Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, this is an abbreviated edition of the COSSA Washington Update.
We will be back on Tuesday, December 15 for our last issue of the year.

In This Issue

FEATURED NEWS
Deadline for Comments on Common Rule NPRM Extended

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS
BEA Releases State-Level Consumer Spending Data
NIH Issues Notice Clarifying its Health Economics Research Priorities
NIH Issues Funding Opportunity to Support the PMI Cohort Program Direct Volunteer Pilot Studies

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
COSSA Members Respond to OBSSR Strategic Plan

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEATURED NEWS

Deadline for Comments on Common Rule NPRM Extended

The Department of Health and Human Services has announced that it will extend the period for public comment on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (otherwise known as the Common Rule) by 30 days. The new deadline is January 6, 2016. A summary of the major changes to the regulations proposed in the NPRM is available here.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

BEA Releases State-Level Consumer Spending Data

For the first time, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) will begin regularly releasing official statistics detailing consumer spending by state. The data will include total consumer spending in each state, breakouts of consumer spending in specific categories and sectors, and per-capita consumer spending from 1997 through 2014. BEA began releasing prototype estimates in 2014; previously, only national consumer-spending data was available.

NIH Issues Notice Clarifying its Health Economics Research
Priorities

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a Guide Notice on November 25, to "clarify NIH policy related to funding health economics research," in an effort to delineate NIH's "priority areas of health economics research as well as reach aims that generally fall outside of the NIH mission."

Read on for more details.

NIH Issues Funding Opportunity to Support the PMI Cohort Program Direct Volunteer Pilot Studies

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking proposals for pilot studies and "the needed information technology support for the development of the Direct Volunteer component of the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI) Cohort Program." The agency plans to build a "national research cohort of one million or more volunteers who are engaged as partners in a longitudinal, long-term effort to identify the molecular, environmental and behavioral factors that contribute to diverse diseases, to facilitate the development and testing of novel therapies and prevention approaches, and to pioneer mHealth [mobile health] strategies for improving the efficacy of health care." To that end, NIH released a series of funding opportunities announcements (FOAs) related to PMI and the implementation of the PMI Cohort Program along with two funding opportunities associated with "Other Transaction awards" to facilitate the development of a pilot program designed "to inform the creation of the direct volunteer enrollment component of the cohort" and an accompanying communication infrastructure "vital to conveying the importance of this research effort."

Read on for more details.

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COSSA Members Respond to OBSSR Strategic Plan

Several COSSA member organizations responded to the recent National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) Request for Information (RFI) regarding its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan (see Update, November 3, 2015). In addition to stressing the challenges and opportunities for the behavioral sciences, the groups emphasize the need for continued leadership by OBSSR within NIH and the federal government. Read on for highlights from the comments submitted by the American Educational Research Association (AERA), American Psychological Association (APA), the Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers (PAA/APC), and the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 7-10, 2016
- Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR, January 7-9, 2016
• Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, January 28-30, 2016
• American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Denver, CO, March 9-12, 2016
• Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, March 22-27, 2016
• Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, March 23-26, 2016
• Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, March 29-April 2, 2016
• Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, March 31-April 2, 2016
• Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, March 31-April 3, 2016
• Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 31-April 2, 2016

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.

Save the date!
COSSA’s 2016 Annual Meeting will take place on March 15 & 16.

Consortium of Social Science Associations
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American Anthropological Association
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Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
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Society for Personality and Social Psychology
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The Ohio State University

Membership Organizations
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Evaluation Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
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.

ISSN 0749-4394.