



WASHINGTON UPDATE

September 22, 2026 | Volume 45 Issue 18

[Subscribe to COSSA Washington Update](#) | [Subscribe to Members-Only Emails from COSSA](#)

NEW FROM COSSA

- ACT NOW!
- Register Now: An Update on This Year's Major Science Policy Developments

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

- Senate Launches Bipartisan Science & Innovation Caucus

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

- Gold Standard Science at NSF
- NIH and DOD Sign Agreement Allowing Fund Transfers

SCIENCE COMMUNITY NEWS

- National Academies to Host Seminar on Adapting the Federal Statistical Workforce
- Call for Experts: Standing Committee on Use of AI in Science

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

- CASBS Accepting Applications for 2027-28 Fellowship

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

- COSSA Letters & Statements
- Nomination Opportunities
- Funding Opportunities
- Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers
- Notices, Resources, & Reports
- Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities
- Upcoming Events

DONATE TODAY

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:

- ★ [Save SBE Toolkit](#)
- Dept of Education: [Request for Comment: Education Department General Administrative Regulations](#) (Closes: September 23, 2026)
- 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:

- [Federal Data Terminations Tracker](#)
- CRS Reports: [An Overview of Federal Regulations and the Rulemaking Process](#)
- SCIMaP: [Science & Community Impacts Mapping Project](#)
- [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.

Register Now: An Update on This Year's Major Science Policy Developments



On September 29, join COSSA for the next Headlines webinar focused on providing an update on some of the most consequential topics impacting science policy and funding. Just in the last few months the social and behavioral science community has been faced with an existential threat to NSF's SBE Directorate, proposed

changes to the Uniform Guidance for grant funding, delays in federal agency award funding, and several other Executive actions that could potentially upend how scientific research is supported and conducted in the U.S.

The COSSA team will discuss the status of these activities and outline what you can do to respond. [Register now](#) and join the conversation.

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

Congressional News

Senate Launches Bipartisan Science & Innovation Caucus

On September 14, Senators Dave McCormick (R-PA) and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) launched a new [Bipartisan Science and Innovation Caucus](#). According to the press release, "Caucus members will work together with industry leaders and the research community to develop policies that promote U.S. leadership in science." The group plans to hold briefings, roundtable discussions, and "provide a venue for discourse about new legislation to boost American scientific research and our STEM workforce." The current list of caucus members is not yet available.

Congressional caucuses are a tool used to bring together Members of Congress with a shared interest. They do not have the power to hold official hearings or advance legislation, but they often engage in activities to raise awareness about an issue, such as press conferences, briefings, community discussions, and crafting reports.

Executive Branch News

President Trump Executive Actions

- **NEW:** [Enhancing Program Integrity and Interagency Coordination in the Administration of the H-1B Nonimmigrant Visa Program](#) (9/18/26)
- **NEW:** [Restoring Trust in the Smithsonian Institution](#) (7/24/26)

Gold Standard Science at NSF

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is continuing to make changes to its longstanding programs and update its policies, largely at the direction of the White House. Despite being without a Senate confirmed director for more than a year, the transformation of NSF just since 2025 has been significant.

'A New Golden Age'

Acting NSF Director Brian Stone issued a [letter](#) to the scientific community on September 10 outlining the agency's planned research directions. For example, the letter states that NSF plans to announce a number of Grand Research Challenges in the coming weeks and other initiatives aligned with Administration priorities. The agency will also explore new and different funding mechanisms, such as "Golden Tickets" that would allow a single reviewer to champion a proposal without going through panel review.

Lawmakers, especially Democrats, have been critical of NSF's actions to divert funding away from investigator-initiated research, for which NSF is known, to areas of priority to the President.

The top Democrat on the House Science Committee, Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), issued this statement in response to the letter:

"I do not know why Acting Director Brian Stone and OSTP Director Michael Kratsios believe they possess the authority to impose such radical changes at America's premier scientific agency without congressional input or authorization. The Trump Administration has profoundly damaged NSF with its repeated attacks against the agency and the scientific community it was created to support. NSF needs to stop, take 10 steps back, and remember the values that made it the envy of the world for 75 years."

The letter also announces that NSF will create an Office of Metascience to "develop and rigorously evaluate new approaches to funding, merit review, program management, and the adoption of merging tools." It will be staffed by "metascience experts and data scientists."

