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COSSA Washington Update

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CONGRESS PASSES COMPETITIVENESS LEGISLATION: BAIRD ADDS SOCIAL SCIENCE TO NSF PRIORITIES LIST

Culminating a two-year effort, on August 2 Congress cleared the America COMPETES Act. Combining many aspects of House and Senate legislation that traveled through both bodies in 2006 and 2007, the over 450 page bill includes provisions affecting the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Department of Energy, NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Education (DOE), and the White House Office of Science and Technology (OSTP). As a number of House Members noted during the debate on the House-Senate conference report, this is only an authorization bill and many of the funding levels may not be provided by the appropriators. Nonetheless, House Science Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) led this successful effort through many mine fields during its route to passage.

The NSF portion of the legislation reauthorizes the agency for three years at funding levels that will keep the agency on a path to double its budget in seven years. The bill particularly increases authorization levels for K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education by increasing funding for scholarship programs to train and retrain math and science teachers and by further encouraging math and science partnerships between universities and elementary and secondary schools. The legislation also provides for expansion of the Graduate Fellowship program, the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program, and the early career grants program (CAREER), and creates a new pilot program of seed grants for outstanding new investigators.

In addition, the bill includes provisions to help broaden participation in STEM fields at all levels. It requests a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report to identify barriers to and opportunities for increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in STEM fields.

The bill resists calls for open access within a certain time period as required in the bill appropriating FY 2008 funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (see Update [June 25, 2007](#)). The COMPETES bill simply says that the NSF Director shall ensure that “final project reports and citations resulting from research funded...are made available to the public in a timely manner and in electronic form through the Foundation’s Web site.” It does, however, cut off subsequent grants to investigators who fail to share their data within a reasonable time as required by Section 734 of the NSF Grants Manual.

Baird Adds Social Sciences to Meeting Critical National Science Needs

In 2006, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) attempted to remove the SBE sciences from NSF in an early Senate version of the competitiveness legislation. Her attempt was thwarted and eventually compromise language was reached with Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) (see Update, [May 26, 2006](#)).

In the conference deliberations on the COMPETES bill, Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA), Chairman of the House Science Committee’s Basic Research Subcommittee, decided the compromise language was missing something.

He convinced his colleagues to insert the “social sciences” into the Priority Treatment paragraph of the section of the legislation on “Meeting Critical National Science Needs.” This paragraph now lists all the sciences NSF supports as a priority. He also added the words “safety and security” to “competitiveness or innovation” as those critical subjects where this research priority applied. Baird did not believe the section following, which limited the impact of the “Priority Treatment” paragraph, was sufficient protection for the social sciences.

Other parts of the bill create something called ARPA-E, as an attempt to duplicate in the Department of Energy, the Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA). Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education programs in the Department of Education are enhanced, including calling for a NAS panel “to identify promising practices in the teaching of science technology, engineering and mathematics in elementary and secondary schools.” The NAS is also asked to study something called “Service Science,” a multidisciplinary initiative pushed by IBM that combines education in computer sciences, management, and many of the social and behavioral sciences. The bill would put NIST and the Energy Department’s Office of Science on a budget doubling path in seven years. NOAA and NASA are also given increased responsibilities in the science arena.

The White House had objected to some of the earlier components of the COMPETES bill, passed in separate legislation, citing the excessive authorization levels. For example, the Administration’s American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) would double NSF’s budget over ten years. Given the bipartisan support for the COMPETES bill and the long and difficult negotiations to put the final package together, one would assume the Administration would not veto this one. But who knows?

HOUSE PASSES CJS APPROPRIATIONS BILL: CENSUS AND NSF FUNDING RAIDED

On July 26, the House of Representatives passed the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bill by a vote of 281-142. An earlier attempt by Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) to recommit the bill to the Appropriations Committee failed by a vote of 209-215.

During House consideration of the legislation a number of amendments rearranged funding for agencies in the bill. Two amendments offered by Rep. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) increased funding for the Office of Justice Programs and the Office of Violence Against Women by \$10 million each. To offset the increase, Capito took the first \$10 million from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Periodic Censuses and Programs account and the second \$10 million from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Operations and Award Management (formerly Salaries and Expenses) account.

