
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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NSF APPROPRIATIONS NOW THREATENED BY ALLOCATION DECISIONS

Over 20 years ago Richard Fenno described the power of the appropriations committees in The Power of the Purse. In 1974 Congress passed the Budget and Impoundment Act creating the House and Senate Budget Committees. Since then these two sets of committees have been fighting to control the purse strings. This year the battle threatens the appropriation for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the goal of doubling its budget in the next five years.

According to the way the budget process is supposed to work, the Budget Committees pass a budget resolution that includes money for each function of the government. The Science function (#250) includes funds for NSF, NASA, and basic research at the Department of Energy. The appropriations committees are organized into 13 subcommittees. Unfortunately, the jurisdictions of the subcommittees do not match the functions in

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The Consortium represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community.

Victor G. Rosenblum, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

the budget resolution. Therefore, what are called crosswalks from budget function to subcommittee jurisdiction are necessary. In addition to NSF, the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee includes jurisdiction over HUD, NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Veterans Administration, and small independent agencies, all under different functions of the budget resolution. The appropriations committee is given a single budget figure in the crosswalk. The chairman of the committee will ask each subcommittee to submit an amount it believes it needs to fund programs under its jurisdiction. The committee then allocates to each subcommittee the amount it has to work with in deciding among the agencies under its jurisdiction. These allocation decisions are expected to follow the decisions of the budget resolution.

For FY 1988 the Senate Appropriations Committee chaired by Sen. John Stennis (D-MS), the senior and probably the most respected member of the Senate, has met three times attempting, so far unsuccessfully, to make the allocation decisions to its subcommittees. In order to meet the budget resolution figure for the appropriations committee, the subcommittee 'wish lists' need to be reduced. The plan proposed by Sen. Stennis would ignore the budget resolution and exempt the defense subcommittee and cut all other subcommittees by 1% across-the-board. The effect of this would be to reduce the allocation for the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee by \$690 million below the amount it should receive under the assumptions of the budget resolution. This would create large problems for NSF, exacerbated by the fact that many of the programs under the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee are entitlements or have their funding levels mandated by law and thus are not eligible for cuts. One Senate staffer suggests that if these allocation decisions are not changed, the HUD Subcommittee will be faced with a choice between NSF and NASA in making the cuts required by such an allocation decision. The budget resolution report language assumes large reductions for NASA. However, Sen. Jake Garn (R-UT), the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee, is quite protective of the space agency's budget. Thus, NSF becomes the prime target to take the brunt of the forced reductions.

There are challenges to the Stennis plan, but all of them will create situations whereby the promise of full funding of the NSF FY 1988 request will be negated by the assertion of 'the power of the purse' by the Senate Appropriations Committee and its powerful chairman. Almost in spite of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, or pushed by fear of it, Congress' spending decisions are being driven by deficit reduction considerations.

CAFLIS TO PUSH FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Discussion about the decline in knowledge of foreign languages and international studies has occurred among academics, congressional committees, businesses, and government agencies such as the Department of Defense (DOD) for a number of years. The Education for Economic Security Act, the House and Senate versions of the Omnibus Trade bill of 1987, and other pieces of legislation provide support for increased research and training in these areas. To continue and enhance the attention to the need for more support for foreign language training and international studies, a Coalition for the Advancement of Foreign Languages and International Studies (CAFLIS) will soon be launched.

Membership in the Coalition is open to groups who wish to participate in the stimulation of wide ranging discussion to reach broad agreement on the contents of an agenda for action and on the institutional structure that is most likely to promote and manage it. Additionally, CAFLIS hopes to reach out to broader circles of influential people who ordinarily have not participated in discussions of this topic. A possible end product may be the creation of a National Foundation for International Studies advocated by Michael Sovern, President of Columbia University, and Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL), who pushed through an amendment to the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1986 calling for a feasibility study of the idea. Other end products may follow the recommendations of Prof. Richard Lambert's Beyond Growth: The Next Stage in Language and Area Studies.

