



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2019 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$1.67 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** and **\$525 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** in FY 2019.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) primary extramural funding agency, supports capacity-building programs to ensure that U.S. research institutions are equipped to conduct rigorous research that supports our agricultural sector. NIFA also administers USDA's premier peer-reviewed grants program for basic and applied agriculture research, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Social and behavioral science research supported by NIFA helps us **protect and enhance our food supply** through better understanding of human behavior and economic incentives, **improve quality of life and alleviate poverty in rural areas**, find new ways to **reduce childhood obesity and promote healthy behaviors**, **develop solutions to water shortages**, and **support and train the next generation of researchers** in the agriculture and food sciences.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$180 million for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)** in FY 2019.



The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) produces timely, accurate, and useful statistics covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. A strong FY 2019 appropriation for NASS will enable it to continue to provide the information necessary to keep agricultural markets stable and efficient and to help maintain consistency for all users of agricultural statistics.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$90 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS)** in FY 2019.

The Economic Research Service (ERS) conducts sound, peer-reviewed economic and social science research that measures the health of the farm sector through data on farm income, the health of the agriculture sector including trade, and the food security system both in the U.S. and abroad.

“Social and behavioral science” encompasses a collection of STEM disciplines engaged in the rigorous study of why and how humans behave as they do as individuals, groups and within institutions, organizations, and society. It often refers to the disciplines of and fields within anthropology, communication, demography, economics, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics, as well as countless multidisciplinary subfields.

