PROPOSED FY 2009 BUDGETS
FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

WAIT ‘TIL NEXT YEAR!

President Bush serves the last year of his presidency with his approval rating in the low 30 percent range, with the war in Iraq about to enter its sixth year, with the Nation’s economy either in or headed toward a recession, with a housing crisis and oil at over $100 a barrel, with one already-taken classic final-year overseas trip, and with the American people increasingly focused on the extraordinary contest to choose his successor.

Yet, the business of governing must go on. So on February 3, the President presented his budget proposal for FY 2009 setting out his Administration’s priorities for how the government should allocate $3 trillion of federal funds. As he demonstrated at the end of the appropriations process for FY 2008 spending, with the power of the presidential veto and the support of a sufficient minority in the Congress, he can still affect outcomes. His unwillingness to negotiate with the Democratic Congressional leadership over the total number for discretionary spending forced difficult choices that led to significant disappointment in the science community, among others.

Faced with another year of possible presidential forcefulness, the Democratic leadership has pondered postponing final action on the FY 2009 budget until after the election or even the inauguration of the new President.

The FY 2009 Administration budget purports to end deficits by 2012. However, like similar proposals from the congressional budget committees, the assumptions made to get us there are uncertain, unreal, and out-year projections are notoriously unreliable. The reality for the present appears that deficits will be with us for the foreseeable future. In addition, the Administration has again made the case for eliminating or reducing 151 “underperforming” programs. We have been down this road before and Congress has continued to fund most of these programs.

The President’s FY 2009 budget proposes $3.1 trillion in spending. It projects a deficit in FY 2008 of $410 billion and in FY 2009 of $407 billion. As a percentage of GDP the deficit has gone from 1.2 percent in FY 2007, to an estimated 2.9 percent in FY 2008, and a projected 2.7 percent in FY 2009. What the Administration calls Security funding - Department of Defense, government-wide Homeland Security, and International Affairs - would increase from $549.6 billion in FY 2008 to $594.5 billion in FY 2009, an 8.2 percent boost. Non-security funding -
most domestic programs – would rise from $391.7 billion in FY 2008 to $393 billion in FY 2009, an increase of 0.3 percent. These numbers do not include another $170 billion in FY 2008 and 2009 for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Rep. David Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has reacted to the President’s budget proposals by calling them: “Missed Opportunities, Misplaced Priorities, and Fiscal Fairytales.”

Earmark Moratorium?

Perhaps, the most intriguing situation in the early jockeying over the FY 2009 budget is the discussion over earmarks; the congressional practice of designating spending for specific projects in specific places. Congressional appropriators have always argued that this is their prerogative that comes with the power of the purse granted to them by the Constitution. They also charge the Administration with having its own earmarked funding.

Yet, in their haste to finish up a long-delayed FY 2007 appropriations process, the Democrats on retaking the Congress announced that there would be no earmarks in the remaining domestic spending bills, setting a precedent. In the FY 2008 funding legislation, earmarks returned with a vengeance. As an example, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education saw its budget go from $22 million in FY 2007 to $120 million in FY 2008 as a result of $98 million in directed spending.

The Republican Study Committee, a group of conservative members of the GOP caucus in the House, has made eliminating earmarks one of their top agenda items. The Democratic leadership has been forced to respond. Both Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Chairman Obey have indicated that they may impose another moratorium on earmarks for the FY 2009 budget process. Whether the Senate would go along is unclear at this time.

One consequence of the FY 2007 earmark moratorium was that it freed up funds to increase spending for regular programs. Many of the earmarked projects at universities, particularly in the agriculture research budget, managed to stay afloat through the formula funds program, such as the Hatch Act, which saw its budget significantly increased.

Research and Development (R&D) Budgets

At a press conference to present the FY 2009 Administration’s R&D budget, Office of Science and Technology Policy director and Presidential Science Adviser John Marburger once again expressed his support for and interest in social and behavioral science research. However, the major thrust of the budget proposal for science in FY 2009 is the priorities of the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), which are the physical sciences and engineering. This means major proposed increases for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science in the Department of Energy, and the science programs of the National Institute on Standards and Technology, and no increase for the National Institutes of Health.

The overall R&D budget would increase to $147 billion, an increase of $3.9 billion or three percent over FY 2008 enacted. Non-defense R&D in the FY 2009 proposal rises by six percent, which, Marburger pointed out, is significantly higher than the less than one percent for overall non-security discretionary spending. Basic research increases from $28.7 billion in FY 2008 to a proposed $29.3 billion in FY 2009, up three percent. Applied research would decrease by four percent to $27.1 billion, while development would go up to $84 billion, a two percent boost. The defense to non-defense ratio remains in the 55-45 percent range.

National Science Foundation

One of the big disappointments of the final actions on the FY 2008 appropriations concerned the budget for the National Science Foundation (NSF). After receiving over ten percent increases from the House and the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Consolidated Appropriations Act provided the agency with a 2.5 percent raise over FY 2007. Even worse, the
Research and Related Activities Account (R&RA) went up slightly over one percent. This led to no or relatively small increases for the research directorates, including the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences directorate (SBE).

This was additionally disappointing since the Congress and the President, for the second time this decade, committed itself to doubling the NSF budget. In enacting the America COMPETES legislation, the provision reauthorizing NSF called for doubling the budget in seven years. As we learned with the first doubling proposal, over five years, in the 2002 reauthorization act, these can be empty promises when appropriators have to allocate among competing agencies and priorities.

The Administration’s ACI initiative calls for doubling the Foundation’s budget in ten years. The FY 2009 budget proposal restores NSF to that doubling track by calling for a 13 percent boost. It also seeks a 16 percent enhancement for the R&RA account. However, the increases for the directorates, in the words of one of NSF’s appropriators, are “imbalanced.” Directorates for the physical and computer sciences and engineering would receive close to 20 percent boosts, while SBE would rise by 8.5 percent. In absolute dollar terms, this means $235 million more for the Math and Physical Sciences directorate and $18 million more for SBE.

The COMPETES Act also called for increased funding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education programs. The Education and Human Resources directorate (EHR) funding went up slightly more than the R&RA account in the FY 2008 budget, but for FY 2009, the increase is only nine percent, significantly below the research funding boost. A major increase in the proposed EHR budget would significantly raise the number of graduate fellowships the NSF would support.

NSF’s cross-foundation priorities mix the new and the ongoing. With the completion of the SBE focused Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) program in FY 2008, these new initiatives offer some opportunities for social and behavioral scientists. For FY 2009, the continuing Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI) initiative includes SBE-related activities in complexity, virtual organizations, and data infrastructure. The Adaptive Systems Technology initiative will include work on cognitive neuroscience and learning. The Science of Science and Innovation Policy will also continue, although the increase for FY 2008 suffered because of the reduced appropriation. Another new initiative focused on Water, also offers SBE opportunities for research on impacts of climate change. In addition, NSF in FY 2009 hopes to revive its Science and Technology Centers (STC) program, which provides large amounts of funding for multidisciplinary “at the frontier” projects. It has been a long time since an SBE-focused project has become an STC.

National Institutes of Health and Other Health Agencies

If the FY 2008 appropriations denouement was a disappointment for NSF, the last five years, since the end of the doubling project, have been a funding debacle for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). At the budget rollout press conference noted above, Marburger opined that he thought the doubling, which took place from 1998-2003, was a mistake. He suggested it introduced too high expectations and much inefficiency into the NIH funding process.

Recent increases have been minimal, below one percent for most of the Institutes and Centers, both in FY 2008 and in the FY 2009 proposal. The Office of the Director has received some enhancements for the Roadmap and the Translational research initiatives, but beyond that funding increases have been scarce. The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) will undergo change in 2008. Director David Abrams has announced his intention to leave his position in early April. NIH’s priorities still include health disparities, obesity, and others related to health and behavior issues. Another focus is to help new investigators win awards. In addition, despite the Administration’s attempts to eliminate it both in FY 2008 and now again in FY 2009, Congress keeps rescuing the National Children’s Study.
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s budget would lose over $400 million from its FY 2008 funding in the President’s proposal. However, the Administration has proposed an almost ten percent boost for the National Center for Health Statistics to help it restore sample size to the now-50 year old National Health Interview Survey, which will permit publication of estimates for smaller populations. The additional funding would also help the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) produce its data in a more timely and complete way.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (ARHQ) would have its FY 2009 funding slightly reduced for its surveys and research on the Nation’s medical delivery system.

Other Research Budgets

As we await the outcome of the reauthorization of the Farm bill, the President’s proposed FY 2009 budget for agricultural research again tries to shift funding from formula and earmarked programs to competitive research grants. The shift from formula funding is in proposals to change the Hatch Act program, changes Congress has rejected in the past. The shift from earmarks lies in the elimination of Special Grants in the proposed budget. The National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program (NRI), again this year has a large proposed increase. In the past, these enhancements have usually collapsed as funds are shifted to Special Grants. It is here where a possible earmark moratorium could have a significant impact.

Also in evidence in the agriculture budget is the boom in activity in biofuels. Both the Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service have initiatives in their proposed budgets to track and measure this phenomenon that is transforming rural America and farm programs. Opportunities for research in the social, economic, and cultural implications of this transformation will arise.

At the Department of Education (ED), the reauthorizations of both the Higher Education Act (HEA) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) are still in process. HEA is likely to get finished soon. NCLB may await a new Administration. ED’s research budgets are fairly stagnant, with increases in statistics and assessment to cover new longitudinal surveys and more testing included in the FY 2009 proposal. ED is also providing the States significant amounts of funding to create databases on student performance and achievement.

Despite continuing recognition of the importance of training our students in international cultures and foreign languages, the funding for Title VI programs, which received a strong endorsement from the National Academies in 2007, remain relatively stagnant. Funding for graduate student support in the Javits Fellowship program keeps getting reduced through the across-the-board cuts in the appropriations bills, with the Administration’s FY 2009 budget proposal restoring a small amount of those reductions.

The FY 2009 proposed budget will double funding for the Census Bureau as it ramps up toward the 2010 count. This may not be enough, since recent revelations suggest plans to use handheld devices for non-response follow-up are not working as anticipated and contract cost-overruns may necessitate increased expenditures to fix the hand-held problem or revert to using paper for obtaining the information from those people who do not mail back their forms. This is a tough situation for new Census Director Steven Murdock to face, especially with Congress already unhappy about the total projected cost of the 2010 count. The American Community Survey (ACS) continues increasing its data releases. The Bureau is currently conducting the 2007 Economic Census, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) has been saved by Congress, with the Administration proposing a $45 million budget for FY 2009.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis will continue its efforts to measure the impact on the economy of the Nation’s research and development activity to fully incorporate it into the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ proposed FY 2009 budget has a classic tradeoff situation. In order to maintain the sample size of the Current Population Survey (CPS), the Administration has called for the elimination of the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). Killing surveys has become increasingly difficult (see SIPP above) and if the ATUS user community is sufficiently organized, loud, and well-connected, it will probably be able to save ATUS.

Funding for research and statistics at the Department of Justice has always taken a back seat to State and local law enforcement assistance as well as the FBI and since 2001 anti-terrorism activities. Congress has not treated the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) or the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) well in recent years, although the House was willing to go along with a $10 million boost for BJS last year, but that was derailed in conference. Both BJS and NIJ are in the midst of assessments by the National Academies. A preliminary report on the BJS’s National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) has been released. The NIJ study will not be completed for a while.

Another National Academies’ panel is examining the portfolio of the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Development and Research. The results of that study are due this summer. In the meantime, ‘temporary’ cutbacks to the American Housing Survey remain in place.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate maintains its division on Human Factors and its support for University Programs and the fellowship and scholarship program. The Directorate just announced awards for five new Centers of Excellence that will join the existing Centers. Unfortunately, the FY 2009 proposed budgets for the Centers program has reductions from FY 2008, which would result in a squeeze on the funds for all the Centers.

One of the budget winners during the Bush Administration has been the Educational and Cultural exchange programs at the Department of State. Its budget has more than doubled over the past five years, as new programs aimed at “influentials” in various countries have been added to the existing exchanges like the Fulbright program.

The Administration has proposed increased funds for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has it institutes its new Electronic Archives program, but at the same time the FY 2009 proposal once again tries to eliminate the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a move Congress has rejected numerous times in the past. The National Endowment for the Humanities budget has gone up slightly in recent years thanks to its congressional supporters. The Administration continues to emphasize the “We the People” program designed to strengthen the teaching of American history and culture. The NEH also continues to implement its digital humanities initiative. While the United States Institute of Peace awaits its glittering new headquarters building, scheduled to open in 2009, it gets some additional funding in the proposed budget for its activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The appropriations process in an election year sometimes goes smoothly as everyone pushes to get done early so that campaigning can occur. In recent election years, this has not worked, as post-election lame-duck congressional sessions have become the norm. In 2008, with the President and the Congress having already experienced a confrontation in 2007 that left the Democrats in Congress frustrated, the likelihood is not even a lame duck session, but a Continuing Resolution that funds agencies at their FY 2008 level well into the new year and the new Administration. This makes the theme of this year’s budget process the old lament of Brooklyn Dodger fans and disappointed sports fans fans everywhere, “Wait ‘til Next Year!”

Howard J. Silver
March 2008
How to interpret budget figures in this issue:

COSSA’s budget issue provides figures for Fiscal Year 2009 budget authority, modifying this number to account for stipulated carryovers and various technical adjustments. All figures in the agency tables are in millions of current dollars, and, in most cases, are rounded to one figure after the decimal ($100,000). Totals may contain rounding error.

Two types of data are compiled in the tables. The first four columns provide recent and current budget figures, while the latter three columns provide comparisons of numerical data.

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<th>Actual FY 07</th>
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Column 1 provides actual spending figures for FY 2007. Column 2 provides the Administration’s proposal for FY 2008 funding. Column 3 offers estimated FY 2008 expenditures, reflecting congressional changes to presidential proposals. Finally, Column 4 provides the Administration’s new funding recommendation for FY 2009. Column 5 shows the percentage change from Actual FY 2007 spending to current FY 2008 spending. Column 6 compares the proposed FY 2008 funding with current FY 2008 funding, thereby reflecting congressional modifications to the Administration’s budget. Finally, Column 7 compares current FY 2008 funding with the recently proposed FY 2009 funding, illustrating the Bush Administration’s budget priorities as gauged against current spending.

COSSA would like to thank:

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  Bureau of Economic Analysis

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
  Institute of Education Sciences
  International Education and Foreign Language Studies
  Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education
  Graduate Education

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
  Assistant Secretary for Health
  Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
  Agency for Health Care Research and Quality
  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  National Institutes of Health
  Office of the Director
  John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences
  National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
  National Cancer Institute
  National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities
  National Center for Research Resources
  National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
  National Human Genome Research Institute
  National Institute on Aging
  National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
  National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
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  National Institute on Dental and Craniofacial Research
  National Institute on Drug Abuse
  National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
  National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
  National Institute of General Medical Sciences
  National Institute of Mental Health
  National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
  National Institute of Nursing Research
  National Library of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
  Human Factors
  University Programs
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   Office of Policy Development and Research

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
   Bureau of Justice Statistics
   National Institute of Justice

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
   National Archives and Records Administration
   National Endowment for the Humanities
   National Science Foundation
   United States Institute of Peace
   Woodrow Wilson International Center
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

With Secretary Mike Johanns resigning to return to Nebraska to run for the U.S. Senate, President Bush turned to former North Dakota Governor Ed Schafer to take charge of the Department. With the 2007 Farm Bill headed toward a conference committee, the Senate quickly confirmed Schafer on January 28, 2008. The Farm Bill remains stuck in the conference committee, but the budget process must go on. Since the Department’s budget includes significant funds for congressional earmarks and the Administration in its FY 2009 budget proposal eliminates most of them, it is no surprise that the USDA discretionary budget goes down from $24 billion to $21 billion.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)  
www.reeusda.gov

Colien Hefferan remains as head of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). This part of the USDA provides support to universities and other institutions through a host of programs that use statutory formula funding, competitive grants, and special grants provided through congressional earmarks. After a one-year hiatus in FY 2007, when such funding was parked in the formula grant program (note the large increase for Hatch), special grant earmarks returned in FY 2008 and should become another bone of contention between appropriators and the Administration and its supporters in Congress who seek their elimination.

Once again, as it has in previous years, the Administration seeks to use the FY 2009 budget to change its formula funding programs, notably the Hatch Act program. It proposes to expand the multi-State research programs under Hatch to approximately 70 percent from the current base of 25 percent. In addition, it wants to redirect 42 percent of Hatch funds to nationally, competitively awarded, multi-State, multi-institutional projects in the first year, with the remaining multi-State funds phased into competitive grants over a four year period. These attempts by CSREES have faced repeated congressional resistance.

Once again the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program (NRI) has a proposed large increase. Since this comes at the expense of zeroing out congressional earmarks, this is likely to diminish. As in earlier years, part of the NRI increase comes from shifting some programs from the Integrated Activities account, such as water quality, food safety, and regional pest management centers. Congress has also resisted this shift in the past. Finally, CSREES is proposing to initiate new research to understand the factors and conditions which result in resiliency in rural communities and families.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hatch Act</td>
<td>322.6</td>
<td>164.4</td>
<td>195.8</td>
<td>139.2</td>
<td>-39.3%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>-28.9%</td>
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<td>National Research Initiative</td>
<td>190.2</td>
<td>256.5</td>
<td>190.9</td>
<td>256.5</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<td>34.4%</td>
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<td>Special Grants</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>92.2.</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
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Economic Research Service (ERS)
www.ers.usda.gov

The Economic Research Service (ERS) conducts a research program to inform public and private decision making on economic and policy issues involving food, farming, natural resources, and rural development. ERS economists and social scientists conduct research, analyze food and commodity markets, produce policy studies, and develop economic and statistical indicators. The agency’s research program is aimed at the information needs of USDA, other public policy officials, and the research community. ERS information and analysis is also used by the media, trade associations, public interest groups, and the general public. The Agency’s work is structured among four Divisions: Food Economics; Information Services; Market and Trade Economics; and Resource and Rural Economics. The Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program continues to fund a portfolio of extramural research topics designed to meet the critical information needs of program managers, policy officials, the research community, and the public. Kitty Smith, a 25 year veteran of the agency, became ERS Administrator in 2007.