Using the Census Bureau appropriation as a bank for other programs has occurred repeatedly the past few years. As the decennial census approaches, the Administration provides the Bureau with significant increases in order to help it prepare. In FY 2008, the Administration sought to increase the Bureau's budget from \$899 million to \$1.23 billion. Having its budget already reduced at the full Appropriations Committee markup by \$30 million, Members decided that another \$10 million wouldn't hurt the Census, especially when used to boost programs designed to help state and local law enforcement catch illegal aliens on the Southwest Border. This Capito amendment carried by 229-196. Another amendment offered by Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI) would have transferred another \$6 million from the Census Bureau to the International Trade Administration. It lost by a vote of 200-228.

Another favorite tactic of Members is to raid agency's management and operations funding to boost spending on programs. Despite agency arguments that you cannot run programs without having sufficient managers to oversee them, it is still quite popular to make these transfers. House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-WI) noted the "cavalier" attitude Members have regarding management and operations funding. Thus, NSF was not the only agency to lose management funds during the CJS deliberations. Capito's amendment shifting the funds from NSF to the Office of Violence Against Women carried by a vote of 243-186.

The Administration reacted to the House passage of the bill by issuing yet another veto threat. In its Statement of Administration Policy (SAP), the White House announced its opposition to the bill because "it includes an irresponsible and excessive level of spending and includes other objectionable provisions." One of those provisions is report language "that seeks to allocate funds away from NSF research programs that directly contribute to America's economic competitiveness." This refers to the language that "expects NSF to ensure that the biological sciences, geosciences, and social, behavioral and economic sciences directorates receive increases in fiscal year 2008 that are comparable to the other directorates" (see Update, [July 23, 2007](#)).

The companion Senate bill has emerged from the Appropriations Committee (see Update, [July 9, 2007](#)). It is not expected to go to the Senate floor until at least September. However, one scenario suggests that the bill may never reach the floor, but instead will become part of an appropriations end-game Omnibus bill following a series of Continuing Resolutions that will keep the government going after FY 2008 begins on October 1, 2007.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS PASSES SENATE

On July 26, the Senate by a vote of 89-4 passed the FY 2008 Appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The bill now goes to a House-Senate conference committee to reconcile the differences between the Senate bill and the House version passed on June 15 by a vote of 268-150 (see Update, [June 11, 2007](#)).

Once again, the White House has issued a veto threat to this spending bill. However, the Administration has suggested that it could live with the increase over the President's request, if Congress could "demonstrate a path to live within the President's topline [total spending request] and cover the excess spending in this bill through reductions elsewhere." Presumably, the White House does not really want to veto a bill that funds homeland security programs.

For researchers, the differences in the House and Senate version include funding of University Programs, which includes the Centers of Excellence and the scholarship and fellowship programs. The House is at \$48.6 million, the FY 2007 level, and the Senate is at \$38.71 million, \$18,000 above the Administration's requested level. For the Human Factors division, the House provided the requested level of \$12.6 million, while the Senate allotted \$6.7 million, slightly below the FY 2007 level, despite report language from the Appropriations Committee commending DHS for establishing the division and recognizing the importance of the behavioral sciences to homeland security. Both of these programs are within the budget for Research, Development, Acquisition and Operations (RDAO) account in DHS' Science and Technology Directorate. The House provided a total of \$646.3 million for RDAO and the Senate \$697.4 million.

The staff will confer during the August recess and will likely have a conference agreement sometime in September. Whether this means the bill will be sent separately to the White House as was done last year is unclear.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPENDING BILL THROUGH HOUSE

Late on the night of August 2, amidst partisan turmoil, the House of Representatives passed the FY 2008 spending bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration programs. The vote was 237-18 with 13 Members voting Present and 163 Republicans refusing to vote.

In their attempt to finish all 12 appropriations bills before the August recess, the Democratic leadership, frustrated by the Republicans attempts to stall the bill's passage by offering a slew of amendments, rewrote the Rule under which the House considered the bill. The new Rule limited the number of amendments to 12 and deemed certain amendments already passed. The Republicans revolted. The debate on the House floor was not pretty. After losing an amendment to recommit the bill, which would have sent it back to the Appropriations committee, by a vote of 212-216, many GOP members left the House floor and did not participate in the final vote.