Currently searching for an executive director, CAFLIS will be a two-year project supported by the Ford, Hewlett, McDonnell, and Rockefeller foundations. A steering committee and an Advisory Commission will supervise and give visibility to the organization. CAFLIS will be housed in the offices of the Association of American Universities (AAU). An interim steering committee, on which COSSA has representation, is conducting the start-up of the organization. Members of the area and international studies research communities should involve themselves in these discussions.

OBEMLA SEEKS REVIEWERS

The Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA) of the Department of Education is seeking field readers to review applications to its grant programs. Experts in all phases of education research and pedagogical practice--including but not limited to bilingual education, TESOL, curriculum evaluation, and adult education--are invited to submit their resumes to OBELMA by September 30, 1987. Further information can be obtained from Rudy Munis, Director, Division of National Programs, OBEMLA, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202; 202/245-2595.

PROPOSALS AND PROSPECTS FOR FEDERAL AIDS RESEARCH

"Control of the AIDS epidemic is really the greatest public health challenge of our time." That comment was made by the AIDS Coordinator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) at a June 18 bidding conference, as A.I.D. moved toward a very large effort in the prevention and control of Aquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the developing world.

\$28 Million Abroad

The Agency plans a program lasting five years or more and costing about \$28 million, involving a Cooperative Agreement with a nonprofit or for-profit U.S. organization working closely with the Agency. As the government's principal foreign development assistance agency, A.I.D. sees itself as having a unique responsibility in global AIDS control. It will be working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and in various bilateral efforts in countries with Agency programs. The solicitation for a Cooperative Agreement closed July 24; the selection of the cooperating organization should be announced by late September.

While the A.I.D. announcement emphasized competence in public health, family planning, and the prevention of sexually transmitted disease, it is clear that a broad range of social and behavioral science expertise is expected. The announcement points out that "the rapid spread of AIDS worldwide has had and will have severe detrimental economic and health consequences," and describes the "human, economic, and political effects of the AIDS pandemic." While the Agency effort focuses on technical assistance and support, that is within the framework of intervention and prevention. Both WHO and A.I.D. emphasize the inherently behavioral nature of such a campaign. Elaborating on this general point, the A.I.D. official at last month's conference remarked that, while the agency would devote most of its effort to support developing countries' AIDS prevention and control projects, "we recognize the importance of intervention-oriented research... A.I.D. has a unique role to play in funding truly intervention-oriented research that might not be funded by other federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, that are charged with more basic research."

In the Update and elsewhere, COSSA has argued repeatedly that, in the AIDS context, prevention, intervention, and health education are basic research and may remain so even when a biomedical cure or prevention is found. COSSA has been concerned that, despite the clear recommendation of experts, field-based prevention and intervention research, including demonstration and evaluation projects, lack centralized auspices in the federal research system and are not well organized either in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the National Institutes of Health system (NIH). For example, a comprehensive AIDS bill (S.1220)

reported by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) leaves a large number of programs in the hands of the states. Federal activity is still focused mainly on biomedical research.

In the Public Health Service

The continuing lack of central organizational focus for domestic AIDS efforts has not prevented some agencies from taking useful initiatives. For its part, CDC has announced the availability of \$4.1 million in FY1987 funds for one- to five-year grants or cooperative agreements in epidemiological and related aspects of AIDS: the natural history of the disease; risks of transmission; prevalence and trends in select populations; and effectiveness of various prevention and control measures. Although the emphasis is on epidemiology, behavioral strategies are welcomed. In this program of grants or agreements, some preference will be given to institutions with existing CDC awards. The deadline is August 10. For more information, call 404/262-6575.

The 1987 National Health Interview Survey, conducted under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, is expected to assess the level of knowledge about AIDS among the noninstitutionalized population aged 18 and over. It is expected that more than 100,000 individuals and households will be surveyed on their knowledge of the disease, its transmission and prevention, and the health risks associated with it. This kind of population-wide information should prove useful in planning future research and intervention efforts--for example, with regard to proposals such as a federal mailing of a pamphlet on AIDS to every American household.

Within the NIH system, the National Institute on Aging is concerned about how and when AIDS will show up in the elderly population. Social science research inquiries can be directed to the Behavioral Sciences Research Program, at 301/496-3136.