The FY 2009 budget proposal will provide funds to continue ERS’ core programs. The Administration asks for an additional $3.5 million to strengthen and enhance ERS’ market analysis and outlook program to enhance coverage of increasingly complex global markets for an expanding array of agricultural products. Furthermore, the Administration proposal provides $400,000 more so that ERS can analyze the regional impacts of bioenergy production, particularly using corn, and evaluate issues related to transportation networks, feedstock storage, marketing channels and shifts in commodity production. These are the same enhancements the FY 2008 budget proposal requested.

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<tr>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>-6.2%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
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National Agricultural and Statistical Service (NASS)
www.usda.gov/nass

After nine years as Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Ronald Bosecker retired at the end of 2007. Joseph Reilly has been named Acting Administrator. NASS conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm finances, chemical use, and changes in the demographics of U.S. producers are only a few examples. NASS is currently conducting the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the Nation, with questionnaires mailed out to agricultural producers across the United States.

The proposed FY 2009 budget reflects the end of the funding cycle for the Census of Agriculture and its funding is reduced from $52 million in FY 2008 to $39 million in FY 2009. The proposed budget includes a $1.8 million increase for the establishment of a data series on key elements of bioenergy production and utilization.

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<tr>
<td>147.3</td>
<td>167.7</td>
<td>162.2</td>
<td>153.5</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The mission of the Department of Commerce (DOC) is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity by promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, competitiveness, and stewardship. Led by Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, the Commerce Department is home to several agencies and bureaus which support one or more of the Department’s three overarching strategic goals: maximizing U.S. competitiveness and enabling economic growth for American industries, workers, and consumers; encouraging U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness; and promoting environmental stewardship. The President’s FY 2009 budget requests $8.2 billion in discretionary funds, an increase of close to $1.4 billion over the FY 2008 level of $6.8 billion. Almost all of this increase will go to continue preparations for the 2010 Decennial Census. More than a quarter of the entire FY 2009 request is for this purpose.

U.S Census Bureau

www.census.gov

The Census Bureau serves as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy. In addition to taking a census of the population every 10 years, the Census Bureau conducts censuses of economic activity and state and local governments every five years. And every year, the Census Bureau conducts more than 100 other surveys, including the American Community Survey (ACS), which has replaced the long-form of the decennial.

The President’s FY 2009 budget request seeks $2.64 billion in discretionary funds for the Census Bureau, more than doubling this year’s appropriation of $1.26 billion. This increase supports improving the accuracy of map features, the continuation of the ACS, maintaining the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), and implementing 2010 Decennial Census operations.

Funding for the decennial census is part of the Periodic Censuses and Programs, one of two main funding categories for the Census Bureau. The President's budget seeks $2.366 billion for Periodics in FY 2009, an increase of roughly $1.34 billion over FY 2008’s $1.027 billion. The Periodics account covers activities related to the decennial, intercensal population estimates, and other cyclical programs such as the Economic Census and Census of Governments.

The Administration requests $2.143 billion for the 2010 Census, an increase of $1.35 billion over the FY 2008 allocation of $797 million. This increase will support additional field offices and staff and the development of a national advertising campaign. The 2010 Census projected life cycle cost is $11.5 billion, a number Congress has rigorously questioned.

The Salaries and Expenses (S&E) appropriation provides for monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys, and other programs that are used for planning by both the public and private sectors. Census’s current economic programs count and profile U.S. businesses and government organizations. Current population and housing surveys and analyses provide detailed and integrated information on the social, demographic, economic, and housing conditions of the United States. The SIPP program would be funded at $45.7 million with a sample of 45,000 households.

New Census Director Steven Murdock, confirmed by the Senate in December 2007, has replaced Louis Kincannon. Murdock inherits this position at a time when the 2010 Census has come under increasing scrutiny for its plan to use hand-held computers to conduct the follow-up response effort. Difficulties have arisen with these hand-held devices that have led to uncertainty about their ability to function sufficiently and to keep Census planning on track. Murdock along with Secretary Gutierrez went before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on March 5th to discuss plans to get the Census back on track.
Salaries and Expenses

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<td>202.8</td>
<td>202.8</td>
<td>269.0</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Census Totals</td>
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<td>1,027.4</td>
<td>1,027.4</td>
<td>2,366.0</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>130.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>893.0</td>
<td>1,230.2</td>
<td>1,230.2</td>
<td>2,635.0</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>114.2%</td>
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**Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)**

[www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), headed by Steve Landefeld, is part of the Department’s Economics and Statistics Administration. BEA provides the timely, relevant and accurate economic data at the regional, national, and international levels, and by industry to help promote a better understanding of the forces at work in impacting the U.S. economy. For FY 2009, BEA is requesting a total of $86.9 million to continue to improve the timeliness, relevance, and accuracy of the national economic accounts. In addition, BEA is also requesting support for two initiatives: (1) $3.2 million to develop a more accurate and comprehensive measure of the health sector in GDP and a supplemental, “satellite” account that provides detailed and specific information on the expenditures of the health care industry and the costs of treating specific diseases, and (2) $2.5 million for an initiative to extend the prototype R&D satellite account, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2006 and 2007, with annual updates and extensions to BEA’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other estimates between 2009 and 2012, with full incorporation into the economic accounts in 2013.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

The Administration and Secretary Margaret Spellings are in their final year and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) remains a central focus. The President’s proposed FY 2009 Department budget focuses on improving public schools, increasing academic rigor in high schools, and helping to make college more affordable. The $59.2 billion budget recommendation includes $24.5 billion for NCLB.

The budget also includes more than a $14.3 billion in funding for Title I, and an additional $491 million in Title I School Improvement Grants. The President continues to support the American Competitiveness Initiative with $175 million for programs aimed at improving math and science in K-12 education. A new controversial program included in the President’s Budget is Pell Grants for Kids which will receive $300 million in funding. The program would provide scholarships to low income students who are currently enrolled in low performing schools to transfer to out-of-district public schools or local private schools.

The Pell Grant program is proposed to receive $18.9 billion, which increases the maximum award to $4,800. The maximum Pell Grant will continue to increase annually by $200 through 2012 to reach a maximum of $5,400.

The President’s budget also calls for the elimination of 47 programs deemed duplicative or ineffective which would result in a savings of $3.3 billion.
The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) through its four centers—the National Center for Education Research, the National Center for Education Statistics, the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, and the National Center for Special Education Research—supports sustained programs of research, evaluation, and data collection. For FY 2009 the Administration is seeking $658.2 million for IES activities. The request would support a new research initiative to identify and evaluate models for turning around low performing schools, provide support for the ongoing longitudinal study of high school students, support the implementation of State-level 12th grade assessments in reading and mathematics under the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and provide funding to States to improve the quality of longitudinal data systems.

The $167.2 million request for Research, Development, and Dissemination would support IES sponsored education research, development, and dissemination, and the funding of discretionary grants and contracts that support directed and field-initiated research. The request includes funding for the What Works Clearinghouse, which provides evidence-based information for policymakers, researchers, and educators on promising approaches and interventions, the National Library of Education, and the Education Research Information Clearinghouse (ERIC).

The National Center for Education Statistics’ (NCES) $104.6 million request represents an increase which would allow the NCES to help cover the rising costs of maintaining surveys, and support the secondary school longitudinal study, which began in 2007 and follows a ninth grade cohort through high school and college.

The budget request of $138.8 million for assessment includes funding for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the National Assessment Governing Board. The $34.8 million increase would allow the Department to complete preparations for expanding 12th grade State NAEP to all states in 2011.

The budget also includes $100 million for State educational agencies to design, develop, and implement longitudinal data systems. Currently only 27 States have received awards under the program. Increased funding would allow more states to participate in the program, as well as provide additional awards to those states that are currently funded. It would also allow states to expand their K-12 systems to include postsecondary and workforce information, and to examine the extent to which students are leaving high school ready for college and employment. At the request level, the Department will be able to support approximately 32 awards for developing longitudinal data systems or expanding existing data systems to include postsecondary and workforce information. The request also would provide funding for State coordinators and data coordination.
The Federal government supports 14 programs under the auspices of Title VI of the Higher Education Act and the Fulbright-Hays Act for international education and foreign language studies. These programs support comprehensive language and area study centers here in the United States, language research and curriculum development, study abroad opportunities, and efforts to increase the number of underrepresented minorities engaged in the field of international service. Through these endeavors the programs also serve important economic, diplomatic, and defense roles, as well as national security interests by providing funding for languages deemed critical to the nation’s security.

The President’s 2009 budget request would fund grants to approximately 471 postsecondary institutions, directly giving support by providing fellowships and projects to 1,010 individuals, and assist more than 100 underrepresented minorities in their international service programs. The request also includes $1 million to develop as part of the National Security Language Initiative an e-Learning Clearinghouse to deliver foreign language education resources to teachers and students across the country. In addition, $1 million would support the development of new assessment tools for measuring improvements in language competency in the IEFLS programs.

The President’s budget also once again includes a $24 million request for Advancing America Through Foreign Language Partnerships which would help establish programs of study in languages critical to U.S. national security. The program would make competitive grants available to institutions of higher education for cooperative partnerships with school districts to provide language learning for students in K-12, and advanced language learning at the postsecondary level. These language programs, along with fellowships for individual students, the Administration argues would help produce a significant number of graduates with advanced proficiency in languages critical to the United States. The President’s 2009 request would support 24 awards focusing on critical languages such as Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Indic, Iranian, Japanese, Korean, and Turkic language families. This program was also proposed for FY 2007 and FY 2008 and did not receive congressional funding in either year.
The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) awards competitive grants to support exemplary, locally-developed projects that are models for innovative reform and improvement in postsecondary education. The FY 2009 budget request is 37.4 million, a result of the elimination of $98.9 million in earmarks from 2008 budget. Additionally the budget includes $23 million in funding for the Comprehensive Program to support projects that target areas of higher education deemed to be a top priority, such as improving the preparation of science and math teachers and aligning curricula between high schools and postsecondary institutions. Funding for the International Consortia programs, $13.3 million, supports academic partnerships between U.S. institutions of higher education and institutions in Russia, Canada, Mexico, the European Community, and Brazil to provide students with increased opportunities to study abroad and increase cooperation and collaboration between institutions in these countries.

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse

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Graduate Education


Javits Fellowships provide up to four years of competitively awarded support to students of superior ability and high financial need who are pursuing doctoral degrees, or the highest terminal degree, in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The FY 2009 request of $9.8 million would support 225 fellowships, including 66 new fellows.

The Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity program is designed to provide minority, low-income or disadvantaged college students with the information, preparation, and financial assistance needed to gain access to and complete law school study. Expanded and reauthorized in the Higher Education Act, the Administration has tried to eliminate the program many times in recent years, only to have Congress rescue it.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The largest domestic agency, representing almost one-quarter of federal expenditures, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), led by Secretary Michael Leavitt, includes more than 300 programs covering a wide spectrum of activities, including health and social science research. Most of HHS funding goes to mandatory programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. The FY 2009 discretionary spending request is $68.5 billion, over 40 percent of which goes to the National Institutes of Health. The FY 2008 discretionary budget is $70.7 billion.

Assistant Secretary for Health
www.hhs.gov/ash

Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) serves as the Secretary's primary advisor on matters involving the nation's public health and oversees the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) for the Secretary. Since December 10, 2007 Don Wright, a medical doctor from Texas, has served as the ASH. The Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) is under the direction of the ASH, OPHS performs both a policy and program role. The Office of Minority Health, Office of Population Affairs (OPA)/Adolescent Family Life (AFL) and the Office of Women’s Health are located within OPHS.

Office of Minority Health (OMH): The mission of OMH is to improve and protect the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will eliminate health disparities. Established in 1986, it advises the Secretary and the OPHS on public health program activities affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders. OMH is led by Garth Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health.

The Administration requests $43 million for OMH in FY 2009, a reduction of $6 million from FY 2008, to provide funding to continue disease prevention, health promotion, service demonstration, and educational efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate disparities in racial and ethnic minority populations. The reduction reflects the end point for some projects, and a reduction in other demonstration projects and cooperative agreements.

Office of Population Affairs (OPA)/Adolescent Family Life (AFL): The FY 2009 budget request for AFL is $30 million, the same as the FY 2008 funding level. The request includes $13 million in abstinence-only prevention projects as defined by Public Law 104-193. OPA administers the Family Planning Program under Title X of the Public Health Service Act which is funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration. AFL is administered by the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs, created in 1981 by Title XX of the Public Health Service Act. AFL’s budget provides funding for care demonstration, prevention, and research.

Office on Women’s Health (OWH): Established in 1991, the OWH mission is to provide leadership to promote health equity for women and girls through sex/gender-specific approaches, with the vision of ensuring that “all Women and girls are healthier and have a better sense of well-being.” The OWH achieves its mission and vision through the development
of innovative programs, by educating health professionals, and motivating behavior change in consumers through the dissemination of health information. Wanda K. Jones heads the office.

The President requests $28 million to continue the advancement of women's health programs through the promotion and coordination of research, service delivery, and education throughout HHS agencies and offices, with other government organizations, and with consumer and health professional groups. The request for OWH also includes a reduction of $3 million below FY 2008 to reflect one-time funding of some programs.

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
www.aspe.hhs.gov

The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) is the principal advisor to the HHS Secretary on policy development, and is responsible for major activities in policy coordination, legislation development, strategic planning, policy research, evaluation, and economic analysis. Benjamin Sasse, a historian on leave from the Lyndon Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, is the current head of ASPE, receiving Senate confirmation on December 19, 2007.

The Office has four policy foci: Health, Science and Data, Human Services, and Disability and Long Term Care. The agenda for FY 2009 includes research on: Medicare modernization, Medicaid sustainability, public health emergency preparedness, health disparities, economic self-sufficiency, marriage and fatherhood, human trafficking, homelessness, faith-based and community partnerships, personalized health care, healthy youth development, and risk management and communication. In addition, ASPE continues to support the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan.

ASPE’s funding comes from the Public Health Service Evaluation set-aside. In FY 2008 it rose from $34.5 million the previous year to $41.2 million. This occurred because of the transfer of APSE management dollars into the PHS Evaluation. The Administration requests that ASPE’s funding remain the same in FY 2009.

Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ)
www.ahrq.gov

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) main goal is to promote health care quality improvement by conducting and sponsoring health services research. AHRQ evaluates both clinical services and the system in which these services are provided to improve clinical care. Its funding comes from the Public Health Service evaluation set-aside. Carolyn Clancy continues to lead the agency.

The FY 2009 budget request for AHRQ totals $325.7 million, a $8.9 million or 2.7 percent decrease from FY 2008. The request maintains funding for comparative effectiveness research, funds the development of new research tools to help states develop affordable health plans for low-income individuals, and promotes transparency in health care quality and costs. The Budget also supports efforts to improve patient safety through investments in health information technology and through a network of patient safety databases mandated by the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005.

The FY 2009 request seeks $268 million to support improvements through research on the cost-effectiveness and quality of health care. Highlighted investments include: research on the comparative effectiveness of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and health care services; the development of research tools to assist States in designing affordable health insurance plans for low-income individuals; health IT; and patient safety research.

In addition, AHRQ requests $30 million, the same as FY 2008, for its Effective Health Care Program. This helps policymakers, clinicians, and patients determine which drugs and medical treatments work best for certain health conditions. The funding supports research on the
outcomes of health care services and therapies, by comparing different therapies for the same condition. The comparative effectiveness research emphasizes what medical interventions work best thus providing the necessary scientific foundation to understand how genomics can impact patient care and advance personalized medicine.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a system of health surveillance to monitor and prevent disease outbreaks (including bioterrorism), implement disease prevention strategies, and maintain national health statistics. By working with states and other partners the CDC provides immunization services, workplace safety, and environmental disease prevention. As the nation’s leading health protection agency, the CDC also guards against international disease transmission, with personnel stationed in more than 25 foreign countries. Directed, since 2002, by Julie L. Gerberding, the CDC has led public health efforts to prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats.

The FY 2009 President’s budget proposes $5.901 billion for CDC, including Public Health Service Evaluation set-asides. This is a significant reduction from the FY 2008 enacted level. The following highlights aspects of CDC important to health promotion, prevention, and data collection and analysis.

**HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention:** The primary division that is charged with the CDC’s mission of preventing HIV infection and reducing the incidence of HIV-related illness and death within the U.S is the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention (NCHSTP). The FY 2009 budget proposal requests $1 billion, $2 million below FY 2008, to develop, implement, and evaluate effective domestic prevention programs.

For domestic HIV/AIDS prevention CDC seeks $691.1, slightly less than FY 2008. CDC expects to support expanded testing programs in jurisdictions with the greatest rates of new infections. The budget requests $151.6 million for sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention and $239.8 million for tuberculosis (TB) prevention programs to provide grants and technical assistance to State and local governments and organizations for prevention and control services. Funds are also included to support surveillance and research.

**Health Promotion:** The National Center for Chronic Disease and Health Promotion (NCCDHP) develops programs and initiatives designed to prevent premature death and disability from chronic diseases such as arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. The NCCDHP works to identify and address the causes of these disabilities and supports the development and evaluation of prevention and intervention strategies. The FY 2009 budget request for these activities is $932 million, close to a $30 million decrease from the FY 2008 level.

**National Center for Health Statistics:** The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides critical information to guide actions and polices to improve the health of the American people. The President’s FY 2009 request includes an increase of $11 million that will allow the program to continue providing timely, accurate estimates of high priority health measures. The NCHS budget comes completely from the Public Health Service evaluation set-aside. With the increase, NCHS will ensure full 12-month reporting of birth and death data from the states and maintain full field operations of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Specifically it will enhance mechanisms for data access and use through the NHANES tutorial and web-based data access tools and enable the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, to return to its designed sample size of 100,000, providing improved estimates for smaller population sizes.

