

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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NSF FY94 APPROPRIATION FINAL: RESEARCH UP 7 PERCENT *HS*

Agreement on the FY 1994 appropriation for the National Science Foundation (NSF) has been reached by the House-Senate conference committee on the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations bill. Following the release of President Clinton's budget in April, Congress scrutinized the activities of the Foundation, weighed the competing demands of other agencies, and set the FY94 funding level for NSF at \$3.005 billion.

This \$272 million increase (10 percent) over FY 1993 represents a significant achievement in an era of budgetary constraints. Although it did not meet the President's request of a 16 percent increase, NSF fared better than NASA, HUD, EPA or the Department of Veteran's Affairs -- all of which compete with NSF in the appropriations bill.

For research, the conferees appropriated \$1.986 billion, a \$127 million increase over FY 1993. The 7 percent boost reflected a compromise between the House recommendation of 10 percent and the Senate recommendation of 4 percent. Application of the increase to the specific directorates and programs is left to NSF in the development of its operating plan for FY 1994.

100 Percent Facilities Increase

The conferees agreed to appropriate \$100 million, a 100 percent increase over last year, for academic research infrastructure -- facilities and instrumentation. The President and the House had proposed \$55 million, the Senate \$125 million. This significant increase indicates that Congress now seems willing to make an increasing commitment to solving the \$10 billion problem of inadequate scientific facilities.

NSF's Education and Human Resources programs were awarded \$569.6 million, a 17 percent increase over FY 1993, with the conferees making several specific changes to the programs: EPSCOR up \$7.5 million; Community College grants up \$10 million; Minority Science Summer Camps up \$1 million; Systemic Reform in Rural Areas up \$1.5

million; and Curriculum Development down \$3 million.

OPDR AND CIESIN

The VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations bill contained two additional items funding social science research. The Office of Policy Development and Research (OPDR) at HUD, which has had a roller coaster ride in the appropriations process (see *Update*, September 27) wound up where it began in the President's budget at \$35 million. This is a \$10 million increase over FY 1993, although \$4 million is for congressionally designated purposes.

The conferees agreed with the Senate's decision regarding the Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) funded in the NASA budget. CIESIN has been designated a Distributed, Active Archive Center for socio-economic activities within the Earth Observing System Data Information System and will receive from NASA \$5 million in FY 1994 funds and \$6

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million thereafter, for this purpose. The conferees noted that they "expect beginning in FY 1995, NSF will establish, through a competitive process, a Center for the Human Dimensions of Climate Change at a level of approximately \$6 million annually."

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES NSF REAUTHORIZATION BILL *HS*

In authorization bills Congress indicates what it believes agencies should be spending on their various programs. These bills also allow Congress to prescribe certain activities and create new programs and structures. Appropriations bills determine an agency's actual spending levels in a particular fiscal year. These processes in recent years have created tensions between authorization and appropriations committees.

On October 6, the House Science Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA), following a series of hearings this Spring, reported out its version of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) authorization for the next three years. In a number of its provisions the authorizers hurl challenges at the appropriators.

For Chairman Boucher, the key part of the bill is another attempt to solve the estimated \$10 billion shortfall in support for new and rehabilitated academic research facilities. As he did in the Spring hearings, Boucher noted the previous five year NSF authorization bill provided \$890 million for facilities modernization, but during that period only \$94

million had been appropriated. The new legislation sets the authorization level at \$250 million per year for FY 1994, 1995 and 1996. (\$100 million was appropriated in FY 1994). In addition, to further the chances of increases in this program, the bill provides a requirement that the first \$150 million of funds appropriated to NSF in FY 1995 and the first \$200 million in FY 1996 must be provided to the facilities program, a directive to the appropriators that they will probably not appreciate as it infringes on their power.

In addition, the bill requires the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to develop a plan, submitted within 18 months of the bill's enactment, for a multi-agency academic facilities modernization program that would specify spending levels for each agency.

Earmarking Targeted

In line with the recent activities of House Science, Space and Technology Committee chair George Brown (D-CA) to eradicate congressional earmarking of funds for unauthorized projects, the bill prohibits, after FY 1995, awards in the facilities program to any institution which, beginning with FY 1995, receives an appropriation earmark for facilities construction. A substitute bill, drafted by Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), the Science Subcommittee's Ranking Republican, takes this a step further and would prohibit any NSF grant to an institution that receives an earmarked appropriation for facilities. This proposal is another challenge to a practice regarded as an important prerogative of the appropriators.

The bill provides funding authority for NSF for fiscal years 1994, 1995 and 1996, at the overall levels recommended by the Clinton administration in its document *A Vision of Change for America*. According to these figures, NSF funding should increase by 16.3 percent in FY 1994, 19.8 percent in FY 1995 and 8 percent in FY 1996. However, we know that the appropriators only gave NSF a 10 percent increase for FY 1994 (see page one), allowing Boehlert to charge that the Subcommittee's bill was unrealistic. The Republican substitute would use the FY 1994 appropriated levels as the FY 1994 authorized numbers, and provide an 8 percent increase for FY 1995.

