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SENATE PANEL APPROVES NSF FUNDING; REPORT URGES "TRANSFORMATION" OF AGENCY *HS*

The Senate VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee chaired by Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) marked up its FY 1994 appropriation bill on September 8. The full appropriations committee ratified the subcommittee's allocation decisions a day later. In addition to the funding decisions, the Committee report discusses how the National Science Foundation should transform itself to focus more on "the transfer of knowledge and technology for broader national goals and objectives."

The Committee appropriated to NSF a total of \$2.982 billion, a 9 percent increase over last year. However, this was almost \$40 million less than the House appropriation, and almost \$200 million less than the administration's request. Just as Presidents Reagan and Bush's plans to double the NSF fell by the wayside following congressional action, President Clinton's vision of increasing NSF's budget by \$3.3 billion over the next five years is now also off track.

The allocation for research increased only \$81 million or 4.4 percent over the FY 1993 level. This was \$105 million below the House figure, and \$264 million under the request. The Committee report includes language asking NSF to provide further information on how it is implementing the Human Capital Initiative, with particular attention to the development of strategic research projects in the social and behavioral sciences.

Education and Human Resource programs were appropriated \$569.6 million, the same as the House, a 17 percent increase over FY 1993 funding, and a 3 percent increase over the president's request. The Committee report directs NSF to add \$5 million to the EPSCOR program, \$10 million for grants to community colleges, and \$3 million for systemic reform in rural areas.

Facilities Receive Large Increase

The Senate provided NSF with \$125 million for the Academic Research Facilities and

Instrumentation program, which the Committee renamed Academic Research Infrastructure. The funds, the committee directs, should be spent equally between facilities and instrumentation. This is an 150 percent increase over the \$50 million level for FY 1993. The administration asked for \$55 million for this program and the House complied with the request. The large increase reflects "the large need for facility modernization and equipment replacement that exists in the institutions of higher learning" documented in numerous reports.

The Committee limited the salaries and expenses appropriation increase to 4 percent. The House had provided a 9 percent increase, and the administration had asked for 13 percent. The Senate committee did include, as the House did, \$5.2 million for the NSF's relocation to Northern Virginia; a move that will commence next month and be completed in December. The committee report recommends that NSF, in line with the reinventing government strategy (*see page 3*), use innovative emerging technologies to relieve paperwork burdens on grant applicants.

The Future of NSF

The Committee report also includes lengthy comments on the future of the NSF. It notes that NSF is "at a crossroads" where it can "continue to

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drift in a direction that moves it further and further from broad national interests in science and technology" and become nothing more than "a national endowment for science," or it can "be at the heart of helping to shape the administration's science and technology policy in pursuit of specific national goals."

The committee calls on NSF to "identify that which is specific, immediate, and realizable" and to "spell out how much of its mission should be strategic and applied in nature and then to implement these parameters through its budget process" directorate by directorate. It warns the science community, "that rather than seeing this as a threat," it is "perhaps the last, best chance to seize the opportunity to be an integral part of the solution to the science and technological problems our country and its economy now confront."

To achieve this transformation of NSF, the report insists NSF revise its strategic plan to include:

- ♦ for each directorate, annual, quantifiable performance milestones with vigorous evaluation components;
- ♦ not less than 60 percent of the agency's annual program research activities should be strategic in nature and the NSF should not shroud curiosity driven research under the rubric of strategic activities;
- ♦ a new and bold program of academic research infrastructure support;

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$60; institutional subscriptions, \$120, overseas mail, \$120. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788

- ♦ new initiatives that link State S&T programs in a formal partnership with the Foundation;
- ♦ a review of the status and funding of all NSF supported research centers with regard to industry involvement and establishing thresholds for private sector participation;
- ♦ an evaluation of the structure, composition, and role of the National Science Board, including future mandatory industrial memberships;
- ♦ incremental milestones for individual programs and activities in the annual budget submission; and
- ♦ clear and detailed working relationships with other Federal agencies should as NIST, NIH, NASA, EPA, ARPA, and the Departments of Education and Energy.

The bill is expected to go to the Senate floor the week of September 13 and a conference with the House could occur in time to complete action on the bill before the new fiscal year begins on October 1.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS SET: INCREASE FOR NRI, ERS CUT *MS*

The House-Senate appropriations conference committee agreed on FY 1994 spending levels for the Department of Agriculture before the August recess. The conference report, which passed the House on August 6, awaits action by the Senate, whereupon it will be sent to President Clinton.

Programs of interest to social, behavioral and economic scientists received mixed treatment. The Committee allocated \$171.3 million for Hatch Act payments, the same as the administration's request, and a \$3 million increase over FY 1993.