During House consideration, none of the numbers affecting research and extension programs reported by the Appropriations Committee were changed (see Update, [July 23, 2007](#)). An amendment sponsored by Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) to reduce funding for the Agricultural Research Service by \$50 million was not approved.

The White House doesn't like this bill either. It strongly opposes the nearly \$1 billion increase over the President's request included in the legislation. The Administration also objects to the many earmarks Congress put into the bill.

The Senate bill emerged from the Appropriations Committee on July 19, but has not been scheduled for floor action.

HOUSE PASSES FARM BILL; NEW OFFICE TO COORDINATE RESEARCH

On July 27, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed its version of the 2007 Farm Bill by a vote of 231-191. The bill makes a number of changes to agriculture and rural development policy and also changes the management of research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Most research at USDA falls under the responsibility of four agencies: the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the in-house scientific agency; the Economic Research Service (ERS), which conducts social and economic research about agriculture and rural America; the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), which collects, analyzes, and disseminates data and administers the U.S. Census of Agriculture; and the Cooperative State, Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), which uses competitive grants, formula funds, and special grants to support university-based research, education and extension.

The House legislation establishes a National Agricultural Research Program Office within the office of the Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE) "to coordinate Department-wide research, education and extension activities." The Office will include the following components: Renewable energy, resources, and environment; Food safety, nutrition, and health; Plant health and production; Animal health and production and animal products; Agriculture systems and technology; and Agriculture economics and rural communities. The Under Secretary will appoint a Director to lead each of these areas.

Each component will have primary programmatic and planning oversight of the research, education and extension capacity and competitive programs as assigned by the Under Secretary. Leadership functions from the existing program offices of the REE agencies will be integrated to ensure that the directors of the offices are the primary program leaders of both intramural and extramural research, education and extension. The House also encourages the Directors to use peer review. In addition, the legislation includes a requirement that the President submit to Congress a single line item reflecting the total amount requested for agriculture research programs.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREE) will continue to play a key role in developing strategic planning and priorities for department-wide research, education, extension and related activities.

The bill also establishes a National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), which puts the various competitive grants programs administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service into a single office. The NIFA will house a merged National Research Initiative and Competitive Grants Program (NRI) and the Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems (IFAFS). The NRI will henceforth focus on basic research issues and the IFAFS will focus on applied research. The legislation authorizes \$500 million a year for these programs. NRI is currently funded at \$190 million and IFAFS has not received any funding in recent years.

The Senate expects to begin consideration of its version of the legislation in September.

BLUMSTEIN HIGHLIGHTS NIJ CONFERENCE; CRIME INCREASE EXAMINED

Still basking in the glow of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology awarded him in early June, (see Update, [January 29, 2007](#)) former COSSA President Al Blumstein presented a luncheon address at the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) annual research conference held July 23-25.

The Carnegie Mellon University distinguished professor reviewed his experiences as Director of Science and Technology for the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice that issued its report, *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society*, forty years ago in 1967. The recommendations from the commission, Blumstein said, "set the research agenda" in crime and criminal justice for the forty years following its release.

Blumstein noted that the political climate of the 1964 election, when Republican candidate Barry Goldwater made an issue of public safety and lawlessness in the country, led a newly re-elected President Lyndon Johnson to appoint the commission headed by former Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, with James Vorenberg as the Executive Director.

The report consisted of over 200 recommendations that discussed the economic impact of crime, criminal sanctions, and improving the effectiveness of police, courts, and the correctional system. It called for more research and better measurement of crime, which led, Blumstein related, to the creation of the National Criminal Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the establishment of a research and statistics presence in the Department of Justice, which later became the NIJ and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

Blumstein noted that the commission sought to reconcile coping with crime in a federal system with a need to balance federal funding versus federal intrusiveness. One decision made was to decentralize arrest history information. The other, which emerged in the Safe Streets Act of 1968, established state planning agencies for criminal justice activities.