Increase for SBE Directorate

For research the proposed legislation provides for an 8.1 percent increase for FY 1994 (the

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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

NSF HEADS FOR THE 'BURBS *MS*

After years of delay, disapproval, and congressional infighting, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has begun moving to its new headquarters in the Northern Virginia suburbs. **Effective October 25 NSF's new address will be 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.** After that date, all proposals and correspondence should be directed to the new address.

The Directorates have been moving on an incremental basis since mid-September. All divisions of the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate will be in the new building by October 12. The Education and Human Resources Directorate completed its move on October 4. The Director's office, the Assistant Directors, the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, and the National Science Board will not vacate the present Washington headquarters until early December.

Although new telephone numbers will be available as each Directorate relocates, telephone calls will be forwarded during the transition. NSF anticipates a smooth move that will not disrupt service to its constituents.

appropriation increase was 7 percent), a significant 30.3 percent increase for FY 1995, and a 9.9 percent increase for FY 1996. Unlike the appropriations bill, the authorization proposal lays out spending levels for the individual directorates. The Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate would increase from \$89.5 million in FY 1993 to \$142.5 million by FY 1996.

For the Education and Human Resources Directorate, the bill authorizes \$556.1 million for FY 1994 (already exceeded by the appropriation of \$569.5 million), the same \$556.1 million for FY 1995 and only \$572.8 million in FY 1996. These small increases for a directorate whose appropriations have tripled in the past five years indicate the Subcommittee's reluctance to permit more unbridled growth for EHR's programs.

Other provisions in the Subcommittee bill include: a three year strategic planning document submitted annually to Congress; authority to make grants to non-governmental organizations for debt-

for-science exchanges; and a strategic plan for international scientific cooperation.

House Action Likely by End of Year

In the interest of moving the bill to the next level, Boehlert agreed to postpone the debate on his substitute until the full Science, Space and Technology Committee took up the proposed reauthorization. It appeared from the exchanges during the markup that some interesting negotiations should be occurring during the next few weeks before the full Committee meets. The goal is to move the bill through the House before the end of this year.

The Senate, where two committees share jurisdiction over NSF reauthorization, is not expected to start its process until next year. The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee is currently swamped with health care reform and education legislation and the Senate Commerce Committee is still contemplating how to move the National Competitiveness (S.4) bill through the Senate.

COALITION DISCUSSES BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE WITH ACTING NIH DIRECTOR *SP*

The Coalition for the Advancement of Health through Behavioral and Social Science Research recently met with National Institutes of Health (NIH) Acting Director Ruth Kirschstein to discuss the new Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR). The OBSSR will provide the first formal structural support for the behavioral and social sciences at NIH.

In meeting with Kirschstein, Coalition members expressed strong support for behavioral and social science research at NIH, the relevance of behavioral and social science research to health care reform, and the central role behavioral and social science research plays in the enhancement of NIH's mission.

Members of the Coalition conveyed their perspectives on the important functions of OBSSR: its significance as an autonomous office within the Office of the Director (NIH has historically had a predominantly biomedical focus); its critical role in reporting directly to the Director of NIH; and its capacity to coordinate and enhance behavioral and social science research across the institutes.

NEW BOOK LOOKS AT NSF FUNDING PANEL MB

The Cardinals of Capitol Hill, a new book by Richard Munson, Executive Director of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, examines the congressional appropriations process, using the VA-HUD Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee, which funds the National Science Foundation, as a case study.

Munson focuses on the Fiscal Year 1992 appropriations process in his book, which is published by Grove Press of New York.

Search Committee for Director

Kirschstein reported that NIH is making progress in getting the office under way, and that a search committee for a director will be in place by early November. The Coalition suggested numerous qualifications for the director, stressing that the candidate have a broad-based knowledge of the social and behavioral sciences. Kirschstein anticipates that Harold Varmus, President Clinton's nominee to lead NIH, will select an OBSSR director after he is confirmed by the Senate. She also indicated that she will be forming an advisory committee for the new office, and that the Coalition will be involved in this process.

The Coalition was formed earlier this year to actively monitor and support the new office. COSSA is an active member and participated in the meeting along with the following Coalition members: the American Anthropological Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, the Center for the Advancement of Health, the Federation for Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences, the National Council on Family Relations, the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, and the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

For more information on the Coalition, contact Susan Persons of COSSA at (202) 842-3525.

