FEATURED NEWS

House and Senate Appropriations Committees Approve FY 2016 Labor-HHS Bills

The Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate advanced their respective fiscal year (FY) 2016 bills for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS). The House passed its version on June 24 (see COSSA's preliminary analysis of the bill), and the Senate on June 25. Both bills would provide sizable increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), with a larger increase coming from the Senate’s bill. The House bill proposes to completely eliminate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) but maintains strong funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while the Senate keeps AHRQ but would inflict significant cuts to both agencies.

Read on for COSSA's full analysis of both bills and more details on the funding prospects for these and other agencies important to social and behavioral science.

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA Endorses Innovation Imperative

COSSA has joined more than 250 industry, science, and higher education organizations on "Innovation: An American Imperative," which is a call to action urging Congress to double down on
its investments in the U.S. innovation enterprise. According to the statement, "Our leadership is now at risk because of years of under-prioritizing federal scientific research investments and policies that promote innovation." In response to these concerns, the statement calls for Congress to take a number of steps, including ending cuts to discretionary spending, providing increases of at least four percent to basic research agencies, improving student achievement in STEM disciplines, and reaffirming the merit-based peer review system as the best mechanism for allocating federal research dollars. #InnovationImperative

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

House Agriculture Appropriations Bill Would Cut USDA Research and Statistics

The House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee advanced its draft bill to the full committee on June 18. A full committee markup originally scheduled for June 25 was postponed. Among the agencies funded in the bill are the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) research and statistical agencies, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The Committee Report is available here. COSSA has joined the Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis (FASA), a new coalition of stakeholders who care about timely, accurate, and objective food and agricultural statistics, on several letters to House staff to request stronger appropriations for ERS and NASS.

Read on for more details.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

OBSSR Marks 20th Anniversary at NIH, on Capitol Hill

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) marked its 20th anniversary with a three-day celebration on June 23-25 on the NIH Bethesda campus and Capitol Hill.

Read on for more details.

ACS Launches New Website

The American Community Survey (ACS) has a new website. The new site, according to the ACS office, "has a look and feel consistent with census.gov," and should allow for easy user navigation.

EVENTS CALENDAR

American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, August 6-9, 2015
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 6-9, 2015
American Statistical Association Joint Statistical Meetings, Seattle, WA, August 8-13, 2015
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 22-25, 2015
A list of COSSA members’ annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@cossa.org.

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**Consortium of Social Science Associations**

**Members**

### Governing Members

- American Anthropological Association
- 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
- Population Association of America
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- Society for Research in Child Development

### Colleges and Universities

- Arizona State University
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Clark University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Fielding Graduate University
- George Mason University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
- Stanford University
- Stony Brook University, SUNY
- Texas A&M University
- The George Washington University
- The Ohio State University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
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- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
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- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Pennsylvania

### Membership Organizations

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- American Evaluation Association
- American Finance Association
- American Psychosomatic Society
- Association for Asian Studies
- Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
- Association of Research Libraries
- Council on Social Work Education
- Economic History Association
- History of Science Society
- Justice Research and Statistics Association
- Midwest Sociological Society
- National Association of Social Workers
- North American Regional Science Council
- Rural Sociological Society
- Social Science History Association
- Society for Research on Adolescence
- Society for Social Work and Research
- Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
- Society of Behavioral Medicine
- Southern Political Science Association
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.

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