**Environmental Health and Injury Prevention and Control:** The Environmental Health and Injury Prevention program budget, $289.3 million in FY 2008, $270.9 million in the FY 2009 request, supports critical management and coordination functions for environmental health and
injury prevention science, program and policy. These include: public health programs in areas such as asthma control, lead poisoning and prevention, refugee health, laboratory activities, child passenger safety, and violence prevention. Established in 1980, the environmental health component focuses on protecting people’s health from environmental hazards by preventing disability or death from environmental causes.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) applies scientific expertise to prevent death and disability from non-occupational injuries, including those that are unintentional and those that result from violence. The FY 2009 Budget request includes $134.3 million, slightly less than in FY 2008, to support efforts to reduce premature deaths, disability, and the medical costs caused by injuries and violence. Past areas of focus have included residential fire deaths, intimate partner violence, older adult fall prevention, teen driving safety, traumatic brain injury, child abuse and neglect, rape prevention and education, and other injury prevention and control initiatives.

**Occupational Safety and Health:** The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the primary federal entity responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related illness and injury. The FY 2009 budget request of $271 million for Occupational Safety and Health reflects a decrease of $110 below the FY 2008 enacted level. These funds will support research and development of recommendations for the prevention of work-related injury and illness, including examining the safety and health aspects of nanoscience and engineering.

**Public Health Research:** The Office of Public Health (OPHR) provides leadership, vision and coordination of CDC’s research program, both for intramural and extramural research. Established in 2004, OPHR provides support for best research practices used across CDC, and conducts peer review and grants management for new research initiatives. The FY 2009 budget request of $31 million for this office maintains its funding from both FY 2007 and FY 2008.

The numbers below include Public Health Service Evaluation set-asides and are selected parts of the CDC budget. Those items indented are part of the larger budget total above.
In May 2002, Elias A. Zerhouni became the 15th Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH); an agency comprised of 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs) with more than 18,000 employees. Milestones cited by Zerhouni since becoming director include:

- The passage of the NIH Reform Act of 2006 which he feels demonstrated renewed confidence by the Congress in NIH; the development and launching of a new office, the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI) to improve trans-NIH initiatives;

- Initiation and launching of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, a new research vision to accelerate medical discovery and improve health; establishment of an NIH-wide research initiative, the Strategic Plan for NIH Obesity Research, to address the obesity epidemic; support of the NIH Neuroscience Blueprint to address mental illness, neurological disorders and a range of behavioral disorders that are the cause of human suffering and contribute greatly to the burden of disease;

- Support for the reduction of health disparities and barriers to opportunity for minority individuals through broadening the collaborative relationships developed through partnerships between NIH and institutions and researchers from all populations;

- Ensured public access to NIH-funded research results; commitment to earn the public’s trust via advice from the public through the Council of Public Representatives (COPR) and more locally, through community liaison efforts; and

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National Institutes of Health (NIH)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual FY 07</th>
<th>Proposed FY 08</th>
<th>Current FY 08</th>
<th>Proposed FY 09</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (A) FY 07</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (P) FY 08</th>
<th>(P) FY 09/ (C) FY 08</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Diseases -- Total</td>
<td>1,809.6</td>
<td>1,794.4</td>
<td>1,904.5</td>
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<td>HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and VD Prevention</td>
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<td>1,056.8</td>
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<td>Health Promotion -- Total</td>
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<td>961.2</td>
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<td>Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion &amp; Genomics</td>
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<td>Health Statistics</td>
<td>107.1</td>
<td>109.9</td>
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<td>Environmental Health and Injury Promotion -- Total</td>
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<td>287.7</td>
<td>289.3</td>
<td>270.9</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
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<td>136.6</td>
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<td>Injury Prevention and Control</td>
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<td>Occupational Safety and Health -- Total</td>
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<td>Global Health -- Total</td>
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<td>-1.7%</td>
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<td>31.0</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Improvement and Leadership</td>
<td>202.6</td>
<td>190.4</td>
<td>224.9</td>
<td>182.1</td>
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<td>Preventive Health &amp; Health Services Block Grant</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>97.3</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
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<td>1,504.4</td>
<td>1,479.5</td>
<td>1,419.3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>-4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CDC including PHS Evaluation Transfers</td>
<td>6,249.8</td>
<td>5,982.7</td>
<td>6,375.6</td>
<td>5,900.7</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Enhancing the leadership of NIH where since becoming NIH director, Zerhouni named a new NIH Deputy Director, Raynard S. Kington (former director of Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)), directors for nine institutes and four centers and the current OBSSR director David Abrams.

The President's FY 2009 budget request for the NIH is $29.3 billion, the same as the FY 2008 funding level. Of this amount, $29.2 billion is requested through the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriation bill. The request again this year does not include funding for the National Children’s Study (NCS). To phase out the NCS, the budget request proposes allowing existing contracts for pilot studies and other activities to expire when the FY 2008 fund provided for planning are exhausted. No additional contracts would be awarded. In addition, the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the lead institute on the study, is directed to cease its convening of the National Children’s Study Advisory Committee. NCS program staff will be reassigned. Congress has rejected earlier Administration attempts to end the NCS.

In FY 2009, the NIH has identified the following strategic priorities:

**New investigators** - In FY 2007, the agency set as a goal sustaining 1500 new investigators each year, based on the NIH five-year historical average. This includes continued support for the Pathway to Independence program with another 170 awards. In FY 2009, NIH plans to support approximately 500 awardees at a total of $71 million. The agency also intends to support approximately 25 New Innovator Awards, for a total of $56 million in the NIH Common Fund. The FY 2009 request also includes $91.2 million in funding for the NIH Director’s Bridge Award program designed to protect its investment in well-established and meritorious investigators with little or no other significant support. The Award will permit the recipient additional time to strengthen a resubmission application.

**Common Fund** - In September 2003, Zerhouni initiated the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research. The program is designed to address the fact that today’s scientific problems require new multidisciplinary approaches and collaborations, synergies between basic science, clinical research, and informatics as well as new training approaches for scientists. The Roadmap process is intended to provide strategic coordination of research that cuts across the respective mission of the 27 NIH ICs. Initiatives supported by the Common Fund are supposed to be those that are focused on efforts that no single or small group of Institutes or Centers could support on their own and have potential to transform biomedical and behavioral research. The Common Fund receives a small percentage of the NIH budget toward a common purpose in support of high priority, trans-NIH projects. The NIH Common Fund/Roadmap funds research in three broad areas:

1. Research tools and/or methodologies that are of use to wide swaths of the scientific community.
2. Fundamental research to improve our understanding of biological systems and may result in new science paradigms.
3. Proposals and policy decisions that affect the culture and manner in which research is conducted.

Since the Common Fund’s inception, approximately one percent of the NIH budget has been dedicated to support Roadmap projects. Initially, the funds were comprised of contributions from each IC as well as the NIH Office of the Director. Beginning in FY 2007, the Common Fund budget became a separate item in the Labor/HHHS appropriations bills with funding included in the NIH Office of the Director. Since FY 2004, funding for Roadmap has increased from $132 million to $496 million in FY 2008. In FY 2009, a total of $534 million is requested in the FY 2009 President’s Budget, equal to 1.8 percent of the NIH budget. Roadmap coordination functions are managed by the OPASI Division of Strategic Coordination. Planning for a new cohort of Roadmap initiatives to be funded through the Common Fund began in FY 2007 and will become an annual process. Two programs, Human Microbiome and Epigenomics, were
chosen to implement new initiatives with FY 2008 resources from the Common Fund/Roadmap. These new initiatives expect to fund their first research awards in FY 2008.

Office of the Director
(www.nih.gov/ivd/od/)

The Office of the Director (OD) centrally coordinates: extramural and intramural research activities; science policy and related social, ethical, and legal issues; health information, dissemination and education functions; legislative activities; oversight of the agency’s stewardship of public funds; and technology transfer and intellectual property protection policies for NIH. The FY 2009 budget request for the OD is $1.06 billion.

The NIH Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-482) called for the establishment of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) to coordinate and facilitate trans-NIH research initiatives. Through DPCPSI, the Director of NIH is authorized to identify and report on research that would benefit from collaboration between two or more ICs, or otherwise benefit from strategic coordination and planning. The Division is housed in the Office of the Director and consists of existing OD offices which, per the statute, retain their authorities in effect prior to enactment of the bill: the Office of AIDS Research (OAR), the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), the Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH), the Office of Disease Prevention (ODP), the Office of Dietary Supplements, the Office of Rare Diseases, and the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives.

Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives
(www.opasi.nih.gov)

The Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI) is designed to enhance the ability of the ICs to participate in collaborative research environments by providing management and technical expertise in support of trans-NIH biomedical research efforts. The FY 2009 budget request is $8.1 million, $953 thousand or 1.1 percent below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, the goals for OPASI include providing administrative support to the NIH OD, and appointing the three division directors (Resource Development and Analysis (DRDA), Evaluation and Systematic Assessment (DESA), and Strategic Coordination (DSC)) to implement the Office’s mission. Since FY 2005, OPASI has been managing the initiatives known as the Roadmap using the “Common Fund.”

For DRDA, this includes: (1) acquiring the software tools for capturing and analyzing scientific and metadata for portfolio analysis, (2) implementing a database on disease specific burden of disease, and (3) finalizing the implementation of the new Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization system. For DESA, OPASI’s goals include continuing to manage the NIH Evaluation Set-Aside Program to support numerous NIH evaluations and provide leadership to the ICs to set goals, measure performance, and report on NIH accomplishments required by the Government Performance and Results Act. The goals for DSC include continuing its activities surrounding coordinating and tracking implementation of Roadmap/Common Fund initiatives.

Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)
(www.obssr.od.nih.gov)

The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) reflects recognition of the critical role of behavioral and social factors play in health, including the appreciation that these factors represent important avenues for prevention. OBSSR serves as the focal point for coordination and development of NIH policies, goals, and objectives in the behavioral and social sciences at NIH. The three main goals of the Office are to: (1) enhance behavioral/social sciences research and training, (2) integrate a Biobehavioral perspective across NIH, and (3) improve communication among health scientists and the public.
The FY 2009 budget request for OBSSR is $26.7 million, the same as the FY 2008 funding level. This funding level will support new initiatives and continue to support key, ongoing programs in social and behavioral sciences research.

As Director David Abrams noted in his talk at the 2007 COSSA Annual Meeting, a strong focus of the OBSSR recently released strategic plan is a Systems Science approaches to health. In FY 2009, the Office is planning to support an initiative on the development and application of systems integrative science approaches to study how multiple factors—behavioral, social, and biological—interact with each other and change over time to influence health. It is the intent of the Office that these approaches can be incorporated into two additional programs that it plans to support in FY 2009: 1) research to improve adherence to treatments and 2) research to reduce or eliminate health disparities. The areas represent two persistent public health problems that have been resistant to solution. OBSSR plans to issue a new Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA), Using Systems Science Methodologies to Protect and Improve Population Health, which will call for applicants to use one or more specific system science methodologies to address one or more specific opportunities to protect and improve population health. The initiative follows OBSSR’s success in attracting large global audiences for its webcasts of its 2007 Symposia Series on Systems Science and Health, and the 2007 Conference on Complex Approaches to Population Health.

Another strategy for OBSSR for FY 2009 consists of continuing to fund transdisciplinary research on prevention, policy, and health care, three broad areas influencing health disparities. The Office also intends to continue to fund multi-year programs which support its mission and goals, including community-based participatory research (CBPR) with new CBPR programs which apply intervention research methods to disease prevention and health promotion while targeting medically-served areas. Health literacy research is another area that the OBSSR plans to provide continued support, along with support for the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience, its annual summer training institutes (behavioral interventions in randomized clinical trials and social work research methods); add new training programs in genetics for behavioral and social scientists, and in integrative systems science methodology. A second annual trans-NIH conference on dissemination and implementation science is also being planned by the Office. The OBSSR also plans to initiate a program to support research on how interactions among social, behavioral, and genetic factors influence health.

### Office of AIDS Research (www.nih.gov/od/oar)

The Office of AIDS Research has overall responsibility to plan and coordinate the NIH AIDS research programs sponsored by the 27 NIH ICs. As mandated by law, each year’s priorities are determined through a collaborative process involving the ICs and non-government experts from academia and industry. The FY 2009 budget estimate for the OAR is $61.8 million, the same as the FY 2008 funding level.

In FY 2007, OAR identified its most critical research priorities in its annual Congressionally-mandated strategic plan for all NIH-supported HIV-related research as: prevention of acquisition and transmission of HIV, and prevention and treatment of HIV-associated comorbidities, comortalities, and coinfections. In FY 2009, OAR intends to place priority on initiatives to enhance prevention research, with a specific emphasis on microbicides research.

The FY 2009 budget request for all NIH-supported AIDS research is $2.9 billion, the same as the FY 2008 funding level. The trans-NIH AIDS research budget is developed by OAR in partnership with the institutes and centers and is explicitly tied to the objectives of the annual Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research. The FY 2009 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research identifies two priorities that are believed to transcend all areas of AIDS research: 1) prevention of acquisition and transmission of HIV, and 2) prevention and treatment of HIV-associated co-morbidities, co-mortalities, and co-infections. The NIH prevention research agenda includes basic, translational and clinical research on microbicides and vaccines.
development; and behavioral and social science research associated with HIV transmission and acquisition. The OAR emphasizes that there is an urgent need to expand the range of interventions for preventing HIV transmission beyond those currently available as new HIV infections continue at an unacceptably high rate globally, including in the United States.

The FY 2009 budget request for the **AIDS-related behavioral and social science research** program is $425.7 million, $7.7 million above the FY 2008 funding level. NIH supports social and behavioral research on HIV/AIDS to further the understanding of how to change the behaviors that lead to HIV acquisition, transmission, and disease progression, including preventing their initiation, and how to maintain protective behaviors once they are adopted. The agency also supports research aimed at better understanding the social and cultural factors associated with HIV risk or protection, particularly in communities at high risk of acquiring HIV. NIH intends to continue to fund research to develop and evaluate effective interventions to prevent HIV transmission and acquisition by reducing HIV-related risk behaviors and increasing protective behaviors. The FY 2009 budget request includes $5.2 million for research on HIV prevention interventions.

The FY 2009 budget request for **natural history and epidemiology** is $233.3 million, a decrease of $1.7 million below the FY 2008 funding level. Natural history and epidemiologic research is needed to monitor epidemic trends, develop and evaluate prevention modalities, follow the changing clinical manifestations of HIV disease in different populations, and measure the effects of treatment regimens.

NIH supports the training of domestic and international biomedical and behavioral AIDS researchers. The expansion of NIH-funded HIV research globally has necessitated the development of research infrastructure in many locations, including Africa, the Caribbean, India, and other part of Asia. In addition, numerous NIH-funded programs have increased the number of training positions for AIDS-related research, including programs specifically designed to recruit individuals from underrepresented populations into research careers and to build research infrastructure at minority-serving institutions. The FY 2009 budget request for training, infrastructure, and capacity building is $190.4 million, $2.4 million below the FY 2008 funding level.

The NIH recognizes that the changing pandemic and the increasing number of HIV infections in specific population groups underscore the need to disseminate HIV research findings and other related information to communities at risk. This includes dissemination of information on issues related to adherence to prescribed treatments, and the need to translate behavioral and social prevention approaches into practices. The FY 2009 budget request for information dissemination is $27.1 million, $814 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, OAR plans to use funds reallocated from other programs to increase support for information dissemination associated with prevention research studies.

**Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH)**
(www4.od.nih.gov/orwh)

The Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) serves as the focal point for women’s health research at NIH. ORWH collaborates through the NIH ICs as well as the scientific and advocacy community to implement a research agenda on women’s health and provide funding and/or co-funding.

The FY 2009 budget request for ORWH is $41.9 million, same as the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2007 and 2008, ORWH created a variety of new trans-NIH research and career development initiatives and trans-Federal programs. These initiatives include a new trans-NIH investigator-initiated research program called **Advancing Novel Science in Women’s Health Research (ANSWHR)** and is supported by 21 of the 27 NIH ICs. It is designed to promote innovative and interdisciplinary research that will advance new concepts in women’s health research and the study of sex/gender differences.
ORWH also plans to revise the *NIH Research Agenda for Women’s Health* through a series of scientific reviews and national, public meetings; continue trans-NIH scientific partnerships, including the Specialized Centers of Research (SCOR) interdisciplinary research program, and the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) career development program. The Office intends to encourage and support research on the prevention and treatment of diseases that may affect men and women differently (diabetes, heart disease, stroke, obesity, bone, and gastrointestinal and genitourinary diseases).

Finally, ORWH, in conjunction with the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers, plans to develop new and innovative career development initiatives based on recommendations expected from two workshops planned for FY 2008. This will include new mentoring programs, promotion of best practices and other issues related to the advancement of research careers for both women and men.

For the NIH Director’s Discretionary Fund (DDF), the FY 2009 budget request is $10 million, a $175 thousand or 1.8 percent increase above the FY 2008 funding level. The DDF is designed to allow the NIH Director to respond to new and emerging high priority research opportunities and health priorities. In FY 2007, DDF provided funding to multiple ICs to support trans-NIH initiatives on Immunology, Autoimmunity and Inflammation. In FY 2009, the NIH plans to continue the funding for projects to help “uncover new knowledge that prevents, detects, diagnoses, and treats disease and disability, from the common cold to the rarest genetic disorder.”

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### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

(Dollars in Thousands)

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John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health
Fogarty's core mission is to use science to reduce the deepening global disparities in health. Research supported by FIC ranges from the genetic basis of disease to strategies to prevent transmission of HIV. The efforts are often multidisciplinary, embracing behavioral, clinical, epidemiological, and biomedical research.