The National Research Initiative Competitive Grants (NRI) received \$112.15 million, closer to the House figure of \$114 million than the Senate figure of \$102.5 million. The final figure represents an almost \$15 million increase over FY 1993 levels, but a \$16.8 million decrease from the president's request. The move toward the House figures occurred because the House had included Global Change research (\$2.5 million) and Water Quality research (\$9 million) as part of the NRI, while the Senate had included them as part of the Special

Grants program. The conference committee decided to include half the funding for each program as part of the NRI and half the funding as part of the Special Grant program. The Markets, Trade and Policy component of the NRI received \$4 million the same as last year's appropriation, but \$3.5 million under the administration's request.

Special grants, as always, received a significant increase over the president's request, \$72.9 million compared to \$34 million. Also, the final figure reflects the Senate number, rather than the smaller House allocation of \$50.1 million. This occurs because the House appropriates funds for the grants its members want, and then the Senate simply adds the projects its members support. In the conference all the projects from both bills receive an appropriation. The Rural Policies Institute Special Grant at the Universities of Arkansas, Missouri and Nebraska, zero-funded in the House bill, was appropriated \$525,000; below the FY 1993 level of \$692,000.

The conference committee allocated over \$1 million for a geographic information system for land use management purposes. The pilot project begun in 1990 in Arkansas, Georgia, and the Chesapeake Bay, now includes Wisconsin, Washington, and North Dakota as well.

The Economic Research Service (ERS) received \$55.2 million, \$3.5 million less than FY 1993, \$2.5 million less than the House, but \$4 million above the Senate allocation, and \$4.4 million above the request from the administration which argued "much of [ERS's] work duplicates that of other USDA bureaus."

The National Agricultural Statistical Service received \$81.7 million, \$700,000 above the FY 1993 level, and about \$200,000 above the administration's request.

OSTP ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED

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President Clinton has announced his intention to nominate Marci Greenwood as the Associate Director for Science and Jane Wales as Associate Director for International Affairs and National Security in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

Greenwood has served as the Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Davis since 1989. Previously, she was the Chair of the Department of Biology and a John Guty Vassar Professor of Natural Sciences at Vassar College. She has also taught at Columbia University, Pratt Institute, the Rockefeller University, and the University of Washington Medical School. Her research has focused on nutrition, particularly obesity. She has an A.B. from Vassar, and a Ph.D. in physiology, neuroscience, and developmental biology from Rockefeller University.

Greenwood will be responsible for overseeing and helping to select the Assistant Directors for the Life, Physical, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Wales is currently chair of the Corporate Security Program of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, responsible for a \$13 million grantmaking program to individuals and organizations contributing to the goals of arms control and East-West relations. Wales served in a similar capacity at the W. Alton Jones Foundation from 1988-90. She has been the Executive Director of the Physicians for Social Responsibility (1982-88), a deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Public Affairs at the State Department (1979-81), coordinator of the public liaison office in the Carter White House (1977-79), and spokesperson for the Carter-Mondale transition team. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Wales has also been a reporter for Congressional Quarterly. She is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence and has a certificate from the Sorbonne.

Both Greenwood and Wales face Senate confirmation hearings and will join Lionel 'Skip' Johns and Robert Watson as the four associate directors at OSTP.

WHITE HOUSE RELEASES NATIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW TO STREAMLINE GOVERNMENT

HS

Claiming the "government is broke and broken and the people know it," President Clinton and Vice President Gore have joined a lengthy list of administrations that have sought to change the way government operates and serves the American people. On September 7 the National Performance Review, chaired by Gore, unveiled its report, *From Red Tape to Results: Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less*. By streamlining the

bureaucracy (and eliminating 250,000 federal jobs), altering procurement practices, improving information technology, and simplifying and reducing reporting requirements, the administration hopes to save \$108 billion over five years and to make the government more efficient and better at serving its customer, the American people.

Influenced by an era of corporate downsizing -- as well as a Brookings Institution study, *Improving Government Performance* -- Gore's panel undertook a six month review of federal agencies and their operations and recommended reforms to:

- ◆ create quality leadership and management;
- ◆ streamline management control;
- ◆ transform organizational structures;
- ◆ improve customer services;
- ◆ develop mission-driven, results-oriented budgeting;
- ◆ improve financial management;
- ◆ reinvent human resource management;
- ◆ reengineer through the use of information technology;
- ◆ rethink program design;
- ◆ reinvent environmental management;
- ◆ strengthen intergovernmental service delivery;
- ◆ improve regulatory systems.

Science Policy

One recommendation concerning science policy is to reconstitute the interagency Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET) as the National Science and Technology Council, and give it "teeth" to set priorities, direct policy and participate fully in the budget process. The report suggests the new Council would act as "one stop shopping for science and technology policy."