COSSA INVITED TO JOIN HEALTH AND JUSTICE WORKING GROUP MB

COSSA has accepted an invitation to join the Justice Department's Health and Justice Working Group to assist in the formulation of a multi-disciplinary approach to studying and developing solutions to cross-cutting health and justice issues. The initiative is under the auspices of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research and development arm of the Justice Department.

As a member of the Working Group, COSSA represents the interests of the social science community in working with criminal justice and health organizations to advise NIJ officials in addressing the interrelationship between the problems of health, crime, drugs, and violence. The Health and Justice Initiative seeks to build on NIJ's 1993 program plan, which introduced six long-range goals for NIJ-supported research on crime and criminal justice issues (see *Update*, May 17).

The initiative formalizes and expands on several ongoing NIJ programs spanning health and justice including: a cooperative effort between NIJ and the Centers for Disease Control on projects to better understand and prevent violence, injury and death; the Program on Human Development and Criminal Behavior, which is jointly supported by NIJ and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to advance knowledge of health and social development; a collaborative effort with the National Institute on Drug Abuse to research and evaluate HIV/AIDS education for arrestees; and close cooperation with the American Medical Association in planning a 1994 national conference on domestic violence.

NIJ recently organized the first meeting of the Working Group, with over 40 representatives of a broad coalition of organizations, including COSSA, meeting to discuss areas of common concern and to seek new partnerships for NIJ in its efforts.

In a related development, the 1994 Defense Department authorization bill, which recently passed the House, includes provisions to create an interagency working group to identify Defense Department resources and dual-use technologies that can be transferred to address civilian health and justice issues. Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-CO) has been the prime supporter of this component of the bill.

EDUCATION PROGRESS "WHOLLY INADEQUATE," PANEL SAYS *MB*

Calling for higher education standards and citizen action, the bipartisan National Education Goals Panel recently said that at no stage in a learner's life -- before formal schooling, during the school years, or as adults -- are Americans doing as well as they should be or can.

In releasing its 1993 report, *Building a Nation of Learners*, the panel stated, "The standards we have in education do not match the performance needs demanded by citizenship and employment in our society. Our minimal and fractured system of standards is significantly below that of countries with which we compete for leadership, economically and politically."

The report calls for, among other things, blending expert classroom knowledge with that of researchers to develop nationwide standards.

In commenting on the findings, Peter Magrath, President of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges said that higher education should receive a "failing grade" in mathematics and science achievement, in part because of the under-representation of minorities in these disciplines at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

For more information, contact the National Education Goals Panel at (202) 632-0957.

NSEP UPDATE: FACULTY WORKSHOPS PLANNED; UNCERTAINTY ON CAPITOL HILL *MB*

The National Security Education program (NSEP), which seeks to convert \$150 million in intelligence funding to a trust fund for international studies and foreign language education and training, has announced a series of regional workshops to familiarize U.S. faculty members with the undergraduate and graduate fellowship programs to be supported by the NSEP.

A series of day-long workshops will be conducted throughout the country in late October and early November. For more information, contact the NSEP program office at (703) 695-2071.

NAS REPORT CITES NEED FOR JOB TRAINING SYSTEM *MB*

A recently released report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) concludes there is no effective, coherent system of job training programs for the 75 percent of American adults who do not hold college degrees. The NAS says that training is accomplished in a piecemeal manner and largely through state and local authorities and private organizations.

The NAS study panel, chaired by Richard P. Nathan, director of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at the State University of New York at Albany, recommends that the federal government: foster high-quality training by aiming to improve the entire training system rather than only federal programs; improve existing federal programs by tying eligibility for student aid more closely to the success of vocational schools in graduating and placing trainees; and establish an office to develop and implement and integrated federal policy on job training.

To obtain a copy of the report, *Preparing for the Workplace: Charting a Course for Postsecondary Training Policy*, contact the NAS at (202) 334-3313.

The NSEP meetings are:

- ◆ Wednesday, October 20, Roosevelt University, Chicago
- ◆ Thursday, October 21, University of Cincinnati
- ◆ Tuesday, October 26, The Vollum College Center, Portland, Oregon
- ◆ Thursday, October 28, University of California, Los Angeles
- ◆ Tuesday, November 9, TBA, Dallas
- ◆ Wednesday, November 10, Clark-Atlanta University

An Uncertain Future on Capitol Hill

Meanwhile, the NSEP faces an uphill fight on Capitol Hill, as conference committees are presently reconciling differing bills affecting NSEP, some of which include provisions to either significantly reduce or abolish the program. Future issues of *Update* will follow this issue as it evolves.

HOUSE HEARING LOOKS AT CENSUS PLANNING; POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS A ROADBLOCK *MB*

An October 7 hearing of the House Subcommittee on Census, Statistics and Postal Personnel reviewed the status of planning the 2000 Census, with subcommittee chair Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-OH) and witnesses expressing support for the Census Bureau's research and design efforts, but expressing concern over the impact of potential budget cuts.