The FY 2009 budget request for Fogarty is $66.6 million, $65 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level. The Center notes that more resources are being invested in the development of new health technologies, and many interventions have been proven safe and effective. Many of these interventions, however, have not been implemented on a wide scale due to logistical, cultural, financial, and other barriers. In its FY 2009 budget request the FIC emphasizes the need to ensure that trained researchers can bridge the gap between what we know and what we do and identify the most effective ways to translate research findings into practice. Fogarty plans to advance research that identifies barriers to the use of proven interventions and develops strategies to overcome them, particularly through training foreign scientists in developing countries to conduct this type of research.

The FY 2009 budget request for FIC's Institutional Capacity Building is $33.1 million, $139 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level. This sum includes $1.9 million for building research ethics abroad, an $11 thousand increase. The research highlights major ethical challenges for researchers, training issues such as access to care during and after clinical trials, vulnerability of research subjects in resource-poor settings, and obtaining meaningful informed consent. FIC established the International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award to develop a cadre of local professionals with expertise in research ethics. The program supports the development of courses and practical experiences such as observing Institutional Review Boards to provide skills required to teach ethics, create ethical guidelines and review systems, review the ethical rigor of research protocols, and conduct ethical medical research in developing countries.

FIC’s FY 2009 budget request includes $4.7 million for its Development of Human Resources for Global Health Research, $43 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level. The Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars Program provides one-year clinical research experiences for graduate students in health sciences in low- or middle-income countries to encourage a global health perspective for the next generation of researchers. FIC’s International Research Scientist Development Award program provides junior U.S. scientists with an opportunity to begin or enhance their careers in research related to global health, and prepare them for independent research careers.
Specialized Centers and SPOREs, and supporting research workforce development.

The FY 2009 budget request for NCI is $4.81 billion, $4.7 million above the FY 2008 funding level. In 2008, NCI priorities includes providing funding for extramural research, primarily through investigator-initiated research; enhancing the impact of the NCI-designated Cancer Centers which are designed to integrate multidisciplinary research across single or multiple institutes and partner with government agencies and the local community for education and other services; linking science and technology through the use of Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS); continuing support of nanotechnology research and development through the Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer; enhancing research into the function of proteins through its Clinical Proteomic Technologies for Cancer Initiative; integrating science through interdisciplinary teams that connect the physical and biological sciences through the application of computational biology, mathematics, and physics; and supporting clinical trials through the implementation of the Clinical Trials Working Group recommendations based on five themes: prioritization/scientific quality, standardization, coordination, operational efficacy, and integrated management.

In FY 2009 the Institute priorities include disseminating new knowledge, best practices, and clinical opportunities to physicians and patients, regardless of location or socioeconomic status; and realizing the promise of prevention and early diagnosis. The Institute also plans to support the training and mentored research of new investigators.

NCI’s etiology research focuses on genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. The Institute notes that the study of genetic and environmental risk factors for cancer has advanced considerably. The FY 2009 budget request for Understanding the Causes of Cancer program is $1.1 billion, $663 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level. The Institute plans to give high priority to continuing NCI activities such as whole genome scans in which DNA from patients with specific cancers is compared to DNA from people who have ever had the disease. Under the auspices of the NIH Genes and Environment Initiative (GEI), a GWAS will be conducted to investigate the genetic determinants of lung cancer risk and identify genes that contribute to smoking persistence and different lung cancer outcomes.

The FY 2009 budget request for the Cancer Prevention and Control program is $341.5 million, $2.5 million below the FY 2008 funding level. The NCI stresses that prevention is the first line of defense against cancer. Accordingly, preventing cancer focuses on understanding and modifying behaviors that increase risk, mitigating the influence of genetic and environmental risk factors, and interrupting carcinogenesis through early intervention. The Institute highlights that national studies have shown that cancer healthcare delivery is inadequate or lacking for large numbers of patients and disadvantaged groups. It also notes that a steady expansion of the NCI’s cancer health disparities research and diversity training programs has spurred the development of regional “hubs” of research to improve cancer outcomes in populations with an excess burden of cancer. The hubs are designed to investigate critical basic, clinical, population, and community-based research questions targeted to the specific needs of underserved populations. This network emerged from a focus on health disparities research and training partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and NCI-designated Cancer Centers, Community Networks Program (CNP), regional partnerships, the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) pilot, and through Patient Navigation Research Program partnerships.

The NCI also plans to continue to study Energy Balance (the integrated effects of data, physical activity, and genetics on growth and body weight over an individual’s lifetime) as a way to control cancer incidence.

The Institute intends to support research on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment,
long-term care and surveillance, through the Health Maintenance Organization Cancer Research Network. The request includes $6.6 million for community-based research. In FY 2008, NCI launched the pilot phase of the NCCCP.

In FY 2009, NCI plans to continue its support of team science through its cancer centers, specialized centers, and SPOREs (Specialized Centers and Specialized Programs of Research Excellence). The FY 2009 budget request for these programs is $479.6 million, the same as the FY 2008 funding level.

For research workforce development, the FY 2009 budget request is $181.5 million, $575 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level. The Institute’s planned activities in this area includes: supporting medical school training for individuals through the Uniformed Services University/NCI Training Program; increasing the number of doctors and Oncology Registered Nurses in clinical and translational research through career awards for clinical oncology; and training and mentoring physician scientists to expand their expertise in laboratory or clinical translational research through the Physician Scientist Training Program.

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National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)  
[www.nccam.nih.gov](http://www.nccam.nih.gov)

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) is dedicated to exploring complementary and alternative healing practices in the context of rigorous science, training CAM researchers, and disseminating authoritative information. In 2004, NCCAM celebrated its fifth anniversary and developed a new strategic plan. The plan highlighted the need for growth in health services research and identified a new area of study: the ethical, legal, and social implication of CAM research and practice. It also called on the Center to continue its investments in research on manipulative and body-based practices, energy medicine, and the study of whole medical systems. Several of the NIH Roadmap initiatives that promote interdisciplinary research are vital for optimal collaborations among conventional and CAM researchers. In 2007, Josephine P. Briggs was appointed director or NCCAM.

To fulfill its mission, NCCAM collaborates with multiple ICs as well as other Federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The FY 2009 budget request for NCCAM is $121.7 million, $118 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

NCCAM's extramural research program funds multidisciplinary clinical investigations at U.S. biomedical and CAM research institution on CAM modalities, including biologically based therapies, acupuncture, mind-body medicine modalities, and manipulative and body-based CAM therapies. The FY 2009 budget request for NCCAM extramural clinical research is $50.9 million. In FY 2009, NCCAM plans to reissue its principal initiatives: Centers of Excellence for Research on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (P01), and support for additional new investigator-initiated research projects under Exploratory/Developmental Grant for Clinical Studies of Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The Center also plans to encourage studies on the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of CAM therapies used in “real world” health care settings and to clarify how patients and health care providers elect to use CAM through its Outcomes, Cost-Effectiveness, and the Decision Making Process initiative. The initiative will support case control, prospective, and retrospective observational studies, as well as secondary analyses of data sets to provide health care providers, patients, and policy makers with additional information on which to base treatment decisions, thus enhancing the integration of CAM into primary care and health care systems.
A participant in the Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research, NCCAM plans to fund grants under its initiative, CAM Approaches in Management of HIV Disease and Its Complications, to stimulate research on CAM interventions, including dietary supplements and mind-body medicine, used to manage the effects of HIV disease. These effects include depression, pain, fatigue, muscle wasting, and the cardiovascular and metabolic side effects resulting from antiretroviral therapy.

NCCAM supports a variety of extramural research training and career development programs and supplements for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral students, CAM practitioners, and conventional medical researchers and practitioners. The FY 2009 budget request for CAM research training and career development is $12.2 million, the same as the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NCCAM intends to make awards under its ongoing training initiatives that target investigators at various stages of their careers. The Center also plans to reissue its training initiative, Collaborative CAM Research Development Capability Enhancement Grant at Minority Serving Institutions (R03).

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National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)

www.ncmhd.nih.gov

Established by Congress in FY 2002, the mission of the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) is to conduct and support research, training, information dissemination, and other programs aimed at reducing the disproportionately high incidence and prevalence of disease, burden of illness, and mortality in certain populations. These populations include racial and ethnic minorities and other groups such as the urban and rural poor.

In its FY 2009 budget request, NCMHD observes that there has been an increase in research studies to understand the development and progression of diseases, health conditions, and disabilities that may lead to health disparities. It currently supports 88 Centers of Excellence (in 31 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), 25 Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) program grantees, and more than 1,400 Loan Repayment Program awardees. These Centers conduct multi-disciplinary research on priority diseases and conditions such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, mental health, and obesity.

The FY 2009 budget request for NCMHD’s Health Disparities Research program is $103.3 million, $9.2 million or a 9.8 percent increase above the FY 2008 funding level. Fifty NCMHD Centers of Excellence are currently being supported to conduct health disparities research to develop novel evidence-based research methodologies and strategies that are essential in improving prevention, diagnosis and treatment methods. In FY 2009, NCMHD plans to expand the Centers of Excellence program to include nine additional sites. The budget request includes $145 thousand for Men’s Health Disparities, and $145 thousand for Global Health Disparities initiatives.

NCMHD’s Research Capacity-Building and Infrastructure program is designed to build a comprehensive and diverse biomedical research enterprise of institutions and individuals dedicated to minority health and the elimination of health disparities. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $64 million, $9.1 million below the FY 2008 funding level.

The Center currently supports two extramural Loan Repayment Programs that seek to recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals with doctorate degrees in research careers related to the elimination of health disparities. The programs, the Health Disparities Research
(HDR) Loan Repayment Program and the Extramural Clinical Research for Individuals with Disadvantaged Backgrounds (ECR) Loan Repayment Program, are designed to provide an incentive for successful applicants to engage in basic, clinical, and behavioral research relevant to health disparities by repaying a portion of their educational loans.

NCMHD’s CBPR program is designed to engage the community in all phases of research including design, implementation, and dissemination of the research results. It is funded through the Center’s Outreach and Information Dissemination program. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $19.6 million, the same as the FY 2008 funding level. The program has three phases: a three-year research planning grant; a competitive five-year intervention research grant; and a competitive three-year dissemination phase.

The budget request includes $1 million to continue efforts started in FY 2008 to develop a Faith-Based Health Initiative. The initiative is designed to focus on developing researchers who engage in religious, spirituality, and faith-health synergy research in minority, rural, and other health disparity communities. It is also designed to investigate the relationships and synergies among religion, faith, spirituality, health, and health care, leading to new interventions to eliminate health disparities.

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The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) provides NIH-supported laboratory and clinical researchers with the infrastructure, tools, and training they need to understand, detect, treat, and prevent a wide range of diseases. This support spans basic, translational, and clinical research and connects researchers with one another and with patient and communities across the nation. NCRR is in the process of developing its strategic plan for 2009-2013. The final plan will be released in FY 2009.

The Center is the leader of the NIH Roadmap effort to energize the discipline of clinical and translational research, the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program. The FY 2009 budget request for NCRR is $1.2 billion, $11.0 million above the FY 2008 funding level. The CTSA is a national consortium designed to facilitate the transfer of discoveries made in the laboratory into new treatments for patients. Through CTSAs, academic health centers will develop centers, departments, or institutions for interdisciplinary teams that cover the complete spectrum of research - biology, clinical medicine, dentistry, nursing, biomedical engineering, genomics, and population sciences. NCRR began building the CTSA Consortium in FY 2006 with 12 awards and plans to grow the program each year until 2012, when NCRR intends to support approximately 60 CTsas at academic health centers across the country. In FY 2007 an additional 12 academic health centers awards were made. According to NCRR, currently, the CTSA consortium is working to address three major priorities: standardizing clinical research informatics, streamlining clinical research management, and developing national curricula for clinical and translational science. The FY 2009 budget request for the CTSA and the General Clinical Research Centers is $391.7 million, $20 million or 5.4 percent above the FY 2008 funding level. The NIH Common/Fund for Medical Research will contribute $83.2 million in FY 2009, bringing the total NIH funding for CTsas to $474.9 million.

NCRR also promotes science and health literacy through its Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA). The program brings together active biomedical and clinical researchers with educators, media experts, community leaders, and other interested organizational leaders to stimulate public interest in health issues and encourage young people to pursue careers in
biomedical research. The two goals of the SEPA program are to: 1) increase the pipeline of future scientists and clinicians, especially from minority, underserved, and rural Kindergarten to grade 12 students and 2) to engage and educate the general public on the health-related advances made possible by NIH-funded research. In FY 2007, NCRR funded 10 SEPAs to engage students and the public in health sciences, bringing the SEPA portfolio to 62 active grants. The FY 2009 budget request for SEPA is $16 million, the same as the FY 2008 funding level.

NCRR’s Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program is designed to foster health-related research and increases the competitiveness of investigators at institutions in 23 states and Puerto Rico with historically low aggregate success rates for grant awards from the NIH. The FY 2009 budget request for IDeA is $218.2, the same as the FY 2008 funding level.

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National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

www.nhlbi.nih.gov

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) provide leadership for research in diseases of the heart, blood vessels, lung, and blood; blood resources; and sleep disorders. NHLBI plans and directs research in the development and evaluation of interventions and devices related to prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of patients suffering from such diseases and disorders. The Institute also conducts educational activities, including development and dissemination of materials for health professionals and the public in the above areas, strongly emphasizing prevention.

In 2007, NHLBI released its strategic plan, Shaping the Future of Research: A Strategic Plan for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (http://apps.nhlbi.nih.gov/strategicplan/). The plan emphasizes conducting research in primary prevention and identifying interventions that work in the practice communities that will ultimately constitute the targets for translation and education. It is intended to provide the NHLBI a guide for its research and training programs over the next five to 10 years. Strategies of the plan include: enhancing interdisciplinary work; speeding early-stage translation of basic discoveries; ensuring cost-fertilization of basic, clinical, and epidemiologic discoveries, and maximize the resultant public health benefit of the information created. The FY 2009 budget request for NHLBI is $2.9 billion, $2.8 million above the FY 2008 funding level.

The budget request for NHLBI’s Heart and Vascular Diseases program is $1.6 billion, $899 thousand less than the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, among the Institute’s priorities is the plan to support population and community-based studies to improve the outcomes of resuscitation after myocardial infarction, to enhance the management of acute coronary syndromes, and to develop better biomarkers and imaging approaches for identifying pre-clinical cardiovascular disease and implementing “preventive, preemptive” interventions. Using the Framingham Heart Study, the Institute plans to support a seven-year extension of the study to reexamine the living participants from the three cohorts (1948, 1971, and 2002) of the study and gather genetic, laboratory, and clinical data for analysis.

For translating discoveries in the behavioral sciences to reduce obesity and promote cardiovascular health, the FY 2009 budget request includes $5 million. The program is designed to support research that translates findings from basic research on human behavior into effective clinical, community, and population interventions to reduce obesity and promote cardiovascular health. The Institute anticipates funding seven awards.

The Institute’s FY 2009 budget request includes $3 million for medical education for K-12 teachers and students (MKITS II). The intent is to develop a program, under a contract, that
enables experienced principal investigators to help NHLBI disseminate and evaluate K-12 science education curricula, materials, and educational activities that incorporate best practices learned from previous programs.

NHLBI’s FY 2009 budget request also includes $3 million to support a Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT) initiative that will support a multi-center randomized trial to determine whether treating systolic blood pressure to a lower goal than is currently recommended can reduce cardiovascular disease.

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National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

www.nhgri.nih.gov

The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) was established in 1989 to head the National Institutes of Health’s efforts in the Human Genome Project (HGP). In 2003, NHGRI expanded its mission to encompass a broad range of studies aimed at understanding the structure and function of human genome and its role in health and disease. The Institute recognizes that for “individualized preventive medicine” to make a profound contribution to human health, the accompanying ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) must be addressed. Further recognizing its responsibility to address the broader implication of newfound abilities to decipher genetic information, the Institute commits up to five percent of its annual extramural research budget for ELSI activities. The FY 2009 budget request for NHGRI is $487.9 million, $1.1 million above the FY 2008 funding level.

NHGRI recognizes that as the use of genetics and genomics in translational and clinical studies increases, the importance of addressing the ethical, legal, and social implications of the results of genetic and genomic research continues to grow as well. In FY 2006, the Institute launched an initiative to address the challenges of ELSI research related to use of genetics and genomics in translational and clinical studies, the Centers of Excellence in ELSI Research (CEERs) program. The CEERs are charged with: 1) fostering the multi-disciplinary approaches necessary to make advances in understanding the issues that will be raised by progress in genomic science, 2) translating ELSI research findings to research, health, and public policies and practices and, 3) training the next generation of ELSI researchers. In FY 2008, NHGRI established two new centers focused on the ELSI issues surrounding large-scale genomics research and emerging genetic technologies. The FY 2009 budget request for the ELSI program is $18.4 million, $64 thousand below the FY 2009 funding level. In FY 2009, NHGRI intends to continue to support the ELSI research program in its efforts to anticipate and address the social, legal, and ethical issues that will arise from the new information about human genome and the genetic contribution to human disease, and new approaches to applying that information to the improvement of human health.

In the third quarter of 2008, the NHGRI Intramural Program will open the NIH Intramural Center for the Genomics and Health Disparities (NICGHD), a new trans-NIH research entity. Meanwhile, the Institute is currently seeking candidates for the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Intramural Health Disparities Postdoctoral Fellowship which is intended to provide promising recent doctoral graduates the opportunity to use genetic and genomic approaches to advance the growing area of health disparities research.

Successful candidates will have the opportunity to work in NHGRI Intramural research laboratories engaged in a wide variety of genetic and genomic research. In addition, through
their faculty mentor, they will have access to NHGRI's core facilities and the resources of the NIH Clinical Center. Successful candidates will also have the opportunity to interact with members of the newly formed NICGHD.