At the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch (DBSB) has an active program of research on social, demographic, and behavioral aspects of AIDS. The DBSB program is concerned with AIDS and fertility-related behavior, including fertility, sexual behavior, and contraceptive use; implications of AIDS for population-level processes of fertility, mortality, and migration (and vice versa); subsequent effects on population composition; and societal response to these behaviors and processes. The general program office of DBSB can be reached at 301/496-1174.

DBSB has a number of announced program initiatives on AIDS-related topics. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in April requesting a pilot study for the design and content of a large-scale data collection effort focusing on the contraceptive and sexual behavior of adolescent females. That RFP has closed;

the award announcement is anticipated in the fall. Currently active is an RFP which requests a pilot study of the strategy and content for a nationally representative survey of men and women in the U.S. as to their sexual behavior, particularly as it relates to contraceptive use and the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. The requested proposal will review existing research and theory in psychology, sociology, economics, epidemiology, and public health, and will recommend a strategy for large-scale data collection, including recommending specific survey instruments and estimating the costs of particular designs. DBSB expects to make a single award for the pre-survey study. The closing date is September 1. Technical questions can be directed to James Quinn, Contract Specialist, at 301/496-4611. Some observers regard the possibility of a national probability survey as 'another Kinsey study,' or even 'the Kinsey study done properly.' Whether such a study can or should be done may, of course, partly depend on the outcome of this RFP.

Other ongoing areas of interest at DBSB include research on the relationship between sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including AIDS, and fertility-related behavior. Interested researchers could propose to examine the relationship between STDs--including exposure to STDs, having STDs diagnosed for oneself or a sexual partner, awareness of being at risk for STDs, and fear of STDs--and contraceptive use (or non-use), contraceptive choice, number of sexual partners, frequency of intercourse, sexual practices, formation and dissolution of sexual unions, timing and spacing of births, and plans for family size. Since the birth of an infant to a woman with an STD is a high-risk situation for mother and child alike, research could address fertility decisions and behavior of such patients (especially individuals with AIDS, both male and female). The program contact person is Gloria Kamenske, who can be reached at 301/496-1174.

A second area of interest is research on the social, economic, and demographic sequelae of AIDS. The age distribution of AIDS cases, primarily women in their childbearing years and young men, has important social implications. Moreover, the economic costs are far greater than simply the costs associated with health care, and the global nature of the epidemic requires investigation in a variety of contexts where the prevalence rates and the characteristics of those affected differ. In addition, differing cultural contexts will lead to a variety of societal responses. The program contact person is Virginia Cain, also at 301/496-1174.

Researchers should also be aware that DBSB generally encourages the submission of applications on AIDS-related topics through the unsolicited grants program. Investigators may submit applications to the Division of Research Grants using PHS form 398 (revised 1986). The Division has three deadlines: October 1, February 1, and June 1. Prior consultation with DBSB program staff is desirable.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COSSA provides this information as a service, and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for further information. A comprehensive listing of federal funding sources is contained in COSSA's Guide to Federal Funding for Social Scientists.

Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Program

The Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Audiovisual Materials Program of the Department of Education is soliciting proposals to develop and distribute audiovisual materials for use in elementary and secondary school programs designed to combat drug abuse. Such materials will be produced under cooperative agreements that give the Department wide latitude to determine production formats and content. Awards will be made to state and local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and other nonprofit and for-profit agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Proposals for producing videotapes that promote classroom discussion and can be used nationally are particularly welcome. Also encouraged are video programs that stress immediate and long-term ramifications of drug abuse, demonstrate not only how students can avoid peer-group influences but also illustrate positive alternatives to drug-taking, show how drugs impede athletic performance, and present information on the most dangerous illegal drugs. These themes should be presented clearly and in innovative ways that avoid exaggeration and excessive detail.

Budget: Approximately \$4,500,000 will be awarded to between 5 and 16 projects, with a projected average award of \$450,000.

Deadline: Completed applications are due September 4, 1987.

Contact: Louie E. Mathis
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