Data Use

A number of the recommendations would provide better data to the government and users. These include:

- ◆ eliminating legislative barriers to the exchange of business data among federal statistical agencies;
- ◆ establishing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure using Geographic Information Systems;
- ◆ expanding the electronic availability of census data;

- ◆ using sampling to count nonrespondents to minimize the cost of the decennial census;
- ◆ improving federal data on small business.

Education

The Department of Education, according to the report, should:

- ◆ build a professional, mission-driven structure for educational research;
- ◆ consolidate the National Security Education Program run by the Department of Defense; with the Center for International Education in the Education Department; and
- ◆ reduce the number of programs administered by the Department, including support for university research libraries.

Survey Research

Another proposal affects agencies that conduct survey research. OMB is asked to delegate routine paperwork review to the agencies and to streamline the paperwork review process.

The report proposes a biennial budget and appropriations process, an idea that has been around for over 15 years. It has been a major topic of the Joint Committee on Congressional Reform and has been under consideration by numerous bodies interested in changing the budget process. The major figures on the appropriations committees in the Congress have opposed the idea since it would reduce their power to scrutinize agencies on an annual basis.

The White House contends it can implement 70 percent of the report's recommendations through Executive Orders, but it is the remaining 30 percent that may present the strongest challenges to reinventing government.

COALITION FORMED TO ADVANCE HEALTH THROUGH BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH *SP*

Calling for expanded NIH research in the behavioral and social sciences, a new coalition of health and research groups has formed to support the recently created Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research at the National Institutes of Health.

The Coalition for the Advancement of Health through Behavioral and Social Science Research intends to actively monitor and provide information on the importance of the new office. The Coalition plans to work closely with NIH officials, Members of Congress and their staffs, and other policymakers to advocate funding for the office, serve as a liaison between NIH and researchers in these disciplines, and enhance the behavioral and social sciences at NIH.

The Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research was created by the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 which was signed into law by President Clinton earlier this year. The office is mandated to coordinate research on the relationship between human behavior and the development, treatment, and prevention of medical conditions, in addition to identifying new areas for NIH support of behavioral and social science research. It marks the first time that these disciplines will be a formal part of the structure of NIH.

Coalition members, listed alphabetically, are: Alan Guttmacher Institute, American Anthropological Association, American Psychological Association, American Sociological Association, Center for the Advancement of Health, Consortium of Social Science Associations, Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences, National Council on Family Relations, Sex Information and Education Council of the United States, and the Society of Behavioral Medicine.

Coalition activities to date have included lobbying members of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for funding for the new office, and meeting with NIH officials to discuss the status and future of behavioral and social science research at the NIH. Dr. John Kalberer of the Office of Disease Prevention at NIH, and Dr. Ron Abeles, Vice Chair of the NIH Health and Behavior Coordinating Committee both addressed the Coalition in August. The Coalition is scheduled to meet with Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, Acting Director of NIH, in late September regarding the future of the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research.

For more information, contact Susan Persons of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) at (202) 842-3525.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON AIDS CALLS FOR MORE BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH *SP*

The National Commission on AIDS recently released a special report, *Behavioral and Social Sciences and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic*, which makes specific recommendations regarding behavioral and social science research activities that should be supported at the federal level. The report concentrates on activities of the Public Health Service (PHS) of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Commission was established by an act of Congress for the purpose of promoting the development of a national consensus on policy concerning AIDS and of studying and making recommendations for a consistent national AIDS policy. It consisted of a bipartisan body whose members were appointed by the President and Congress, and, by legislative mandate, it ceased operation on September 3, 1993.

The report concludes that the behavioral and social sciences have not been utilized appropriately to combat AIDS. Reasons cited include: 1) a tendency to look for "technological fixes" rather than to address the complex issues--behavioral, social, and economic--that promote the spread of infectious disease; 2) undervaluing the contributions of the behavioral and social sciences; 3) an historical neglect of financial support of the behavioral and social sciences; 4) political interference in research on sexual and drug use behavior; and 5) political and funding limitations on prevention programs which kept behavioral and social science knowledge from being utilized.

The panel stated that a continuation of the status quo is "morally indefensible." It recommends the following:

- ♦ Integrate behavioral and social science into the mainstream of the U.S. response to HIV/AIDS through development of a plan for a National Prevention Initiative;
- ♦ Expand behavioral and social science research;
- ♦ Expand and improve training in the behavioral and social sciences;

- ◆ Improve the transfer of technologies from behavioral and social science research into application in prevention programs;
- ◆ Improve evaluation of prevention efforts;
- ◆ Ensure behavioral and social science expertise is represented more fully in senior policy making and management positions in relevant government agencies; and
- ◆ Expand investment of new resources in prevention programs and research.

Judy Auerbach, Ph.D., sociologist and former COSSA Associate Director for Government Affairs, served as a member of an advisory group to the Commission. To obtain copies of the final report, contact COSSA at (202) 842-3525.