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National Institute on Aging (NIA)

www.nia.nih.gov

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) provides support for social and behavioral science research through its Behavioral and Social Research Program (BSR). BSR supports basic social and behavioral research that focuses on how people change with aging, the interrelationships between older people and social institutions, and the societal impact of the changing age composition on the population. A goal of the Institute’s social and behavioral research is to maintain or enhance the health and well-being, including physical and cognitive function, of older individuals throughout the lifespan. Social and behavioral research is also supported by NIA’s program in Neuropsychology and Neuroscience of Aging, as well as the programs of the Gerontology Research Center and Epidemiology, Demography, and Biometry.

Recognizing that behavioral and lifestyle factors have a profound impact on health throughout the lifespan; NIA research on behavioral and social factors in aging encompasses a number of areas. These include the effects of behavior and attitude on health, economic implications of aging at both the personal and societal levels, and the demographics of aging. The FY 2009 budget request for NIA is $1.04 billion, $1 million above the FY 2008 funding level.

The FY 2009 budget request for NIA’s BSR program is $171.7 million, $227 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In 2007, NIA commissioned an evaluation of its Demography of Aging Centers and its Roybal Centers for Applied Gerontology. The Institute plans to renew both programs in FY 2009.

In FY 2008, the Institute intends to solicit research to develop the next generation of innovative models to forecast Medicare expenditures and basic research to answer questions about critical assumptions for these forecasts. Forecasting models that incorporate demographic and economic uncertainty, can consider policy changes, and measure general equilibrium effects will be solicited. Basic research on key factors that contribute to future Medicare expenditures and could inform federal researchers in the development of program forecasts will also be solicited. Another priority research area for NIA in 2008 is an initiative that would target basic and translational research examining the neurobiological and/or genetic bases of social behaviors and social relationships of relevance to aging. According to the Institute, despite the rapid growth in Social Neuroscience over the past decade or so, relatively little work in this area has focused on issues relevant to midlife and older age. Accordingly, the NIA plans to address this research gap in the research as it relates to individuals 65 and older.

In FY 2009 BSR’s priorities include:

- **Continuing major demographic studies that provide important insights into social and economic trends.** This includes long-term studies of older Americans covering a wide range of topics, including retirement and economic status (the Health and Retirement Study, established in 1992), caregiving, behavioral medicine, the dynamics of health and functional change at older ages, cognition, genetics, and long-term care. The...
Institute partners with the U.S. Census Bureau on joint demographic studies of the elderly population and the Federal Forum on Aging, which is comprised of 13 federal departments and agencies. The Forum collects, provides, and analyzes aging-related data.

- **Supporting research initiatives to address financial challenges faced by American elders.** The Institute intends to continue funding for two initiatives in this area: 1) Developing Integrated Economic Models of Health and Retirement; and 2) an initiative that focuses on the neuroeconomics of aging and supports research to examine the social, emotional, cognitive, motivational, processes and neurobiological mechanisms of decision-making behavior in older individuals.

- **Supporting development of new methods to collect, store, and share research data from longitudinal studies.** Data from NIA’s long term surveys is available to social and behavioral science researchers. According to the Institute, that data, however, has become more difficult to use over time due to complexity of longitudinal samples or the addition of new survey components. To address this issue, NIA intends to support a new initiative designed to develop and archive user-friendly public use data files from longitudinal surveys and behavioral interventions. The Institute also plans to continue to support efforts to ensure comparability of results from surveys from different countries which assist our understanding and ability to address the challenges of a global aging society.

NIA’s Geriatrics and Clinical Gerontology (GCG) Program supports research on health, disease, and disability in the aged (other than neurodegeneration). Areas of focus include age-related physical changes and their relationship to health outcomes, the maintenance of health and the development of disease, and specific age-related risk factors for disease. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $136.1 million, $180 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. Priorities for the program in FY 2009 include identifying childhood factors that may exert a protective effect on health later in life and conducting research on nutrition, weight loss and maintenance, and exercise in the elderly.

NIA supports longitudinal studies within both its intramural and extramural programs. Its Intramural Research Program is currently in the process of data collection for its Healthy Aging in Neighborhoods of Diversity Across the Life Span (HANDLS) study. It is a 20-year, community-based, epidemiological study evaluating health disparities in socioeconomically diverse African American and white populations located in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Institute supports the longest-running scientific study of human aging, the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA). The study, established in 1958, has provided a wealth of information on the physical consequences of aging, as well as how to sort out changes due to aging from those due to disease, genetic makeup, environmental or lifestyle factors, or other causes. The Institute plans to initiate the BLSA Elite Aging Study of men and women who are 85 years and older and are still free of major diseases and disability. The NIA-supported longitudinal study, the National Long Term Care Survey (NLTCS), has been one of the leading resources for studying changes in health and functional status and for tracking health expenditures, Medicare service use, and the availability of personal, family, and community resources for caregiving. In FY 2008, NIA issued a funding opportunity announcement for proposals to design and conduct a longitudinal, nationally-represented survey of disability trends and dynamics among the U.S. older population. The Institute expects work to begin under this announcement in September 2008.

Other ongoing NIA-supported longitudinal studies include surveys focused on women’s health (the Study of Women Across the Nation), cognitive health (e.g., the Nun Study), economic behavior and social and psychological measures (the Panel Study on Income Dynamics), and cardiovascular health (such as the Bogalusa Study).
In February 2007, NIA sponsored the Summit on Global Aging which provided an opportunity to catalyze greater international dialogue and encourage coordinated international studies about the health, economic, social, and security implications of this issue. A joint report issued by NIA and the Department of State: Why Population Aging Matters: A Global Perspectives. COSSA co-sponsored a briefing with the Population Association of America hosted by the Senate Special Committee on Aging to highlight the findings of the study.

Responding to Congressional urging for the Institute to expand its work on the role of stereotypes in the functioning of the aging and elderly, NIA intends to examine the bases for individual and societal attitudes toward older people and to develop effective strategies to improve them. One avenue for such research cited by the Institute is an expanded emphasis on social and affective neuroscience, a field that addresses relations between neural, endocrine, and immune systems and aspects of emotional function, social behavior and the sociocultural environment, including stereotypes and stereotyping. The Institute conducted an exploratory workshop on the social neuroscience of aging in 2007, and is participating with the National Institute of Mental Health in a funding opportunity announcement on basic and translational opportunities in the social neuroscience of mental health. The Institute is also providing support for several grants under a separate announcement on social neuroscience cosponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

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National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

www.niaaa.nih.gov

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) supports basic and applied research related to the etiology, prevalence, prediction, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, management, and prevention of alcoholism and other related problems. NIAAA-supported research has reframed the understanding of alcohol use and its impact on health, including the recognition that the nature of alcohol-related problems significantly change over the course of the lifespan.

Increased understanding of alcohol dependence has created a paradigm shift in alcohol research. Given that research show that the majority of individuals who meet diagnostic criteria for alcohol dependence do not access treatment, NIAAA-supported research is evaluating screening and brief intervention in venues other than specialty treatment facilities. The FY 2009 budget request for NIAAA is $436.5 million, $422 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

In 2007, NIAAA initiated several pilot projects designed to set the stage for a larger scale initiative assessing the short- and long-term effects of alcohol exposure on the developing adolescent brain. The Institute’s intent is to promote alcohol screening among young people as standard practice in multiple settings including routine primary care and mental healthcare. The FY 2009 budget request for NIAAA’s Youth/Adolescence program is $59.1 million, $100 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NIAAA plans to work to ensure that pediatricians, primary care physicians, and other healthcare professionals have and use optimal tools to detect early and hazardous alcohol use by children and adolescents. The Institute also plans to commit $2 million in funds to support studies on alcohol screening and diagnosis in children, adolescents, and young adults.

For young adults who drink heavily but do not see a primary care physician, NIAAA is exploring other venues to provide intervention such as trauma centers, emergency departments, and
In FY 2007, NIAAA funded 12 pilot studies to better understand the mechanisms by which individuals change their drinking behavior. In FY 2009, the budget request for the Young Adult program is $146.7 million, $300 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. The Institute intends to commit $2 million towards research on the development and progression of the various subtypes of alcohol dependence.

For its Midlife/Senior Adult program, the FY 2009 budget request is $133.0 million, a decrease of $200 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NIAAA plans to continue its investment in medications development.

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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)  
www.niams.nih.gov

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) is the lead Federal agency for research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of arthritis, musculoskeletal and skin diseases. Diseases within NIAMS' purview include many forms of arthritis and diseases of the musculoskeletal system and bones, and skin diseases. Because most of these diseases are chronic, NIAMS is focused on research, prevention and treatment of disorders characterized by a continuing disease process with progressive deterioration. Many of the diseases within the mission of the NIAMS have a disproportionate impact on women and minorities.

The Institute supports research that has identified the barriers that keep people who are economically disadvantaged as well as people from diverse ethnic backgrounds from complying with their prescribed medical treatments, including fear of side effects, belief that the medicines are not working, problems with the health system environment, and medication costs. NIAMS believes that this research is important as it addresses the issues of health disparities, identifying the many, complex factors that make some populations more vulnerable to diseases within its mission areas. The FY 2009 budget request for NIAMS is $509.1 million, $400 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

Recognizing that the scale and complexity of today’s biomedical research problems demand that scientists move beyond their individual disciplines and explore organizational models for team science, the Institute recently initiated a new research supplement in FY 2008 to promote interdisciplinary partnerships. NIAMS plans to make the first round awards for collaborations that bridge specific research topics: autoimmunity and gender/sex factors; autoimmunity or developmental biology and systems biology; soft tissue biology and imaging technologies; and tissue engineering and developmental biology or immunology. If the initial round of supplements generates productive collaborations, the NIAMS may reissue this funding opportunity with a broader scientific scope in the future.

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This year the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development was renamed the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) in recognition of her vision and dedication to leading efforts to advance the understanding of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

NICHD continues to be a major source of funding for social and behavioral sciences research, including research on the dynamics of human behavior at both the individual and population level. The Institute’s broad mission includes research on infant mortality, prevention of birth defects, learning disabilities, and demographic and behavioral sciences. The NICHD supports the third largest behavioral and social sciences research portfolio at the NIH. Research supported by the NICHD increasingly crosses disciplinary boundaries to link psychological and behavioral processes in cognitive, social, and personality development with underlying biological processes, and to understand how social and economic factors affect developmental outcomes.

NICHD has made significant investments in trans-disciplinary science that addresses the biological, behavioral, and social factors that affect children’s development. This includes research focusing on: the effects of poverty on child development; the effectiveness of early childhood programs or interventions in promoting school readiness; and tools to measure important early childhood competencies. NICHD also has a longstanding interest in the study of normal language and reading development, learning disabilities, and disorders that adversely affect the development of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and mathematics abilities. The Institute also provides strong support for demographic research, investing in the collection and dissemination of population data.

NICHD has established a new staff-level Consortium of Behavioral and Social Sciences to further integrate behavioral, social, and biomedical research focused on child health and human development. The Consortium’s initial plans call for a conference that will explore the social environmental causes of rising childhood obesity using data from the U.S. and other countries.

Additionally, NICHD recognizes the need to invest in innovative models of research and training to advance these areas of science, including training in both the behavioral sciences and interdisciplinary fields. NICHD’s Behavioral Research Branch, in recent years, has taken new steps to strengthening training and career opportunities, expanding the Mentored Research Scientist program.

During the past year, the NICHD reviewed its program of demographic research under the auspices of the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council (NACHHDC). The review identified several areas of research that merited expanded attention in the future, including family formation and family processes; immigration and population movement with the United States, and various aspects of health, including population health monitoring, interdisciplinary studies that trace the biological pathways along with social and economic influences that affect health, and the consequences of health and disease for individual and societal productivity. The Institute is engaging several activities that begin this process. NICHD is supporting a new study to examine health disparities in pregnancy outcomes and child health in partnership with five U.S. communities; another study is designed to examine the impact of employer workplace policy interventions on improving the health of families and children. A collaborative effort within the Institute is exploring the complex environmental and family influences that have contributed to the epidemic of childhood obesity, and the potential for new methods of modeling these influences to cultivate intervention strategies.

Research on the family is a traditional strength of the Institute’s Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch. The Institute has begun to support research on innovative interventions to
improve couple relationships in low-income families and families of color. The interventions complement and contribute to the work done under the Health Marriage Initiative. NICHD also supports research of impoverished rural families which seeks to understand the supports and challenges for children in rural communities as they enter school; research on the relationship of poverty to child development; research on the impact of father involvement and parenting practices on children’s development; and research that seeks to improve family involvement in schooling among Latino families. Responding to the recommendations from the NACHHDC, the Institute has identified one avenue for research on the family is to expand the understanding of the causes of family change by broadening the types of interdisciplinary science brought to bear in explanatory theories and studies, because of the consequences of family change for children, but also because of the long-term impact of fertility trends on rates of old-age dependency within the population. A second avenue for research is research on family processes that reach across households to better understand the many families with multiple generations or nonresident parents involved in caretaking.

The NICHD has supported foundational work on early language development for the past three decades. This work is supported mainly by the Child Development and Behavior Branch in its programs on language development and early learning. Many of the studies that have been or are supported by these programs include the interaction of language and social skills. The studies have been foundational to the understanding of social and language impairment, in particular of the linguistic and social development of young children with autism spectrum disorder. The Institute is a key supporter of work on autism spectrum disorder, providing support for research in this area. NICHD is a partner in the trans-NIH initiative on Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE). Some of the projects supported in ACE included research to understand and improve social and linguistic abilities in children with or at risk for autism spectrum disorders. The Institute remains committed to continuing the funding for studies on typical early language and social development and intervention studies which seek to improve these abilities in children diagnosed with or at risk for impairment.

The Center for Population Research (CPR) supports a diverse range of population studies to understand reproductive health and biology, including behavioral and social science research to understand the consequences of changes in population size, composition and distribution; factors that affect family formation, functioning, stability, and influence on child well-being; and the antecedents and consequences of migration and immigration. In 2007, the Center completed an independent review of the its demographic and behavioral research program and reproductive program to guide future research directions. The FY 2009 budget request for the population research program is $317.9 million. CPR’s priorities for FY 2009 include providing $2.4 million in AIDS funding to develop and test new AIDS prevention programs for preadolescents, based on previous research that identified key factors that predispose young people to risky behavior; and providing $3.4 million to strengthen behavioral and social science research on HIV risk and prevention among youth.

NICHD’s Center for Research for Mothers and Children (CRMC) supports a wide array of maternal and child health research, including research that examines the mechanisms of cognitive, social, emotional, and neurobiological development; influences of genetics, environment, and life experiences on development; the cause and treatment of specific learning disabilities; and health promotion and disease prevention in children and adolescents. In 2007, the Center accomplishments included: supporting a new collaboration to explore environmental and family influences on childhood obesity, and grants to develop and evaluate school-based obesity prevention interventions; and expanding research into learning disabilities by funding new studies to identify factors that influence mathematical learning and develop effective interventions. The CRMC also conducted an independent review of the maternal, adolescent, and child AIDS program to guide future research directions. The FY 2009 budget request for the Research for Mothers and Children program is $336.8 million.
The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) mission is to support and conduct research and research training in the normal processes and the disorders of human communication, including hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language. The FY 2009 budget request for NIDCD is $395.0 million, $900 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level. In October 2008, NIDCD will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Through its Hearing and Balance program, NIDCD utilizes a wide range of research approaches, such as molecular genetics, the development of assistive and augmentative devices, biomedical imaging, nanotechnology, psychoacoustics, and structural biology to study normal and disordered functions of the auditory and vestibular systems. NIDCD is supporting research on hearing impairment in children and has begun seeking ways to stimulate research on ways to reduce the possible under-identification and impact of mild and unilateral hearing loss. In 2007, NIDCD participated in the National Workshop on Mild and Unilateral Hearing Loss convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. The workshop served as a catalyst and forum to discuss issues related to the identification, assessment, and intervention approaches for infants and children with mild and unilateral hearing loss. As a result of the workshop, NIDCD and CDC developed several grant initiatives on “Research on Mild and/or Unilateral Hearing Loss,” which the Institute plans to direct to foster research to prevent, identify, and treat these children. The FY 2009 budget request for the Hearing and Balance program is $195.0 million, $232 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level.

NIDCD’s Voice, Speech and Language program supports research in the communication sciences, including voice, speech, and language to examine how individuals comprehend and generate speech or language. The Institute has expanded its research commitment in autism research and has been participating in a trans-NIH effort to fund research centers and programs. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $82.2 million, $101 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level.

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) mission is to support the Nation’s ongoing efforts to improve oral, dental, and craniofacial health. The Institute research has traditionally cut across diverse fields of scientific disciplines. The FY 2009 budget request for NIDCR is $390.5 million, $400 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

Four years ago, NIDCR began to invest more of its resources to support large, randomized Phase III clinical trials. Currently, the Institute supports four ongoing Phase III trials and has plans to launch several additional studies during FY 2008 and FY 2009. The Institute is beginning to
fund research that will contribute to the understanding of the complex interplay of factors that contribute to dental caries, including research that explore a wide range of factors that include genetics, family contextual factors, psychosocial determinants, diet, neighborhood settings and environmental factors, and their interactions. According to NIDCR, emerging new conceptual models that take a holistic, systems approach will guide the work of future researchers and decisionmakers. The FY 2009 estimate for the Clinical Research Program is $61 million, $200 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NIDCR plans include support for three new initiatives and ongoing programs:

- **Developing Complex Models of Oral Health and Behavior** - This is a priority for NIDCR, because according to the Institute, traditional models assume that behavior is driven by people carefully weighing the risks and benefits of their choices. The models lay out a rational, linear, unidirectional set of causes and effects. The models fail to capture adequately the complexity of the decision-making process. To meet this need, NIDCR intends to actively encourage research that builds on existing models and identifies new ways to conceptualize the numerous behavioral and social contributors to oral health. The long-term goal is to use these models to identify potential targets for more efficient interventions to help more people achieve and maintain good oral health.

- **Practice-Based Research Networks** -- In 2005, NIDCR began supporting three regional dental practice-based research networks (PBRNs). Their mission is to create large networks of practicing dentists and dental hygienists to participate in conducting clinical studies on various issues in oral healthcare.

