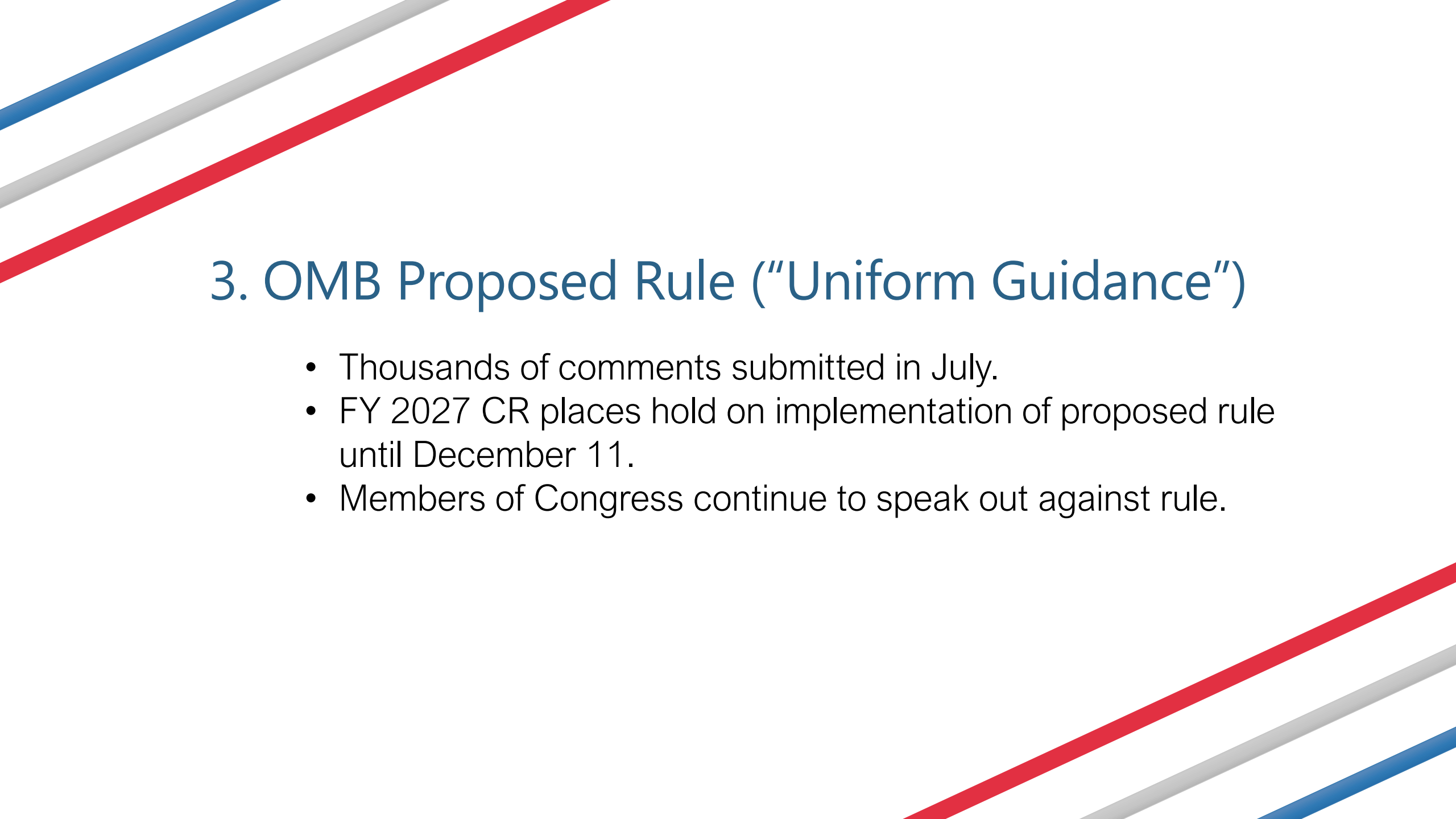
- Sept 10 [Golden Age of Science Memo](#)
- National Science Board – still vacant
- Still no Senate-confirmed NSF Director
- Ongoing reorganization



3. OMB Proposed Rule ("Uniform Guidance")

OMB Proposed Rule: Federal Financial Assistance





3. OMB Proposed Rule (“Uniform Guidance”)

- Thousands of comments submitted in July.
- FY 2027 CR places hold on implementation of proposed rule until December 11.
- Members of Congress continue to speak out against rule.

Building the Record

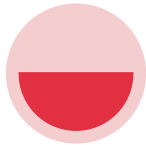
Administrative Procedures Act (1946) – governs how federal agencies create regulations, enforce rules, and make decisions.