The success of some of NSF's plans will hinge on the outcome of the November midterm elections; should one or both chambers switch to Democratic control, the agency is certain to face increased oversight and scrutiny of such activities.

Scientific Integrity

NSF released its revised [Scientific Integrity Policy](#) on September 1. Last year, federal agencies were directed through the [Gold Standard Science Executive Order](#) to update their policies. Among the updates, the EO directed agencies to revert their scientific integrity policies back to what was in place prior to the start of the Biden Administration.

Notably, the revised NSF policy (as well as those of other agencies) removes language from the Biden-era barring "political interference" in federally funded research. Prior to the revision the [NSF policy](#) "prohibit[ed] political interference or inappropriate influence on scientific activities and the use of scientific information." It also stated that NSF "will not suppress, delay, or alter findings and products of scientific activities by NSF employees and other covered individuals for political purposes or influenced by special interests," and that NSF staff may "communicate their scientific activities objectively" free from political interference. All of this language has been removed from the new policy.

This is the latest step by the Administration to assert authority over the funding decisions of federal science agencies, consistent with the OMB's [proposed rule](#) that seeks to give political appointees review responsibilities over the funding of discretionary awards.

NIH and DOD Sign Agreement Allowing Fund Transfers

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense (DOD) have signed an [agreement](#) to “support the advanced development of medical countermeasures against pandemic influenza, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats, and emerging infectious diseases.” Under the agreement, NIH will provide funding, scientific expertise, and access to relevant research and products, while DOD will use its contracting and acquisition infrastructure to fund and manage research and development efforts. The agencies will jointly set research priorities and meet at least quarterly. The agreement itself does not commit funding and is set to remain in effect through September 30, 2036, unless extended or terminated earlier.

[Critics](#) of the agreement, including [Democrats](#) in Congress, worry that it could provide DOD with easier access to NIH funding—especially from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases—that is used to fund research on emerging infectious diseases and biodefense.

Science Community News

National Academies to Host Seminar on Adapting the Federal Statistical Workforce

On September 24, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine ([NASEM](#)) will host a virtual seminar, *Adapting the Federal Statistical Workforce for a Changing Environment*. The event will examine how federal statistical agencies are responding to changes in data collection, including declining survey response rates, the growing availability of alternative data sources, advances in artificial intelligence, and developments in statistical modeling. The seminar will also address challenges facing the federal statistical workforce, including budget constraints and reductions in staffing.

The seminar will feature discussions on redesigning the federal statistical workforce to support the future of statistical production and building the next federal statistical workforce. Speakers include experts from the U.S. and international statistical systems, academia, and data science. The event is particularly relevant to the social and behavioral science community given the federal statistical system's role in producing data used for research and evidence-based policymaking.

The seminar will take place virtually on September 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET.

Register now on the [NASEM website](#).

This article was contributed by COSSA Intern Ananya Bamidipati.

Call for Experts: Standing Committee on Use of AI in Science

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine ([NASEM](#)) is seeking suggestions for experts to participate in the new [Standing Committee on Use of AI in Science: Integrity, Trust, and Innovation in the Scientific Enterprise](#). The committee will examine how artificial intelligence is challenging established norms, standards, and governance mechanisms within scientific research, with particular attention to research trustworthiness, reproducibility, transparency, and alignment with societal values.

The committee will host a series of public sessions addressing issues including research integrity and reproducibility, transparency and trustworthiness, authorship and accountability, and peer review. A small group of experts will also develop issue papers identifying challenges and opportunities for responsible AI use across the scientific

enterprise. The work will be intended for decision-makers and stakeholders across academia, industry, publishing, research funding, government, and the broader public.

The National Academies are particularly interested in expertise related to:

- Artificial Intelligence and Science
- Research Integrity and Reproducibility
- Transparency and Trustworthiness
- Authorship and Accountability
- Peer Review
- Open Science
- Scientific Methods and Epistemology
- AI Governance and Research Policy
- Responsible and Ethical Use of AI

The National Academies is accepting suggestions for experts through September 30. Submit experts on the [NASEM website](#).

This article was contributed by COSSA Intern Ananya Bamidipati.