In his opening statement Chairman Sawyer said that the Bureau "is now on the right track" in its proposals to reduce the undercount and contain costs (see *Update*, September 27), and urged the agency to focus its limited resources on areas in which it can achieve the most progress for the 2000 Census. Sawyer, alluding to congressional critics of the census, said, "the burden falls to the Bureau to determine if the advantages outweigh the costs" as it formulates the design for 2000.

Acting Census Bureau Director Harry Scarr presented the subcommittee with plans for the 1995 test survey (see *Update*, September 27). Scarr, in commenting on the nearly two-thirds cut in proposed FY94 funding for censal research and design voted by the House Appropriations Committee (see *Update*, July 12), said that such a drastic cut would force him to eliminate testing of "prominent building blocks for fundamental change," including targeting undercounted groups, new technologies for responding to the census and processing the data, and the use of administrative records to improve accuracy. FY94 funding for the Census Bureau is currently being considered by a joint House-Senate conference committee.

L. Nye Stevens of the General Accounting Office (GAO) testified before Sawyer's panel that the Bureau's planning efforts are "promising" but that reform is in jeopardy in part because of its uncertain budgetary future. Stevens also urged swift nomination and confirmation of a Census Bureau Director, more specific details for data collection and evaluation programs, and more progress in building consensus with Congress and key stakeholders.

Norman Bradburn, Senior Vice President for Research at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, outlined for the subcommittee the interim report of the National

CENSUS BUREAU RELEASES 1992 POVERTY AND INCOME DATA *MB*

The Census Bureau has released a series of reports examining income, poverty, health, and education data for 1992. The data show that the number of Americans below the poverty level increased for the third straight year, at the same time the number of Americans without health insurance coverage continued to increase.

For more information on the reports, which are taken from the March 1993 Current Population Survey, contact the Census Bureau at (301) 763-4100.

Academy of Sciences panel he chairs on examining alternative census methods. The report, *A Census that Mirrors America*, recently endorsed the Census Bureau's goal of achieving a "one-number" census through sampling and other statistical methods. Such a design would eliminate any post-censal adjustment of data after they are released. Bradburn echoed both Scarr and Stevens in discussing the impact of reduced funding on census research and design.

PEW FACULTY FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE *MB*

The Pew Faculty Fellowship has been established to encourage outstanding college and university faculty to introduce the case method of instruction into their teaching of graduate and undergraduate courses in international affairs.

Each fellow receives tuition and expenses to underwrite participation in an intensive, two-week institute on case teaching, case writing, and course development at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government during June. An additional stipend supports each Fellow's preparation and teaching, during the ensuing academic year, of a course that substantially incorporates the case method, as well as the writing of a case.

The application deadline is January 31, 1994. For more information, contact: The Pew Faculty Fellowship in International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, 79 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; phone: (617) 495-8295.

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:
NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM** *KC*

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.

Division of Research Grants

In anticipation of the availability of additional funds, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), plans to issue RFAs in early October in the following priority research areas: 1) **health services** - research on the organization management, financing, utilization, and effectiveness, including cost effectiveness, of prevention and treatment services for alcohol problems, including policy and community-based studies; 2) **prevention** - three areas of underdeveloped prevention research are emphasized. These include prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects (FAS/FAE), alcohol-related problems among the elderly, and unintended non-traffic injuries; 3) **youth** - research addressing the prevention and treatment of alcohol abuse and alcohol-related problems among youth; 4) **minority groups** - studies of alcohol problems among racial and ethnic minority populations and prevention and treatment of these problems; 5) **women** - studies of drinking behavior, alcohol problems, and appropriate prevention and treatment strategies for women.

Application Procedure: Applications are to be submitted on form PHS 398. The applications 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: Support of grants in connection with these RFAs 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 NIAAA within each area of emphasis, the number of meritorious applications received, and the relevance of the applications to stated program goals.

Review Process: Applications will be reviewed upon receipt by NIH staff for completeness and responsiveness to the RFAs. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will be returned to the applicant. Those applications judged to be competitive will undergo review for scientific and technical merit by a Special Review Committee (SRC) within each area of emphasis and secondary review by the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Deadlines: Applications relating to research on women, youth or minorities must be received by January 12, 1994. Applications relating to prevention or health services research must be received by January 24, 1994.

Contact: Programmatic inquiries and requests for the complete RFAs should be directed to the following individuals: 1) Health Services Research - Dr. Michael Hilton, 2) Prevention - Dr. Kendall Bryant, 3) Youth - Dr. Gayle Boyd, 4) Minorities - Dr. Susan Martin, or 5) Women - Dr. Elsie Taylor. Please call (301) 443-1677 or write Division of Clinical and Prevention Research, Room 13-C-23, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

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