Another discussion concerned the increased role of technology used by the criminal justice system. One legacy of those deliberations, Blumstein noted, is that the National Crime Information Center now receives almost six million requests a day, as compared to the two million inquiries a year it received early in its existence. The growth of forensic science exemplified by the large commitment to DNA evidence is another outcome, Blumstein mentioned.

Most importantly, he declared, was the Commission's contribution to considering the elements of the criminal justice enterprise as a system. Blumstein's background in operations research allowed him to develop this formulation, he remarked.

Looking back, Blumstein decried that the funding for research and statistics at Justice has remained inadequate and he bemoaned a revolving door of NIJ directors, "17 of them each with his or her own agenda." He also criticized the "cycles of political control" in which other parts of the Department of Justice (DOJ) have tried to interfere with NIJ and BJS research, data collection and dissemination. Blumstein contended this occurred because of the "legal" rather than "scientific" culture in which these agencies operate.

Crime on the Rise: Only in Some Places and Some Crimes

Another highlight of the conference was the opening plenary session that examined crime trends. NIJ Director-Designate David Hagy noted that after record-setting increases in crime in the 1980s and early 1990s, crime trended downward as the 20th Century ended and the 21st began. In the past few years, however, crime has headed upward again.

Jeffrey Sedgwick, BJS's director, reported that the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports suggested that murders and robberies had indeed increased lately, but that other crimes, particularly those reported in the NCVS, had not increased. Furthermore, there are distinctions in these patterns in different places around the country. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), of which NIJ and BJS are a part, sponsored a 25 city tour early this year to listen to local law enforcement and criminal justice officials describe what was happening in their areas.

What they heard varied, but some themes emerged, according to Sedgwick. First, there was a lot of discussion of shifting resources as police in some cities are now focusing on homeland security issues. Sedgwick suggested that shifting resources and the size of the police force did not appear to have much relationship to murder rate changes.

Law enforcement officers claimed that changes in gangs, juveniles, and drug markets could be held responsible for what was happening. Gangs have become decentralized - the days of Blood and Crips nationalized groups seem to be over. As always, there are turf wars, but they now occur at the block level.

The gang members tend to be younger which, according to these officials, squares with the "culture of violence" that is part of the environment for these youths. Disputes over "respect" now become lethal. There is also a new problem where those returning from the correctional system become mentors for these young people. The consensus, Sedgwick reported, is that the juvenile justice system is broken, with no deterrent effect at all.

The drug market scene has also become variable, with methamphetamine a problem in some cities, but not all. Heroin is also making another comeback in some places and transnational groups are sometimes in the middle of the business.

Local officials told the OJP group that handguns remain a problem. Higher quality and lethality with light punishments for their use are affecting the crime situation. According to Sedgwick, the officials' attitude seems to be "guns are a fact of life" in contending with crime.

Immigration affects the situation, but more in terms of immigrants as victims rather than perpetrators of crime. They are often robbery victims since they usually operate in a cash economy, which makes them vulnerable.

Where declines were still occurring, Sedgwick and his colleagues heard about the increasing use of computers for targeting high crime areas, and the increasing gentrification of inner cities, with crime moving out into old suburbs.

Chris Stone of the Kennedy School of Government agreed that there is no consensus about crime trends and that more analyses state by state, city by city, need to occur. He posited that "murder is no longer a bellwether" of crime. He also pointed out that there has been increased reporting of the use of force in police-citizen contacts. Finally, Stone argued for enhanced re-entry programs to keep the large group who became incarcerated during the crime jump in the 1980s from going back to their former lives of crime.

Nashville Police Chief Ron Cerphas also attributed much of the increase in crime in his city to recidivism. He argued that in his city where the "economy is on fire," there are offender re-entry problems as "some people refuse to be rehabilitated." He also attributed the problems to a small group of juveniles who roam the streets and appear to be impervious to attempts to steer them away from criminal activities.

Even in a small community like Davidson, NC, population 8,000, there are new crime problems, reported police chief Jeanne Miller. With its population doubling there is a need to adjust policing tactics. Miller stressed that "officers need to get out of their cruisers" and work with citizens to prevent increases in crime.