**Oral Health Disparities Centers Initiative** -- NIDCR initiated five Oral Health Disparities Centers in 2001. The Centers are located in various regions of the country and are working to design innovative, science-based strategies to improve the oral health of low income and minority Americans. Funding of these centers will conclude in mid 2008 and to maintain this research momentum, NIDCR reissued the funding opportunity announcement. The announcement was an open competition, previous funding as an oral health disparities center was not a prerequisite. New centers will be required to conduct interventional trials designed to determine the methods for disease prevention and translation of research findings in communities with health disparities.

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National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

[www.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.niddk.nih.gov)

The mission of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is to support research to combat diseases that are mostly common, chronic, have severe health consequences, and are costly to individuals and their families. They include: diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases, liver and other digestive diseases, nutritional disorders, obesity, kidney and urologic diseases, and hematologic diseases. The Institute also supports diseases that are less wide-spread such as cystic fibrosis and other genetic diseases. The FY 2009 budget request for NIDDK is $1.86 billion, $1.8 million above the FY 2008 funding level.

The FY 2009 budget request for NIDDK’s Digestive Diseases and Nutrition efforts is $428.7 million. The program supports basic, clinical, and translational research, as well as research training. Among its obesity-related efforts, the Institute plan intends to continue support for further analysis of the risks and benefits of the bariatric surgery as a treatment for extreme
obesity in adults through its Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery consortium. NIDDK also plans to continue to support its ongoing observational study to assess the health risks and benefits of this surgery in severely obese adolescents. Support for the Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) multi-center clinical trial to continue its evaluation of the long-term health effects of a lifestyle intervention to achieve and maintain weight loss in obese adults with type 2 diabetes is also planned.

The FY 2009 budget request for Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases is $635.7 million. Areas of emphasis for the Institute in this area include continuing to support clinical research to identify optimal approaches to treatment and prevention of diabetes and its complications including the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study, Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications study, the Treatment Options for Type 2 Diabetes in Adolescents and Youth study, and the Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet research network. NIDDK also plans to continue to support translational research project grants, translation research efforts within diabetes Centers, and health information dissemination activities to bring discoveries in diabetes and obesity to real world medical practice and other community settings.

The Institute intends to renew its commitment to translational and other efforts in its diabetes centers. The Diabetes Research and Training Centers efforts include Prevention and Control components to enhance translation research, both in the general population and in minority and underserved groups.

The Institute recognizes that a complex interplay of factors promote weight gain and supports a multidimensional research portfolio on obesity, including studies preventing and treatment studies that includes interventions in schools and other community sites in diverse populations, along with research on the risks and benefits of bariatric surgery as a treatment for severe obesity. The Institute supports studies that examine the connection between obesity and type 2 diabetes. The NIDDK-funded middle school-based HEALTHY study is cited an example. The study is designed to determine whether changes in school food services and physical education classes, along with activities to encourage healthy behavioral will reduce risk factors for type 2 diabetes in young people. The Institute supports research to explore cost-effective ways to translate findings from diabetes and obesity intervention studies to real-world clinical practice and community settings, with an emphasis on disproportionately-affected populations. In FY 2009, the budget request provides $10.5 million, a reduction of $12 million. The Institute notes that the reduction is the result of the intervention being completed during FY 2009 and the follow-up data analysis will be less expensive.

Finally, in FY 2009, the NIDDK intends to collaborate on a systolic blood pressure intervention trial being led by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

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National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
www.nida.nih.gov

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is the lead Federal agency and predominant source of funding on the causes, consequences, prevention, treatment, and the biological, social, behavioral, and neuroscientific basis of drug abuse and addiction. Through its intramural research program as well as research grants and contracts at universities and other research institutions across the country, NIDA seeks to explore the scientific basis for the development of effective biomedical, behavioral, and psychosocial approaches to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse. NIDA is also charged with supporting research on the relationship between drug use and AIDS, tuberculosis, as well as other medical problems. The FY 2009
budget request for NIDA is $1.01 billion, $972 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

According to NIDA's latest Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF) of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (2007), there have been substantial declines in past-year illicit drug use for all grades since a decade ago, and use of nicotine is lower than at any time since the survey began in 1975. On the other hand, the MTF Survey also found that past-year inhalant abuse was reported by 9.1 percent of 8th graders, 6.5 percent of 10th graders and 4.5 percent of 12th graders. NIDA acknowledges that little is known about long-term health and social consequences, functional impairments, psychiatric comorbidities, and treatment needs of inhalant abusers in the general population. NIDA-supported researchers have recently drawn attention to important topics around this issue: 1) the relationship between inhalant abuse and suicide among incarcerated youth and 2) the role of social context in the abuse of inhalants by adolescents. To encourage research on all aspects of inhalant abuse, NIDA issued a Program Announcement, Inhalant: Abuse: Supporting Broad-Based Research Approaches, designed to encourage broad-based research that can inform prevention and treatment interventions for inhalant abuse, particularly for children and adolescents.

Drug abuse continues to be a major vector for the spread of HIV/AIDS in the United States and abroad, owing in large part to the connection between drug abuse and other risky behaviors, including the sharing of needles by intravenous drug users.

NIDA's Clinical and Basic Neuroscience programs are designed to work together to enlarge understanding of the neurobiological, genetic, and behavioral factors underlying drug abuse and addiction. Specifically, the programs examine the factors affecting increased risk and/or resilience to drug abuse, addiction, and drug-related disorders; the mechanisms of addiction; and the effects of drugs on the brain and behavior. NIDA, along with other NIH ICs, is funding ongoing studies to stimulate investigations of cognitive/behavioral processes and neurobiological mechanisms of social behavior relevant to drug abuse and decision-making over the life course. The FY 2009 budget request for this program area is $455.4 million, $642 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. The Institute's priorities in this area includes stimulating basic research on the mechanism underlying extinction learning (i.e., learning that alters conditioned responses to stimuli) as it pertains to drug-taking behaviors. The funding opportunity announcement is designed to encourage the testing of pharmacological and genetic interventions to enhance extinction learning and thereby reduce the salience of drug-associated cues and the powerful drive behind drug-seeking behaviors.

The Institute's Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research program is designed to promote integrated approaches to understand and address the interactions between individuals and environments that contribute to the continuum of drug abuse-related problems. NIDA's intention is to support research to prevent drug abuse and to optimize service delivery in real-world settings. The FY 2009 budget request for this program area is $241.9 million, $341 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NIDA intends as a major focus for this program area improvement of drug abuse prevention and treatment services, particularly in medical and criminal justice settings. A budget decrease, however, will limit support of new and existing programs.

Despite the budget shortfall, NIDA plans to support targeted research on how drug abuse treatment can be integrated into criminal justice systems through its Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Research Studies (CJ-DATS). This support includes a focus on developing the HIV continuum of care and on improving the implementation of screening and assessment tools and treatment interventions applied during incarceration and community re-entry. The Institute is calling for research proposals to develop and test comprehensive models of care that integrate drug screening, brief intervention, and referral to specialized treatments by physicians working in general healthcare settings.

NIDA's National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Networks (CTN) now comprises 15 research nodes and more than 240 individual community treatment programs, 34 states, plus
the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The CTN serves as a research and training platform to help NIDA respond to emerging public health areas, among other activities. Currently, the CTN provides a research platform for more than 30 research grants and the training platform for more than 60 research fellows and junior faculty. The FY 2009 budget request for this program area is $46.9 million, the same level as the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NIDA intends to recompete a portion of the CTN nodes, or centers, and continue to support CTN trials evaluating promising medications and other treatment approaches in diverse patient populations. These approaches include: 1) assessing new HIV rapid-screen technologies and counseling in CTN-affiliated community treatment programs and 2) evaluating the effectiveness of a 12-step facilitation intervention in stimulant abusing patients to initiate and sustain involvement with support groups like Alcoholics or Cocaine Anonymous.

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National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

www.niehs.nih.gov

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences’ (NIEHS) mission is to reduce the burden of environmentally-associated diseases. The Institute has identified a need for research into the influence of poverty and environmental pollution into human health needs. For years, the environment was considered to have a minor role in the etiology of human illness; this was, in part, because only radiation, synthetic chemicals and industrial by-products were included in the definition of the environment. The definition of environment, however, has been expanded to include diet and nutrition, behavior and other social and cultural factors. The thinking is shifting in favor of gene-environment interactions. The FY 2009 budget request for NIEHS is $642.9 million, $622 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

NIEHS supports research to understand the role of physical and social influences on the environmental impact of toxic pollutants, including the involvement of community-based organizations in educating vulnerable or susceptible populations, children, adults from poor socioeconomic status and minorities.

The Institute also supports several epidemiological studies to understand, among other things: community-based approaches to study the potential benefits of preventive interventions, such as the use of air filters and air conditioners in childhood asthma; and the influence of modifiable social and physical factors in susceptible populations.

The Institute is a cosponsor of several Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research-initiated programs, including a funding opportunity announcement for research to improve and elaborate explanations and understandings of the causes for health disparities. The announcement stresses the explicit employment of concepts and models from the social and behavioral sciences to guide basic and applied research. NIEHS is also participating in a trans-NIH global funding opportunity to support social and behavioral science research. The specific goal of the program is to provide funding opportunity for increasing pool of foreign social and behavioral scientists, clinical investigators, nurses, and other health professionals, upon their return to their home countries, with state-of-the-art knowledge of research methods to advance critical issues in global health through social and behavioral sciences research.

NIEHS plans to co-fund a funding opportunity announcement with OBSSR in response to a NIH Roadmap initiative, Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research via Methodological and Technological Innovation in the Behavioral and Social Sciences. NIEHS, OBSSR, NCI, and NIA are funding eight Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities (CPHHDs). The purpose of the Centers is to conduct multi-disciplinary, multi-level, integrated research projects with the intention of elucidating the complex interactions of the social and physical environment.
mediate behavioral factors, and biologic pathways which determine health and disease. A key objective is to generate a research program that embraces the concept of “multiple levels of analysis” in health science to examine factors operating in the social/environmental, behavioral/psychological, and biological (organ, cellular, and molecular levels).

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**National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)**

[www.nigms.org](http://www.nigms.org)

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) supports basic biomedical research that is not targeted to specific disease. While the Institute supports very little social and behavioral science research, it does support some basic behavioral research in such areas as the genetic and biochemical mechanisms underlying observed behaviors, neurobiology, drug metabolism, the mechanism of anesthetic action, and trauma and burn injury. The Institute has also begun to increase the amount of training opportunities available to social and behavioral scientists.

In 2008, NIGMS released *Investing in Discovery: the NIGMS Strategic Plan for 2008-2012*, which states the Institute’s core principles and explains how it will make decisions. A key element of the Institute’s strategic plan is to maintain a healthy pipeline of intellectual talent. The Institute stresses that it is critical that this pipeline draw on, and reflect, the diversity of the U.S. population. To this end, NIGMS is adopting a comprehensive systems-based approach to addressing future workforce development. The FY 2009 budget request for NIGMS is $1.9 billion, $1.9 million above the FY 2008 funding level.

The Institute recently initiated two behavioral programs: 1) **Collaborative Research for Molecular and Genetic Studies of Basic Behavior in Animal Models**, intended to facilitate research involving basic behavioral scientists and investigators with expertise in modern molecular biology and/or genomics (the program is a supplement to the existing NIGMS support of behavioral research in the area of behavioral genetics); and 2) **Predoctoral Training at the Interface of the Behavioral and Biomedical Sciences**. The goal of the training program is to develop basic behavioral scientists with rigorous broad-based training in the biomedical sciences who are available to assume leadership roles related to biomedical, clinical and behavioral research needs. The primary focus is on providing this training to students with previous behavioral training, and/or who are enrolled in behavioral sciences graduate departments. The Institute emphasizes that these “new programs reflect the importance of integrating behavioral and biological approaches to advance fundamental understanding and yield new approaches to promoting human health and treating disease.”

In FY 2007, NIGMS made the first awards in the new institutional training grant program to support the research training of basic behavioral scientists. NIGMS expects the programs to provide an interdisciplinary research training experience and curriculum for pre-doctoral trainees that integrate both behavioral and biomedical perspectives, approaches, and methodologies. The FY 2009 budget request for the Institute’s Research Training program is $195.1, $3.1 million above the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, the Institute plans to continue its new program supporting the research training of basic behavioral scientists.

NIGMS supports many training programs; including 10 different Ph.D. training programs. The NIGMS’ **Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE)** program is designed to increase the number of underrepresented minorities performing biomedical and behavioral research. Through support provided to institutions with substantial minority enrollments, the programs
aims to strengthen the pipeline of minority researchers. MORE does this through its Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) and Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) branches.

In FY 2007, approximately 576 undergraduate students were supported by the MARC institutional research training grant. The MBRS Branch supports undergraduates at minority/minority serving institutions through its Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) program designed to enhance the research training environment at minority serving institution, such as historically black colleges and universities. The program is also designed to increase the numbers of students who pursue and attain the Ph.D. degrees. In FY 2007, RISE supported the research development of more than 1055 underrepresented minority students, most of whom are undergraduates. The Special Initiatives Section of MORE, in conjunction with the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, supports the development of students from underrepresented groups through the Bridges to the Future Programs that are designed to facilitate the transition of students from Associate to Baccalaureate degree granting institutions and from Masters to Doctoral granting institutions. This is accomplished through the promotion of inter-institutional partnerships that permit improvement in the development of underrepresented minority students being trained as the next generation of scientists.

NIGMS adjusted the program’s activities in FY 2007, putting additional emphasis on institutional goals and objectives and a de-emphasis on the outcomes of individual trainees. The grants are now administered by program officers across the NIH who manages research in the scientific areas of the grants, rather than being administered solely by NIGMS staff. The FY 2009 budget request for the MORE programs is $125.6 million, $43 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, the NIGMS program staff plans to continue to reorganize existing programs to comply with the recommendations issued from a working group of the National Advisory for General Medical Science Council that advised the Institute to rebalance its MORE portfolio.

These efforts will place greater emphasis on student development and training. The Institute, through MORE, also plans to continue to examine the current state of research on interventions that influence the participation of underrepresented minorities in the biomedical and behavioral sciences.

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National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

www.nimh.nih.gov

The mission of NIMH is to reduce the public health burden of mental and behaviors disorders through research on mind, brain, and behavior. To fulfill its mission, the Institute: conducts research on mental disorders and the underlying basic science of brain and behavior; and collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on the causes, occurrence, and treatment of mental illnesses.

The FY 2009 budget request for NIMH is $1.4 billion, $1.4 million above the FY 2008 funding level. NIMH recently developed a draft strategic plan to guide the Institute’s future research efforts. The overarching objectives of the Plan are to: 1) promote discovery in the brain and behavioral sciences to fuel research on the causes of mental disorders; 2) chart mental illness trajectories to determine when, where, and how to intervene; 3) develop new and better interventions that incorporate the diverse needs and circumstances of people with mental illnesses; and 4) strengthen the public health impact of NIMH-supported research.
The Institute continues to support basic science, including basic behavioral science, as an essential component of the Institute’s program to advance its public health mission. According to NIMH, the Institute’s priorities are shaped by the 2004 National Advisory to Mental Health Council (NAMHC) report, “Setting Priorities for Basic Brain and Behavioral Science Research at NIMH,” which provided strategies for sharpening the focus and the impact of the Institute’s basic science portfolio, including basic behavioral science.

According to NIMH, while the fields of social psychology, cognitive science, and affective neuroscience have all addressed key issues regarding the role of behavioral processes in human health, they have not had a strong tradition of working with each other. In FY 2007, NIMH sponsored the first in a series of three annual grant solicitations, Basic and Translational Research Opportunities in Social Neuroscience of Mental Health, an emerging scientific discipline that brings scientists together from across these distinct areas, referred to as social cognitive neuroscience. The announcement is designed to support grant applications that will improve the quality of data collected within the social and behavioral sciences.

NIMH’s Health, Behavior, and AIDS program supports research and research training to: 1) reduce the burden of mental illness due to non-adherence to treatment, unhealthy behaviors, stigma and discrimination, health disparities, and co-occurring medical conditions; 2) develop and disseminate behavioral interventions that prevent HIV/AIDS transmission; and 3) clarify the biological, psychological, and functional effects of HIV/AIDS infection and alleviate the associated consequences. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $199.9 million, $3 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NIMH intends to give high priority to broadening research on mental disorders to better address issues of daily functioning, disability, morbidity, and mortality. The Institute plans to fund research on the development and refinement of definitions and measures of daily functioning, disability, and morbidity in order to facilitate ongoing assessments of these processes in people with mental disorders. A related focus will be on funding studies on affecting positive changes in health behaviors (such as smoking, diet, exercise, and adherence) that are contributors to these functional outcomes, as well as disability, morbidity and mortality in people with mental disorders.

The Institute also intends to give high priority to advancing HIV prevention in the U.S. NIMH plans to lead a NIH-wide effort at better coordinating and strengthening HIV prevention science. A major focus of the effort will be on encouraging innovative interdisciplinary prevention science that will expand the evidence base for public health policies and programming to reduce new HIV infections in the U.S., including studies to increase HIV testing and early detection; research that enhances the integration of HIV prevention into clinical services for those most at risk; and studies to identify and develop theory-based interventions that address the most promising opportunities to minimize HIV incidence in the U.S. Additional focus is planned for evaluating prevention interventions that are effective in small scale studies and applying them to a broader community level.

