

FY 2017 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION – \$8 BILLION

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$8 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY 2017. NSF funds basic scientific discovery, workforce training, and state-of-the-art facilities that keeps the U.S. ahead of our global scientific competitors. NSF supports about a quarter of all federally-funded basic scientific research conducted at colleges and universities nationwide. Most notably, NSF serves as the largest single funder of university-based basic social and behavioral science research. While the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) represents only about 3.6 percent of the entire NSF research budget, it supports more than two-thirds (67%) of the total federal funding for academic basic research in the social and behavioral sciences.

Social and behavioral science discoveries funded by NSF have improved people's lives by:

- Helping to thwart cybercrime and protect Americans' privacy and security.
- Improving public health.
- Improving the safety of our troops in combat areas.
- Helping us understand how to respond to disasters.
- Enhancing teaching and learning in education.
- Reducing violence among our youth.
- Improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.
- Helping paralyzed individuals to communicate.



COSSA further urges Congress to maintain NSF's authority to direct its investments as science dictates and not set arbitrary funding levels for NSF's individual directorates. NSF's scientific staff and its network of experts, including the National Science Board, hold the necessary expertise to determine what is best for keeping the U.S. the global innovation leader.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE – \$48 MILLION

Demand by policymakers and criminal justice professionals for rigorous, objective research on policing, mental health, sentencing reform, and other timely topics has increased to unprecedented levels in recent years. However, at the current funding level, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) simply does not have the capacity to meet this demand. **COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$48 million for NIJ for FY 2017.** We further request that Congress approve the Administration's request to increase the Research, Evaluation, and Statistics set-aside from 2 to 3 percent.

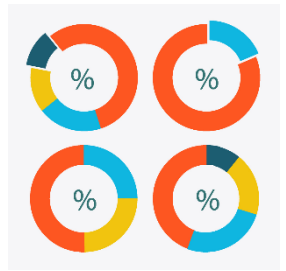


NIJ serves as the research arm of the Department of Justice, playing a critical role in helping the agency to understand and implement science-based strategies for crime prevention and control. It supports rigorous social science research that can be disseminated to criminal justice professionals to keep communities safe and prevent and reduce crime.



BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS – \$58 MILLION

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is one of 13 principal federal statistical agencies. BJS produces data that provides statistical evidence needed by researchers and criminal justice policy decision makers. Taken together with NIJ, these investments represent the only dedicated sources of federal research support committed to enhancing our understanding of crime and the criminal justice system, including around topics like victimization, law enforcement, recidivism and reentry, drugs and crime, and tribal justice. Unfortunately, neither BJS nor NIJ have received meaningful increases in several years. **COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$58 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics for FY 2017.**



CENSUS BUREAU – \$1.6 BILLION

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate a total of \$1.634 billion for the Census Bureau in FY 2017. Fiscal year 2017 is a critical one for the Census Bureau as we near the 2020 Decennial Census. The Census Bureau will be working to complete production of interoperable systems for the reengineered decennial. To do so, the Bureau requires funding to fully evaluate and develop new methods and operations. **COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$778 million for 2020 Census planning,** a reasonable request at this critical juncture in the decennial planning cycle that will allow the agency to complete its sweeping design reforms and prepare for the 2018 End-To-End Readiness Test.



In addition, **COSSA asks Congress to appropriate \$251.1 million for the American Community Survey (ACS).** Funding at this level will allow the Census Bureau to maintain a valid sample size and continue research on new methods and streamlined operations to reduce respondent burden, improve question wording, and control costs.

WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE?

The Federal Government's modest annual investment in social and behavioral science research yields significant benefits for the American people.

New findings continue to **increase the efficiency of our industries, improve the quality of K-12 education, help us understand crime patterns and evaluate prevention strategies, help manage our natural resources, keep our troops safe, help us to be informed as consumers, and allow paralyzed individuals to communicate.**

Among the countless innovations enabled by federal support for basic social science research are **GPS, spectrum auctions, life-saving kidney exchanges, and warning systems to protect lives and property from extreme weather events.**

Knowledge derived from social and behavioral science research has made our **population healthier, our democracy fairer, our nation safer, and our economy stronger.**



COSSA is a nonprofit national organization serving as a united voice for more than 100 professional associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and colleges and universities who care about a robust social and behavioral scientific research enterprise. We represent the collective science policy interests of all fields of social and behavioral science research, including but not limited to sociology, anthropology, political science, psychology, economics, statistics, language and linguistics, population studies, law, communications, educational research, criminology and criminal justice research, geography, history, and child development.