Other sessions at the conference included an update from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Girls Study Group led by former COSSA Board Member Margaret Zahn of North Carolina State University. (For an earlier report on a COSSA Congressional Briefing on the project: [Click here for *Girls and Women in the Criminal Justice System* transcript.](#)) Another session that included former COSSA Board Member Christy Visher of the Urban Institute and Richard Rosenfeld of the University of Missouri, St. Louis focused on a National Academy of Sciences workshop on Community Supervision and Desistance. In addition, a panel examined the development of homegrown terrorists through their radicalization in the nation's prisons, a subject of legislation sponsored by Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA).

REPORT EXAMINES MUSLIMS IN AMERICA: TRYING TO FIT IN

On July 27th, the Pew Research Center in cooperation with Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN), Ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, held a briefing on its recently released survey, *Muslims in America: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream*. For the study Pew interviewed over 55,000 people to get a representative sample of 1,050 Muslim Americans. Their study is the first nationwide random survey of Muslim Americans that attempts to measure not only their demographics, but also their attitudes and opinions.

The researchers at Pew estimate that the current Muslim-American population constitutes less than one percent of the total United States adult population. They estimate that there are 1.5 million adult Muslim Americans 18 years and older living in this country, and put the total Muslim-American population at 2.35 million. This group is significantly younger than the rest of America. More than half, 56 percent, of all adult Muslims are between the ages of 18-39, while only 40 percent of the general population falls within this age group.

The report attempts to fill in the missing gaps, and paint a clearer picture of the life and views of America's Muslim population. Nearly two-thirds of them are immigrants, while 35 percent are native-born. More than a third, 37 percent, of the all foreign-born Muslim Americans come from the Middle East and North Africa, with an additional 12 percent coming from Iran and most of the rest, 27 percent, coming from South Asia. About a third of the foreign-born Muslim population arrived in the U.S. in the 1990s. Twenty-three percent arrived during the 1980s, and 28 percent have arrived since 2000. However, in stark contrast to other immigrant populations, most notably Hispanics, more than 77 percent of all U.S. Muslims are American citizens.

As the title of the report suggests, Muslim Americans are on the whole middle-class. Twenty-four percent of them have a college degree, and their annual income is fairly comparable with the U.S. population as a whole. Forty-one percent of Muslim Americans reported an annual household income of more than \$50,000, which is comparable to the 44 percent reported nationwide.

Despite the opinions of that many non-Muslims regarding the role of women in Islam, most Muslim Americans believe Islam treats men and women equally. The Pew study found that 69 percent of Muslim Americans believe that Islam treats members of both sexes equally. Furthermore, Muslim American women are more likely than men to believe this, 71 percent of women compared to 66 percent of men.

According to the survey, life in a post-9/11 world has become more challenging for Muslims living in the U.S. Fifty-three percent say that their life has become more difficult, and that number rose as education and income rose. Among Muslims Americans with a graduate degree the number climbs to 65 percent and for those with household incomes above \$100,000 it's 68 percent. Fifty-four percent of the Muslim-American population believe that the government's anti-terrorism policies unfairly single them out for increased surveillance. And although 45 percent of the general American public agrees, only 52 percent are bothered either a little or a lot by this profiling, compared with 74 percent of Muslim Americans.

The report indicates that Muslims living in America hold liberal political views when it comes to the scope and size of government and the roles it should play in our lives, such as providing social safety nets. However, despite these views, this group tends to become more conservative when it comes to social and moral issues. According to the Pew survey, Muslim Americans strongly believe that government should protect morality in society, with 59 percent expressing this view. For instance, 61 percent of the Muslim-American population believes that society should discourage homosexuality, compared to 38 percent of the general American population.

Some of the most controversial and striking information to come out of the survey involves Muslims' attitudes on terrorism. Only 40 percent of Muslim Americans surveyed actually believe Arabs carried out the September 11 attacks, while 28 percent said it was some other group, and 32 percent didn't know or refused to answer. More disturbing was that younger respondents were less likely to believe these attacks were conducted by Arabs, 38 percent of people under-30 rejecting the idea.