The Adult Translational Research and Treatment Development program, plans, supports, and administers programs of research, research training, and resource development aimed at: 1) understanding the biological, psychological, and functional changes that occur with mental illness, and 2) hastening the translation of science advances into innovations in clinical care. The program supports a broad research portfolio, including studies of risk factors for major psychiatric disorders; clinical neuroscience studies to elucidate the causes and functional effects of these disorders; and research on psychosocial, pharmacological, and somatic treatment development. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $258.3 million, $568 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. NIMH’s priorities for the program in FY 2009 include: studies aimed at developing specialized behavioral measures to characterize specific cognitive mechanism in persons with schizophrenia; and the development of methods for assessing and measuring risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The Developmental Translation Research program supports research and research training with the ultimate goal of preventing and curing childhood psychiatric illness. The program
stimulates this emerging field by promoting research on brain development, basic behavior and psychology, and the psychiatric and behavioral dysfunction associated with pediatric mental disorders. The FY 2009 budget request for the Developmental Translational Research program is $126.7 million, $279 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. FY 2009 program priorities include: studies designed to develop novel therapies for serious mental disorders of childhood and adolescence; research on understanding effective strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect, and on the amelioration of the biological and behavioral effects of child abuse and neglect on its victims. The Institute anticipates funding initiatives to identify risk and protective factors that influence the development of mental illness in cases of child abuse and neglect, and initiatives to develop novel treatment and prevention strategies.

NIMH’s **Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science Program** provides support for research in the areas of basic neuroscience, genetics, basic behavioral science, research training, resource development, technology development, drug discovery, and research dissemination. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $385.3 million, $848 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. The Institute intends to give high priority to: efforts to continue, enhance, and enrich research resources in the NIMH Human Genetics Initiative, in order to accelerate gene discovery in mental disorders through free and open sharing of data and resources with the scientific community; understand the molecular machinery underlying mental disorders; and studies using state-of-art electrophysiological, molecular, genetic, and/or imaging techniques in animals to examine the neural mechanisms by which regions in the mature and developing prefrontal cortex interact with other cortical and sub-cortical systems to give rise to complex mental functions (e.g., cognition, emotion, reward, motivation). The Institute also plans to continue its commitment to the NIH Neuroscience Blueprint, a collaborative effort with the Office of the Director and 15 NIH ICs that is identifying ways to enhance data sharing and provide enabling resources to accelerate research in the neurosciences.

The **Services and Intervention Research** program supports research to evaluate the effectiveness of pharmacologic, psychosocial, rehabilitative, and combination interventions on mental and behavior disorders. The program evaluates interventions for children, adolescents, and adults, focusing on acute and long-term therapeutic effects. The program also supports mental health services research, including services organization and delivery; interventions to improve the quality and outcomes of care; and research on the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based intervention into service settings. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $199.8 million, $439 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. NIMH’s plans for the program in FY 2009 include: providing support to projects that develop innovative, personalized interventions for use in diverse populations, and providing support to efforts to create new partnerships aimed at understanding the impact of state and regional policy change on mental health outcomes. The Institute intends to support the formation of new partnerships between mental health representatives and researchers in order to conduct studies using existing state and national level clinical and administrative datasets to study the impact of policy changes.

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**National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)**

[www.ninds.nih.gov](http://www.ninds.nih.gov)
The mission of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is to reduce the burden of neurological disease. To support this mission, NINDS conducts, fosters, coordinates, and guides research on the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of neurological disorders and stroke, and supports basic research in related scientific areas. NINDS supports a broad portfolio of basic behavioral research, which includes studies on a variety of cognitive and behavioral processes. Examples include research exploring the neural bases of language and cognitive development, understanding the neural substrates of decision making, and examining the cellular and molecular mechanisms of learning and memory. The Institute also sponsors a wide range of training grants, fellowships, and career development awards in all areas of the neurological sciences, including basic behavioral and social science research. The FY 2009 budget request for NINDS is $1.5 billion, $1.5 million above the FY 2008 funding level.

NINDS has begun a strategic planning process to examine how the Institute can better carry out its mission. According to the Institute, the process will include all stakeholders in discussions of basic, translational, and clinical research across the spectrum of neurological disorders. To set the vision that will frame these pragmatic discussions, NINDS began by asking stakeholders to suggest “blue sky” goals to which NINDS should aspire.

NINDS supports basic research on how the healthy nervous systems carries out these functions and on counteracting the disruptive effects of neurological disorders, including stroke, trauma, and neurodegenerative diseases. Neuroendocrine disorders, sleep disorders, migraine, and other chronic pain conditions are also important areas of systems and cognitive neuroscience. NINDS is also the largest NIH supporter of research on pain and a leader of the NIH Pain Consortium, which promotes collaboration among the NIH ICs that address pain. The FY 2009 budget request for NIND’s Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience Program is $192.8 million, $212 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. The Institute and the NH Pain Consortium have issued funding opportunity announcements, based on a thorough review of NIH pain-related activities, which will continue into 2009 on neurobiology of migraine, on temporomandibular joint and muscle disorders, and on mechanisms, models, measurement, and management in pain research.

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**National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**

[www.ninr.nih.gov](http://www.ninr.nih.gov)

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) supports basic and clinical research designed to establish a scientific basis for the care of individuals across the life span, research on the reduction of risks for disease and disability, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. A dominant theme of NINR’s research portfolio is the linkage between biological and behavioral research. The FY 2009 budget request for NINR is $137.6 million, $136 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

The NINR, through its [Self-Management, Symptom Management, and Caregiving](http://www.ninr.nih.gov) program, seeks to address the challenge of the short- and long-term disease and disability management by enhancing the individual’s role in managing disease, relieving symptoms, and improving health outcomes for individuals and caregivers. The FY 2009 budget request for research in this area is $41.98 million, $695 thousand or below the FY 2008 funding level. Research supported in this program includes research on: interventions that reduce symptom burden; interventions to improve support for caregivers of patients with Alzheimer’s disease;
techniques to promote healthy behaviors that improve the ability of patients to be partners in managing their own care. The Institute is also supporting an initiative under the auspices of the NIH Pain Consortium to explore mechanism, measurement, and management of acute and chronic pain. Research that will be supported under the initiative is intended to span all areas of science, from research on the basic neural pathways of pain, to pain-related behavioral and social sciences research.

The Institute, through its Health Promotion and Disease Prevention programs, supports research on the key biological, behavioral, and social factors that prevent the development of disease and achieve long-term, positive health outcomes in individuals of all ages. This includes support of research that seeks scientific discoveries of health predictors and prevention strategies across conditions, diseases, and settings. Efforts can rage from promoting behavioral changes in individuals, to evaluating health risks in diverse communities to assessing issues of patient safety. The FY 2009 budget request for the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention program is $37.2 million, $616 thousand below the FY 2008 funding level. In FY 2009, NINR plans to sponsor a new initiative to develop Biobehavioral interventions to reduce preterm birth/low birth weight and enhance treatment outcomes for these infants. The initiative will provide three- to five- year awards to expand the current understanding of behavioral, psychosocial, and environmental factors that affect or interact with biological mechanisms to influence pregnancy outcomes, and to develop innovative interdisciplinary interventions to prevent preterm birth/low birth weight.

NINR’s End-Of-Life research program is designed to apply biological, behavioral, and social science strategies to advance the understanding of the dynamic interactions of these various factors and to develop interventions that optimize patient and caregiver quality of life across care settings and cultural contexts. The FY 2009 budget request for the program is $12.9 million, $750 thousand above the FY 2008 funding level.

NINR plans to expand its end-of-life research efforts in FY 2009, including providing 3 -5 year awards designed to develop interdisciplinary interventions to improve palliative care at the end of life, along with promoting technological innovations in palliative care.

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National Library of Medicine (NLM)
www.nlm.nih.gov

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) is the world’s largest library of the health sciences and the developer of electronic information services. Begun in 1836, NLM applies its resources broadly to the advancement of medicine. The Library has extensive Web-based information resources for the scientific community, health professionals, and the general public. The Library collects materials in all areas of biomedicine and health care, as well as works on biomedical aspects of technology, the humanities, and the physical, life, and social sciences.

NLM’s goals in its 2006 - 2016 long range plan includes activities in support of interoperable electronic health records, more effective response to disasters and emergencies, development of a robust knowledge base for personalized health care, reduction of health disparities, and improved health literacy. The FY 2009 budget request for NLM is $323 million, $2.5 million above the FY 2008 funding level.

According to NLM, its extramural research programs focus on two priority areas: 1) basic and applied research in biomedical informatics and 2) the creation and enhancement of biomedical
information infrastructure whose components include sophisticated and computational tools, knowledge resources and skilled informaticians. To accomplish its extramural goals, NLM offers five types of grants: research grants, resource grants, training support, career enhancement awards, and Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer grants.

The FY 2009 budget request for NLM’s informatics infrastructure in biomedicine and health is $21.4 million, a 4.4 percent decrease below the FY 2008 funding level. The Library’s programs in this area are designed to build the informatics expertise and information resources need to support biomedical scientists, health care providers, public health administrators and health services researchers. According to NLM, informatics requires knowledge of a biological, medical or public health domain as well as computer and information sciences, statistics or mathematics, engineering and human behavior. The Library emphasizes that developing a cadre of cross-trained researchers is especially important as rapid advancement of health care and biomedical research requires investigators who understand biomedicine as well as fundamental problems of knowledge representation, decision support, translational research, and human-computer interface. NLM informatics research grants have supported pioneering research and development in bioinformatics, artificial intelligence in medicine, clinical decision support, biomedical ontology, imaging, electronic medical records, regional health data exchange, health applications of advanced telecommunications networks, automated biosurveillance, and emergency management systems.

The FY 2009 budget request for informatics research is $323.0 million. In FY 2009, NLM’s priorities include continuing support for:

1. University-based training of research informaticians and information specialists;
2. Planning and project grants for knowledge management initiatives for health-related data/information/knowledge, including integrated, customized knowledge sources for target audiences;
3. Preparation of scholarly publications in the history and philosophy of medicine and biomedical science;
4. Early career transition awards for informaticians, and
5. Fellowships for informationist training.

In addition, the Library intends to continue to strengthen its research project grant portfolio through an expanding program of challenge grants, issuing funding opportunity announcements in several informatics focus areas such as in-silico knowledge discovery, natural language understanding, and intelligent personal health records. It also plans to continue to accept investigator-initiated grants.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is led by Secretary Michael Chertoff and is
celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. For many, the debate continues over whether this conglomeration of 23 agencies has finally meshed into a Department. Significant congressional scrutiny remains regarding its management and operations. Its overall budget continues to climb, topping $50 billion, including mandatory costs, in the FY 2009 budget proposal. The net discretionary budget proposal is $37.6 billion.

Science and Technology Directorate
www.dhs.gov/xres

Jay Cohen heads the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). A former Admiral and head of the Office of Naval Research, Cohen has instituted a number of management initiatives to bring “customer-focused and output-oriented” research, development, testing, and evaluation programs, that balance risk, cost, and time to delivery.

The S&T budget request for FY 2009 is $868.8 million. This compares to $830.1 million in the FY 2008 budget. The directorate includes a Human Factors division to apply social and behavioral science research to improve detection, analysis, and understanding of the threats posed by individuals, groups, and radical movements. In the FY 2008 budget proposal DHS asked for $12.6 million, a significant boost over FY 2007’s $6.8 million. Congress provided the division $14.2 million, although $7.5 million was earmarked for an Institute for Homeland Security Solutions housed at the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina. The Institute will partner with universities and other entities “to focus on developing near-term technological solutions to practical, real world problems that have broad applications.”

The S&T directorate also includes a University Programs account. This provides support for the research Centers of Excellence and the Scholarship and Fellowship programs. On February 26, 2008 DHS announced five new Centers of Excellence to join the already existing eight. The new ones will cover: border security and immigration; explosives detection, mitigation, and response; maritime, island, and port security; natural disasters, coast infrastructure, and emergency management; and transportation security. Unfortunately, the FY 2009 budget request seeks less money for more Centers: $43.8 million as compared to the $49.3 million FY 2008 appropriation. Thus, Centers such as START (the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland), the one that mainly focuses on the social and behavioral sciences, will again face the prospect of cutbacks.

There have been five cycles now for the Undergraduate Scholarship and Graduate Fellowship programs. In the 2007 competition only 15 scholarships were awarded out of 268 applications. Five of these went to students in the social and behavioral sciences. DHS gave only 13 fellowships out of 347 applicants, of which eight went to students in these subjects.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The proposed FY 2009 discretionary budget request for the Department of Housing and Urban Development is $38.5 billion, almost $2 billion below the FY 2008 appropriation, which was $5.1 billion above the FY 2008 request. Secretary Alphonso Jackson said the proposed spending demonstrates the President’s “commitment to protecting homeownership by helping families facing foreclosure, while recognizing the need for more affordable rental housing.”
The Office of Policy Development and Research (OPDR)

www.huduser.org

The Office of Policy Development and Research is responsible for maintaining current information on housing needs, market conditions, and existing programs, as well as conducting research on priority housing and community development issues. It also evaluates and monitors HUD’s programs. Darlene Williams has served as Assistant Secretary and head of the Office since 2005.

A major chunk of OPDR’s budget continues to support the American Housing Survey (AHS), which collects information on the housing situation of American families. The data report on the number and size of housing units, the condition of housing units, characteristics of the communities, financial characteristics and affordability of housing, features and amenities of housing units, and other information on the dwellings where American families live. The proposed budget for the AHS and other surveys is $25.9 million, an increase of $4.6 million over FY2008 survey costs. According to HUD, the increase for the AHS is necessary to stay abreast of rising field costs. The survey started in 1973. In 2007 reduced funding led to changes in the conduct of the survey: reducing the sample sizes (from 4,500 to 3,000 per metropolitan area); reducing the number of metropolitan areas included from 16 to 7 every 2 years (47 to 21 every 6 years); and shifting the timing of metropolitan survey enumerations from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years. The FY 2009 proposed budget assumes that these ‘temporary changes’ to the AHS will continue.

A significant portion of the PD&R budget goes to the Office of University Partnerships, which oversees these grant programs: the Community Outreach Partnership Centers Program, which provides funds to help institutions of higher learning form or expand centers for applied research and outreach to communities and neighborhoods, and to exchange information on these activities; the Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Program, which helps eligible doctoral candidates complete their research and dissertations on housing and urban development issues; and the Community Development Work Study Program and the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Work Study Program, which offers work stipends, tuition support, and other assistance to attract economically disadvantaged and minority students to careers in community and economic development.

The Center for Economic, Governance, and International Studies at the National Academies has an ongoing study, chaired by former OPDR Assistant Secretary John Weicher, to evaluate the research plan of HUD. The report is scheduled for release in the summer of 2008.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Justice Department, under new Attorney General Michael Mukasey, continues its major focus on anti-terrorism activities, but with rising crime in certain places it is turning its attention to other issues. The Administration continues its efforts to reduce and eliminate programs of Federal assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, including the Clinton Administration’s COPS program. The appropriated level for the Department’s discretionary spending programs is $21.4 billion in FY 2008. The Administration is asking for $20.3 billion in FY 2009. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) are both part of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), whose Acting Assistant Attorney General is Jeff Sedgwick, who is also still the BJS director.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs
BJS, led by its Director Jeff Sedgwick, produces and disseminates statistics on crime and the criminal justice system. Its major component is the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which has faced difficulties in recent years. During the FY 2008 appropriations process, the Senate Appropriations Committee only provided $10 million for BJS. This was later called a “misprint,” and despite a $10 million increase from the House matching the President’s $45 million request, the final FY 2008 budget for BJS was essentially the same as in FY 2007. The request for FY 2009, includes an estimated $15 million for administrative and management expenses, which Congress has put in a separate account year-after-year (and thus is not included in the chart below).

According to the Bureau, the FY 2009 request will maintain BJS’s ongoing statistical programs, including: (1) criminal victimization statistics; (2) cybercrime data on the incidence, magnitude, and consequences of electronic and computer crime to households and businesses; (3) law enforcement data on the organization and administration of police and sheriffs’ departments; (4) nationally representative prosecution data on resources, policies, and practices of local prosecutors; (5) court and sentencing statistics, including Federal and State case processing data; and (6) data on correctional populations and facilities from Federal, State, and local governments.

Additionally, funds will be used to support the implementation of a redesign to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which may include major revisions to the survey methodology and procedures. Depending on the extent of the changes, planning and implementation may require a multi-year program.

BJS also receives funds, amounting to approximately $14.8 million in FY 2007, under the Prison Rape Elimination Act for data collections that describe the incidence and circumstances associated with sexual assault in adult and juvenile correctional institutions.

The National Academies’ Committee on National Statistics has issued a report Surveying Victims: Options for Conducting the National Crime Victimization Survey, from its panel, chaired by Robert Groves of the University of Michigan, to review the NCVS and BJS. The prepublication copy can be viewed at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12090

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National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/

NIJ is the research and evaluation arm of the Department of Justice. David Hagy, the NIJ’s Director-designate, still awaits Senate confirmation. NIJ has two operating offices: the Office of Research and Evaluation and the Office of Science and Technology. The Office of Research and Evaluation develops, conducts, directs, and supervises research and evaluation activities across a wide variety of issues. The Office of Science and Technology manages technology research and development, development of technical standards, testing, forensic sciences capacity building, and technology assistance to State and local law enforcement and corrections agencies. Each July NIJ has a major research conference highlighting crime and criminal justice research.

NIJ’s emphasizes research, development, and evaluation activities in five major programs areas: 1) State and Local Law Enforcement; 2) Forensic Science; 3) Crime Prevention; 4) Violence and Victimization; and 5) Corrections and Courts.
NIJ’s base budget reported below is supplemented by transfers from the Violence Against Women program (slightly less than $2 million in FY 2008), Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (slightly less than $2 million in FY 2008), and the DNA initiative. The FY 2008 budget includes an earmark of $19.7 million for National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Centers. In the Administration’s FY 2009 request, the funding for the earmark is eliminated. The budget for social science research and evaluation was approximately $11 million in FY 2007.