APA REPORT AIMS TO CURB YOUTH VIOLENCE

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In the wake of dramatic escalation in violence among young people, the American Psychological Association (APA) recently released a report contending that "society can intervene effectively in the lives of children and youth to reduce or prevent their involvement in violence."

The study, *Violence & Youth: Psychology's Response*, contains the initial findings of APA's Commission on Violence, which consists of 10 psychologists, an attorney, and former Washington, D.C. police chief Isaac Fulwood, Jr., says that violence is learned behavior and "our society can intervene effectively in the lives of young people to reduce or prevent their involvement in violence."

The commission examined the antecedents of violence, the social and cultural experiences affecting youth violence, youths as victims, and effective interventions. The study also made a series of recommendations for researchers and policymakers.

According to the study, children learn fundamental ways of dealing with social conflict at an early age, and it is at this stage where attitudes toward violence and violent behavior can begin. Noting that the greatest predictor of future violent behavior is previous instances of violence, the study recommends prompt intervention for children who show early signs of aggressive behavior. These negative influences of early childhood are

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION REJOINS COSSA

The American Agricultural Economics Association has announced it is rejoining the Consortium as an Affiliate. COSSA welcomes them back, and looks forward to working with the association on issues of common concern.

exacerbated when social forces of prejudice, economic inequality, and cultural attitudes toward violence are involved.

In discussing those most at risk, the study contends, "Except for hate crimes, it is the condition of social and economic inequality in which many ethnic minority youth live -- and not their ethnicity -- that places them at increased risk for being victims of violence," and notes that youth who are female, gay and lesbian youth, and youth with disabilities are placed at special risk because of bias and inequality in society.

The commission made a series of recommendations including: early childhood interventions, school-based interventions, heightened awareness of cultural diversity, a reduction in violence on television and increased use of this medium to convey pro-social messages to youth, and psychological and educational counselling for perpetrators of youth violence. The recommendations did not address issues of income distribution.

To obtain a copy of the report, contact: The American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002; phone: (202) 336-5500.

PEACE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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The United States Institute of Peace, an independent, non-partisan federal agency, announces its 1993 cycle of solicited grants and the 1994-95 Jennings Randolph Fellowships Program.

Both the solicited grants program and the Randolph Fellowships support research and education projects on issues concerning conflict and peace. Deadlines vary; for more information, call (202) 429-3886.

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH** *ke*

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Behavioral Development in Middle Childhood

The Human Learning and Behavior Branch, Center for Research for Mothers and Children, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the Division of Neuroscience and Behavioral Science, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) invite applications for the support of research on behavioral development during middle childhood.

The purpose of this announcement is to stimulate the submission of high quality research applications for scientific studies designed to characterize psychological and behavioral aspects of development of American children during their middle childhood period. More specifically, the investigations should center on gaining a deep understanding of social, emotional and cognitive processes that develop and help to uniquely define that period that is termed middle childhood (the period that includes the age range among children in grades K-6). Research focusing on normative development is particularly encouraged.

Application Procedure: Applications are to be submitted on form PHS 398. The application kit may be obtained from the office of sponsored research at your university/research institution and from the Office of Grants Information, Division of Research Grants, NIH, 5333 Westbard Avenue, Room 449, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-7248.

Funds Available: The support of grants in connection with this announcement is contingent on the availability of funds for this purpose. The number of grants awarded will be influenced by the total amount of funds available to the NICHD and NIMH, the overall number of meritorious applications received, and the relevance of the applications to stated program goals. It is anticipated that up to \$1 million direct costs (\$750,000 NICHD, \$250,000 NIMH) will be available to fund six to eight meritorious applications under this RFA.

Review Process: Applications will be reviewed upon receipt by NIH staff for completeness and responsiveness to the RFA. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will be returned to the applicant. Those applications judged to be competitive will undergo review for scientific merit by a Special Review Committee (SRC) convened by the NICHD. The second level of review will be conducted by the respective National Advisory Councils of the NICHD and the NIMH.

Deadlines: Applications must be received by January 18, 1994.

Contact: Programmatic inquiries and requests should be directed to: Norman A. Krasnegor, Ph.D., Center for Research for Mothers and Children, NICHD, 6100 Building, Room 4B05, Bethesda, MD, 20892, (301) 496-6591 or Mary Ellen Oliveri, Ph.D., Division of Neuroscience and Behavioral Science, NIMH, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 11C-10, Rockville, MD, 20857, (301) 443-3942. Fiscal issues should be directed: Edgar D. Shawver, Office of Grants and Contracts, NICHD, 6100 Building, Rm. 8A17E, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301)496-1303 or Diana Trunnell, Assistant Chief, Grants Management Branch, NIMH, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 7C15, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-3065.

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