An overwhelming 78 percent of Muslim Americans believe suicide bombings are never justified against civilian targets, with only 8 percent holding the view that these acts are justified sometimes or often. The report also notes the increasing militancy of young Muslims in America. Those younger than 30 are more likely than older Muslims Americans to express a strong sense of Muslim identity, and 15 percent say that suicide bombing is justifiable.

Although Muslim Americans have achieved mainstream and middle class status, they still believe their biggest challenge to living in America is discrimination. Regardless of their social status, they feel they are still viewed as terrorists.

SCHWETZ TO RETIRE FROM HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTION OFFICE

Bernard Schwetz, director of the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), began the latest meeting of the Secretary's [Heath and Human Services] Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections on July 30, by announcing his intention to retire on September 30, 2007.

He was appointed by then-Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson as OHRP's director in April 2004. Schwetz had been serving as Acting Director since February 2003 following the departure of Greg Koski.

Prior to joining OHRP, Schwetz served as the senior advisor for science at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and a Distinguished Scientist at the University of Maryland, College Park. He was the acting principal deputy commissioner of the FDA from January 2001 to February 2002 and before that the agency's acting deputy commissioner and senior advisor for science. He also chaired the FDA's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the protection of human subjects.

Following the hyper-energetic Koski, whose mission was to wake up and save the human research protection system following a number of deaths of participants in clinical trials and who always seemed to be everywhere and commenting on everything. Schwetz brought a much lower profile to the job. During his tenure OHRP focused on providing responses to frequently asked questions about the protection of human participants in research and to exploring how to enhance the training and consistency of IRBs.

HEALTH PROMOTION AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY MALES

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) are seeking grant proposals that stimulate and expand research in the health of minority men.

It is well documented that males experience approximately a five year shorter life expectancy when compared to females. Many of the disparities in health status noted among racial and ethnically diverse male populations are related to lifestyle and are preventable or amenable to early detection or intervention. The announcement, *Health Promotion Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Males* (PA-07-421), is specifically intended to: 1) enhance the understanding of the numerous factors (e.g., socio-demographic, community, societal, personal) influencing the health promoting behaviors of racial and ethnic minority males and their subpopulations across the life cycle, and 2) solicit applications focusing on the development and testing of culturally and linguistically appropriate health-promoting interventions designed to reduce health disparities among racially and ethnically diverse males and their subpopulations 21 and older. Potential research topics include but are not limited to:

- Studies that test innovative interventions to reduce risk factors associated with the leading causes of morbidity and mortality (e.g., smoking, poor nutrition, alcohol use, sedentary lifestyle, risk sexual

behavior) among racial and ethnic minority men and their subpopulations in rural, urban, and nontraditional settings, including interventions addressing multiple risk factors in the same individuals.

- Multifaceted interventions designed to increase both initial and repeat health screenings and risk assessment among racial and ethnic minority and underserved men age 40 and older.
- Studies that include innovative approaches involving families, social networks, or communities in interventions designed to enhance health-promoting behaviors.
- Unique interventions developed to promote positive physical and mental health seeking and health maintenance behaviors among diverse groups of men examining pathways between childhood and adult health.
- Interventions that incorporate faith, cultural and family values and are designed to test the effects of unique and creative intergenerational health promotion activities.
- Interventions that target two or more high-risk behaviors in a single application, e.g., tobacco use, risky sexual behaviors, unintentional (accidents) and intentional behaviors (firearms related injuries).
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate studies designed to enhance self-efficacy, competence, and skill development to support the initiation and maintenance of health promoting behaviors.
- Studies that include innovative biopsychosocial approaches.
- Studies on the perceptions of masculinity over the life course including coping behavior resulting from masculinity stress and within race, ethnic differences and perceptions of masculinity.
- Studies that develop and test strategies to increase the use of best practices in men's health, such as evidence-based guidelines or research syntheses, in health care settings.

For more information about this announcement see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-421.html>

EDITOR'S NOTE

Like Congress, *UPDATE* will take a recess during the month of August. We will return September 10, 2007

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National Council on Family Relations

North American Regional Science Council
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Social Science History Association
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Sociologists for Women in Society
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

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CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

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National Bureau of Economic Research
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Population Reference Bureau
Social Science Research Council