COSSA Member Spotlight

CASBS Accepting Applications for 2027-28 Fellowship

The [Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences \(CASBS\)](#) at Stanford University is now accepting applications for residential fellowships for the 2027-28 academic year. Fellows represent the core social and behavioral sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, history, law, political science, psychology, and sociology) but also the humanities, education, linguistics, communications, and the biological, natural, health, and computer sciences. The fellowship program is for scholars working in a diverse range of disciplines that contribute to advancing research and thinking in social science. Applicants should be scholars and thinkers who are tackling big questions with fresh approaches.

Applications for 2027-28 fellowship year will be accepted through October 30, 2026. Applicants will be notified of decisions by mid-February 2027. For more information, guidelines, and application requirements, visit the [website](#). CASBS is a COSSA member organization.

People in the News

- On September 2, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [announced](#) the selection of Dr. Peter Joseph Embí as director of NIH's National Library of Medicine (NLM). Embí, currently a professor and biomedical informatics leader at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, will oversee NLM's biomedical research, data science, and information resources.
- On September 8, Lonnie G. Bunch III, the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, [announced](#) he will retire from his position. This concludes nearly 38 years of service at the Smithsonian and a career that has shaped the museum field in the United States and beyond.

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 9/21/2026: [APSA Joint Statement on the NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#)

- 9/4/2026: [Census Project Letter to Department of Commerce on the Release Delay of the American Community Survey Data](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Call for Experts: Standing Committee on the Use of AI in Science](#) (Closes: September 30, 2026)
- AAPSS: [2027 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize](#) (Closes: November 1, 2026)
- NIST: [Request for Nominations for Members to serve on NIST Federal Advisory Committees](#) (Ongoing)

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

- Dept of Education: [Request for Comment: Education Department General Administrative Regulations](#) (Closes: September 23, 2026)
- NIH: [Request for Information on Proposed Changes to Reporting Outcomes from NIH Peer Review](#) (Closes: October 13, 2026)
- **NEW:** DHS: [Request for Comment on proposed rule eliminating the discretionary 60-day grace period for H-1B and other visa holders](#) (Closes: November 10, 2026)
- APS: [Call for Ideas for the NSF Forward Initiative](#) (Ongoing)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** BJS: [Violent Victimization with a Firearm, 2024](#)
- **NEW:** Trust for America's Health: [Underfunded and Under Strain: The State of America's Public Health System](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [On Being a Scientist: A Guide to the Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research: Fourth Edition](#)
- COSSA: [COSSA 2025 Annual Report](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** NSF: [Deputy Directorate Head for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships](#) (Closes: September 25, 2026)
- IDA: [Research Analyst, Science Policy](#) (Closes: September 30, 2026)
- AIP: [Science Policy Fellowship, State Department](#) (Closes: October 1, 2026)
- AAAS: [Pathways to Policy Fellowship](#) (Closes: November 1, 2026)
- AIP: [Science Policy Fellowship, Congress](#) (Closes: December 1, 2026)
- APS: [Head of Scientific Programs](#) (Ongoing)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Ongoing)
- FAS: [Public Impact S&T Open Call](#) (Ongoing)

Upcoming Events

- Research!America: [2026 National Health Research Forum](#), September 23, 2026, Washington, DC
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Adapting the Federal Statistical Workforce for a Changing Environment Webinar](#), September 24, 2026, Virtual
- **NEW:** COSSA: [An Update on This Year's Major Science Policy Developments](#), September 29, 2026, Virtual
- **NEW:** MPSA: [2027 Call for Papers, Roundtables, Complete Panels and Working Groups](#), October 13, 2026
- APPAM: [Innovation Day](#), November 4, 2026, Boston, MA
- AERA: [2026 Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research](#), November 5, 2026, Virtual
- APPAM: [Fall Research Conference](#), November 5-7, 2026, Boston, MA
- ASC: [2026 ASC Annual Meeting](#), November 18-21, 2026, Chicago, IL
- AAA: [2026 AAA Annual Meeting](#), November 18-22, St. Louis, MO
- NCA: [112th NCA Annual Convention](#), November 19-22, 2026, New Orleans, LA

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@cosssa.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
 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
 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, Riverside
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 University of Georgia
 University of Illinois
 University of Maryland
 University of Michigan
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 University of Oregon
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Wisconsin, Madison

Economic History Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Sociological Society
National Council on Family Relations
Rural Sociological Society
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

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

Fall Term Intern

Ananya Bamidipati

ISSN 0749-4394



#WhySocialScience

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS | www.cossa.org

Consortium of Social Science Associations | 1436 Duke Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!