The National Academies’ has convened a committee to review NIJ’s research and evaluation portfolio, chaired by Charles Wellford of the University of Maryland. The Committee took public testimony, including from COSSA, at its first meeting in December 2007.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Elaine Chao, one of the Bush Administration’s original Cabinet appointments, remains as Secretary of the Department of Labor. The Department’s proposed overall discretionary budget for FY 2009, $10.5 billion, is almost $1 billion less than its FY 2008 appropriation. Although the Department used to support significant amounts of research and evaluation through the Employment and Training Administration that funding has been reduced to less than $5 million.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
www.bls.gov

The BLS is the principal fact finding agency in the Federal government in the broad field of labor economics. The BLS provides data that serve as some of the major economic indicators used in: developing economic and social policy; making decisions in the business and labor communities; developing legislative and other programs affecting the labor market; and conducting research on labor market issues. BLS continues its support of the National Longitudinal Surveys, which continue to provide data sets on the labor force experiences of two cohorts, one from 1979 and one from 1997. BLS has a new Commissioner, Keith Hall, who was confirmed by the Senate late in 2007.

Like most agencies, BLS got caught in the appropriations crunch in FY 2008 and with the across-the-board cut actually had its budget reduced from FY 2007. The proposed budget for FY 2009 has a significant increase, but it also includes the proposed elimination of support for the American Time Use Survey, which provides data on the full range of how Americans spend their hours and minutes in nonmarket activities. The freed up funds will allow BLS to keep the Current Population Survey from having its sample reduced by 15,000 households, approximately one-quarter of its respondents. The request again includes funds to continuously update the housing and geographic areas samples in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to help improve its accuracy and timeliness. In addition, BLS is going to reduce by approximately nine percent the sample size of the Locality Pay Surveys (LPS) component of the National Compensation Survey impacting data details for the Employment Cost Index, the Employee Benefits Survey, and the LPS.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former Provost of Stanford University, understands the importance of exchange programs for fostering the public diplomacy of the United States.

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
www.exchanges.state.gov

According to the Administration, the Department of State’s educational, professional, and cultural exchanges “advances Secretary Rice’s vision for transformational diplomacy.” These programs “foster engagement and encourage dialogue with citizens around the world, particularly with key influencers such as clerics, educators, journalists, women, and youth.” There are Academic Programs for U.S. and foreign citizens: the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Program for the exchange of scholars, students, teachers, and professionals; the Hubert H. Humphrey fellowship for mid-career professionals from nations in development and transition; and the Benjamin Gilman program for American undergraduates with financial need to study abroad and similar programs bringing participants to the United States. In addition, there are programs designed to promote better foreign understanding of the United States and exchanges involving specially-targeted teachers, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars.

The Professional and Cultural Exchanges include the International Visitor Leadership Program, which provides opportunities for current and emerging foreign opinion makers to gain firsthand knowledge about U.S. policies, politics, society and culture. The Citizens Exchanges Program engages an extensive network of U.S. private sector and non-governmental organizations who mount professional, youth, cultural, and sports programs. The budgets of all of these programs have grown significantly in the past few years. The FY 2009 budget request includes a $15.1 million increase for a “Partnership for Latin American Youth,” which brings young people from Central and South America to study at U.S. community colleges. The FY 2009 budget requests a $13 million increase for the Fulbright Program to $233.8 million. The proposed budget also eliminates about $10 million in special one-time grants whose recipients were suggested by congressional appropriators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual FY 07</th>
<th>Proposed FY 08</th>
<th>Current FY 08</th>
<th>Proposed FY 09</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (A) FY 07</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (P) FY 08</th>
<th>(P) FY 09/ (C) FY 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>584.7</td>
<td>574.4</td>
<td>544.8</td>
<td>592.8</td>
<td>-6.8%</td>
<td>-5.2%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mary E. Peters continues as Secretary of Transportation, a position she has held since September 2006. With a brand new headquarters building quite close to the new Washington baseball stadium, the Department’s discretionary budget is one of those where the Administration has asked for less in FY 2009 than Congress appropriated in FY 2008, $63.4 billion as compared to $69.2 million.
Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA)

www.rita.dot.gov

RITA leads DOT in: coordinating, facilitating and reviewing the Department’s research and development programs and activities; advancing innovative technologies, including intelligent transportation systems; performing comprehensive transportation statistics research, analysis and reporting; and providing education and training in transportation and transportation-related fields. It includes: the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS); the University Transportation Centers; the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center; the Office of Research, Development, and Technology; the National Transportation Library; the Intelligent Transportation Joint Program; and the Transportation Safety Institute. RITA’s base budget is $39 million, of which $12 million is from appropriations and $27 million for BTS comes from the Highway Trust Fund. However, it receives over $400 million on a reimbursable basis from other agencies.

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) is led by Steven Dillingham, who once ran the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In FY 2009, the request is $27 million to provide multi-modal and intermodal transportation data and information. Airline, travel, and freight data make up the largest portion of BTS activity but it also includes work in geospatial data, transportation economics, and the information services of the National Transportation Library. The FY 2009 request will help develop measures of congestion, and foster the release of the National Transportation Atlas Data Base, a compendium of national geospatial transportation data.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

www.archives.gov

NARA, led by Archivist of the U.S. Allen Weinstein, selects, preserves, describes, and makes available to the public, scholars, and Federal agencies, the valuable historical records of the Federal Government and the historical materials and records in Presidential Libraries. NARA conducts appraisal reviews of all Federal records and decides what classified security information can be declassified. It also publishes the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations.

The President’s FY 2009 proposed budget requests $404 million. This includes funds to provide oversight by the agency’s Inspector General of the work to develop ways to preserve electronic records, and to continue work on reducing the backlog of unprocessed, textual records.

The Electronic Records Archives (ERA) program, a key NARA strategic goal aimed at providing a means to preserve and make accessible to the public electronic records, is funded in the FY 2009 request at $67 million, a proposed increase in funding of $9 million over the FY 2008 appropriated budget.

Unfortunately, as in years past the President's FY 2009 budget fails to provide funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for grants and staff support. This has happened before and Congress after hearing from scholars continues to allocate funding, with an increase of $2.1 million in FY 2008.
The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), headed by Chairman Bruce Cole, supports scholarly research, research tool development, physical preservation of research sources, seminars, and a wide variety of education and public programs. President Bush's FY 2009 budget request for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) seeks funding of $144.4 million. The 2009 budget request also includes $20 million to support NEH's We the People program on American history and culture, a $5 million increase over last year's request. Additionally, the Endowment requests $2 million to support existing and new Digital Humanities grants, and $7.1 million for the NEH Challenge Grants programs.

The proposed budget also includes $84.2 million for NEH’s grant programs in support of high quality education, research, preservation and access, and public programming in the humanities, and the projects and programs of the 56 state humanities councils.

The National Science Foundation (NSF)
www.nsf.gov

The National Science Foundation (NSF), led by director Arden Bement, sees its mission as “keeping scientists and engineers focused on the further frontier, preparing the next generation of scientific talent and leaders, providing world-class facilities to advance research, and ensuring that all Americans gain an understanding of what science and technology have to offer.”

In meeting these challenges, NSF has been blessed by the Administration as part of its American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), and by the Congress in the America COMPETES Act. Both ACI and COMPETES call for the doubling of NSF’s budget in ten years (ACI) or seven years (COMPETES). Unfortunately, in FY 2008, Congressional appropriators faced with President Bush’s unwillingness to accommodate the legislature’s desire for greater domestic discretionary spending, did not allocate sufficient funds to start the doubling process at all. Despite early indications that NSF might wind up with over ten percent increases over FY 2007, in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress provided the Foundation with $6.45 billion (further reduced by a $33 million rescission of unobligated funds), a boost of only 2.5 percent. With ACI remaining an Administration priority, the FY 2009 proposal requests $6.854 billion, a 13.6 percent increase that will restore NSF to the ten-year doubling track.

The Research and Related Activities Account (R&RA), which funds the research directorates and other programs in the Office of the Director, received $4.821 billion in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, slightly more than one percent above FY 2007. Congress provided a significant part of this increase to the Experimental Program to Stimulate
Experimental Research (EPSCOR), a program for states and their universities to build science and engineering capacity. After receiving its appropriation, NSF submits to Congress a Current Plan on how it will spend the money. The appropriations committees must approve the plan. As this is written, the FY 2008 plan has been sent to the Congress, with NSF requesting less funding for EPSCOR than Congress appropriated. This makes the numbers listed below for FY 2008 for the directorates subject to revision, if Congress insists on its EPSCOR number.

For FY 2009, the Administration is again trying to make up for last year’s suppressed increase, and is asking for $5.594 billion for R&RA, a 16 percent enhancement. The major initiatives in the FY 2009 budget for R&RA include: continuing the Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI), with a request to increase funding from a $47.9 million in FY 2008 to $100 million in FY 2009; Adaptive Systems Technology, an investment of $15 million to generate creative pathways and natural interfaces between human and physical systems to revolutionize the development of novel adaptive systems; the Dynamics of Water Systems in the Environment (WATER), a $10 million investment to study Earth’s Freshwater Systems and decision-making about water resources in the face of environmental and climate changes; and Science and Engineering Beyond Moore’s Law, a $20 million program to determine post-silicon technology for computing. In addition, NSF will continue its major role in the U.S. Nanoscience and Engineering Initiative, which includes examining the ethical, legal, social, environmental, health, and safety related aspects of this new technology. All of these are part of NSF’s cross-foundation investments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual FY 07</th>
<th>Proposed FY 08</th>
<th>Current FY 08</th>
<th>Proposed FY 09</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (A) FY 07</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (P) FY 08</th>
<th>(P) FY 09/ (C) FY 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>608.5</td>
<td>633.0</td>
<td>610.0</td>
<td>675.1</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer, Information, Science, and Engineering</td>
<td>526.7</td>
<td>574.0</td>
<td>534.5</td>
<td>638.8</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>-6.9%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>630.0</td>
<td>633.3</td>
<td>636.9</td>
<td>759.3</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geosciences</td>
<td>745.9</td>
<td>792.0</td>
<td>752.7</td>
<td>848.7</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>1,150.7</td>
<td>1,253.0</td>
<td>1,167.3</td>
<td>1,402.70</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>-6.8%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences</td>
<td>214.5</td>
<td>222.0</td>
<td>215.1</td>
<td>233.5</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>-3.1%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Cyberinfrastructure</td>
<td>182.4</td>
<td>200.0</td>
<td>185.3</td>
<td>220.1</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Polar Programs</td>
<td>438.4</td>
<td>464.9</td>
<td>442.5</td>
<td>491.0</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of International Science and Engineering</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>-8.2%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative Activities</td>
<td>219.5</td>
<td>263.0</td>
<td>232.3</td>
<td>276.0</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>-11.7%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)**

The message of ACI, which grew out of the National Academies’ *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* (RAGS) report, that reinvigorating the physical sciences and engineering are a national priority has created difficulties for NSF’s SBE directorate, headed by David Lightfoot. Despite admonitions from the RAGS report, from the language in the FY 2008 appropriations report, and from Rep. Brian Baird’s (D-WA) efforts on the COMPETES Act, that the SBE sciences should not be left behind, the FY 2008 allocation and the FY 2009 request suggest that is happening.

For FY 2008, SBE received virtually no increase, and for FY 2009, although NSF Director Bement claims that the 8.5 percent boost is “one of the largest proposed in SBE’s history,” the $18 million increase pales in comparison to the $235 million enhancement for the Math and Physical Sciences directorate. Congress has taken note of the imbalances in the increases for the directorates.
The NSF-wide priority in Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) comes to an end in FY 2008. Once seen as a vehicle for significantly boosting the SBE budget, the program did not reach the early large budget projections during its five-year existence. A consequence of the completion of the priority is that the $30 million or so that SBE contributed to HSD will revert to the budgets of the core research programs. Some of these funds will become part of SBE’s support for work on climate change and the environment, particularly explaining the interaction of human and natural environmental systems, which is now an inter-directorate program (SBE and Biology) called Coupled Natural and Human Systems. Another key area emerging from HSD is the enhancement of infrastructure, particularly developing international, integrated, microdata series.

The Science of Science and Innovation program (SciSIP) will continue. A result of the FY 2008 limited increase is a slight scaling back of the funds available for this program initiated by the President’s Science Adviser, John Marburger. The FY 2008 competition is now under review and the FY 2009 request plans to support efforts to improve and expand science metrics, datasets, and analytical tools in order to assess the impacts of the nation’s science and engineering enterprise.

SBE has an important role to play in CDI through such topics as complexity and systems thinking in the human sciences, as well as examinations of social organizations and institutions, particularly “virtual” ones. An emphasis on “systems models” to help explain “tipping points,” is another feature of SBE participation in CDI. In connection with the new AST initiative, SBE will expand its efforts in the cognitive and learning sciences.

SBE will continue funding the three large databases, the American National Election Studies, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, and the General Social Survey. The last is currently in the midst of a recompetition. In addition, SBE maintains support for the Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS), which uses the internet for survey data collection and sharing.

The increase for the Science Resource Statistics Division will enable it to develop a pilot data collection on post-docs as well as implement a pilot of a Business Research and Development Survey as part of the next edition of Science and Engineering Indicators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Actual FY 07</th>
<th>Proposed FY 08</th>
<th>Current FY 08</th>
<th>Proposed FY 09</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (A) FY 07</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (P) FY 08</th>
<th>(P) FY 09/ (C) FY 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division of Social and Economic Sciences</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>103.4</td>
<td>100.4</td>
<td>107.5</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division of Science Resources Statistics</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR)**

The importance of improving the Nation’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education system has become a paramount concern of the Congress and the Administration. Representatives of industry express concern about building the STEM workforce for the 21st Century and the rising competition from China and India. The COMPETES Act creates a host of new programs in this area and boosts authorized spending for many already existing programs. NSF’s Education and Human Resources directorate (EHR), led by Cora Marrett, is in the forefront of many of these efforts.

Despite this concern, when the new Congress in early 2007 completed the FY 2007
appropriations process, it did not exempt EHR from continuing along at its FY 2006 funding level. In FY 2008, the appropriators were a little more generous, but still significantly below the authorized level promoted in COMPETES.

For FY 2009, EHR will emphasize five thematic priorities: 1) Broadening Participation to Improve Workforce Development; 2) Enriching the Education of STEM Teachers; 3) Furthering Public Understanding of Science and Advancing STEM literacy; 4) Promoting Cyber-enabled Learning Strategies to Enhance STEM Education; and 5) Promoting Learning through Research and Evaluation.

The major increase for EHR’s FY 2009 budget goes for the Graduate Fellowship program, which is enhanced by $28.6 million to support an additional 700 graduate students. At the same time, the Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 goes up by $2 million and the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program remains at the same level as FY 2008.

The request also maintains the Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering at the FY 2008 level of $42 million. However, third party evaluations of EHR programs increase from $7 to $10 million. The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program, a favorite in the COMPETES Act, since it encourages talented STEM undergraduates to teach science and math at the K-12 level, only gets a $800,000 boost, sure to raise the ire of some key members of Congress.

In the Integrated Activities account, NSF requests $15 million to continue support for the second cohort of Science of Learning Centers. In addition, in FY 2009 NSF hopes to conduct a new Science and Technology Centers’ competition. NSF proposes $15 million to fund five to seven multidisciplinary activities that focus on large questions at the frontiers of science, engineering, and education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings</th>
<th>Actual FY 07</th>
<th>Proposed FY 08</th>
<th>Current FY 08</th>
<th>Proposed FY 09</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (A) FY 07</th>
<th>(C) FY 08/ (P) FY 08</th>
<th>(P) FY 09/ (C) FY 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Education</td>
<td>209.0</td>
<td>215.0</td>
<td>214.0</td>
<td>226.5</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Education</td>
<td>205.0</td>
<td>196.8</td>
<td>211.1</td>
<td>219.8</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resource Development</td>
<td>155.9</td>
<td>160.6</td>
<td>160.1</td>
<td>190.7</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHR TOTAL</td>
<td>695.7</td>
<td>750.6</td>
<td>725.6</td>
<td>790.4</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is an independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by Congress in 1984. Its goals are to help prevent and resolve violent conflicts, promote post-conflict stability and development, and increase peacebuilding capacity, tools, and intellectual capital worldwide. The Institute does this by empowering others with knowledge, skills, and resources, as well as by directly engaging in peacebuilding efforts around the globe. Former Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon has led the USIP since 1993.

USIP’s programs include: operating on-the-ground in zones of conflict; performing cutting edge research; identifying best practices and developing innovative peacebuilding tools; training on conflict management techniques; educating emerging generations about conflict; supporting policymakers; and informing academia, the media, and the public through a wide range of materials, publications, and events.

In 2006, Congress provided funds for a new USIP headquarters in Washington, DC that the Institute hopes to occupy in 2009. The significant increase proposed for FY 2009 will allow USIP to enhance its activities in zones of conflict such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and Sudan.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Created by an act of Congress in 1968, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, is led by former Congressman Lee Hamilton, co-chair of both the 9/11 Commission and the Iraq Study Group. The Center seeks to provide a link between ideas and policy by fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration. The Center facilitates scholarship in the social sciences and humanities and communicates it to a wide audience through seminars, conferences, and its publication The Woodrow Wilson Quarterly. Through its resident fellowships it provides a place to study, write, and dialogue. Its funding comes from foundations, grants and contracts, corporations, individuals, endowment income, and subscriptions as well as an annual appropriation from Congress.
GOVERNING MEMBERS

American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association

Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Rand Sociological Society
Society for Research in Child Development

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

American Agricultural Economics Association
American Association for Agricultural Education
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Research Libraries
Council on Social Work Education
Eastern Sociological Society
International Communication Association
Justice Research and Statistics Association
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations

North American Regional Science Council
North Central Sociological Association
Population Association of America
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

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Arizona State University
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
Carnegie Mellon University
University of Chicago
Clark University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Georgetown University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
University of Georgia
Harvard University
Howard University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
University of Iowa
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Kansas State University
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse

University of Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
New York University
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
University of South Carolina
Stanford University
University of Tennessee
State University of New York, Stony Brook
University of Texas, Austin
Texas A & M University
Tulane University
Vanderbilt University
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Yale University

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

American Academy of Political and Social Sciences
American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
Brookings Institution
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
Institute for Women’s Policy Research
National Bureau of Economic Research
National Opinion Research Center
Population Reference Bureau
Social Science Research Council