---- Rulemaking Process ----



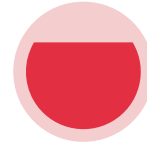
Notice & Comment

The agency publishes a proposed rule and invites the public to submit written arguments, data, or views.



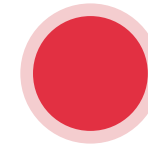
Review & Synthesis

Agency staff read through all submitted public feedback. They do not need to respond to every single form letter or repetitive comment, but they **must address all significant issues**.



The Final Rule

Finalized rule includes **a written "preamble" summarizing the main public concerns** and explains the agency's reasoning for accepting or rejecting the public's suggestions.



Legal Enforcement

If an **agency ignores a major comment or provides a flawed or illogical response**, a court can strike down the rule as "arbitrary and capricious".

What you can do

- Share your comments with Congress



August 10, 2026

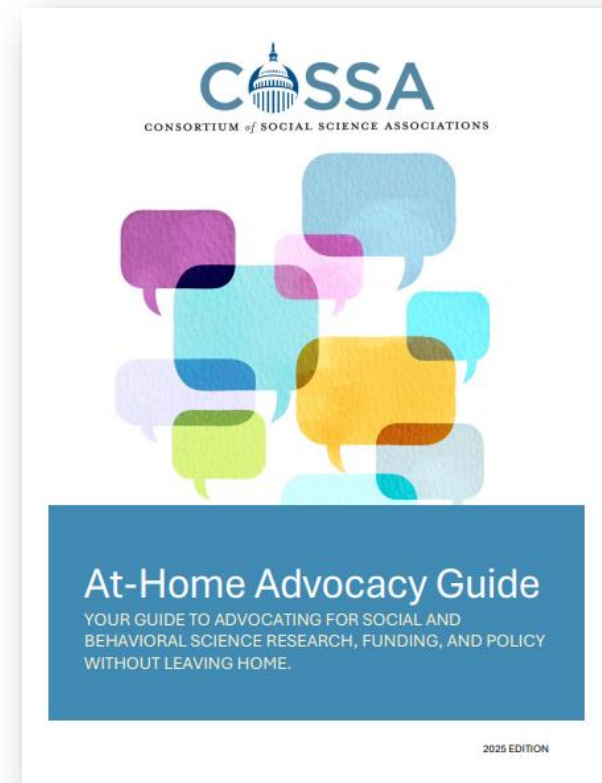
**Did you submit comment to OMB on the Uniform
Guidance Proposed Rule?**

It is time to share your comments with your members of Congress! Instructions below.



Sharing your thoughts with Congress

- If you submitted comments to OMB:
 - Share your comments with your House Member and two Senators.
 - Send a friendly email to the office registering your concerns and offering to discuss further.
 - Attach your comments as a PDF.
 - Don't forget to mention you are a constituent!
- If you DID NOT submit formal comment to OMB:
 - You can/should still weigh in with your Members of Congress about your concerns.
 - Follow the same steps above.
- Most important – Your messages should be respectful and fact-based. The goal is to get lawmakers to appreciate our concerns and act to stop the OMB rule from taking effect.



Other News



- [Bipartisan Science and Innovation Caucus](#) formed in Senate
 - Sens. Hickenlooper (D-CO) and McCormick (R-PA)
- Senate Republicans [speak out](#) against NIH grant terminations
 - [Sens. McCormick](#) (R-PA), Tillis (R-NC), Collins (R-ME), Murkowski (R-AK), Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Daines (R-MT)



- White House sends \$810 million [rescissions package](#) to Congress
 - Nearly all funding for International Education and Foreign Language programs
 - \$28 million from AHRQ

Opportunities

- NIH RFI on Proposed Changes to Reporting Outcomes from NIH Peer Review ([NOT-OD-26-088](#)) – Due October 13
- NIH RFI on Draft NIH Policy on Sharing Summary Level Study Results with Clinical Research Participants ([NOT-OD-26-113](#)) – Due October 26



Additional Resources

- Grant Witness: <https://grantwitness.org/>
- Federal Data Terminations Tracker: <https://dataindex.us/terminations-tracker>
- SciOp: <https://sciop.net/>
- Science & Community Impacts Mapping Project: <https://scienceimpacts.org/>
- The Nation's Data at Risk: Ongoing Monitoring (AmStat):
<https://www.amstat.org/the-nations-data-at-risk-year-two-ongoing-monitoring>



Save the Date

- Post-Election COSSA Headlines Webinar – November 19 @ 2:00 pm ET
- Registration coming soon



Questions?

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