



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## FEATURED NEWS

### COSSA Remembers Janet Norwood

The social science and statistical communities lost a friend on March 27, [Janet L. Norwood](#). Norwood was a former Commissioner of Labor Statistics (1979-1991), having served Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan during her 13 year tenure. As one of few women serving in the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the time and the first to lead the agency, Norwood was an inspiration and mentor to many professional women in Washington. She served as COSSA President from 2001-2002.



In addition to her service to COSSA, Norwood also held advisory and leadership positions with the American Statistical Association, NORC at the University of Chicago, and the Committee on National Statistics at the National Academies, among many others.

## COSSA IN ACTION

### COSSA and Partners Encourage Strong FY 2016 Appropriations

As Congress begins to consider funding for fiscal year (FY) 2016, COSSA has joined dozens of other organizations and coalitions on letters to appropriators in support of strong levels of funding for the federal agencies that support social and behavioral science research. Check our [website](#) for the most updated list of letters COSSA has joined.

- March 3: \$172 million for the National Center for Health Statistics, [House/Senate](#) (Friends of NCHS)
- March 23: [\\$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC Coalition)
- March 23: \$375 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, [House/Senate](#) (Friends of AHRQ)
- April 2: [\\$633 million for the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (Friends of Labor Statistics)

## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

### Members of Congress Call for Increased FY 2016 Funding for NSF, International Education

In a [Mach 24 letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee](#), 136 members of the House of Representatives called for \$7.724 billion in funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for fiscal year (FY) 2016, a funding level COSSA supports. The letter, which was organized by Reps. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) and David McKinley (R-WV), states, "As our competitors across the globe invest in developing modern and inventive labor forces, our country will fall short if we fail to invest in research now. We must commit to strengthening our research capacities and prepare future generations to help our nation remain a world economic leader... We feel this amount is the minimum level of funding needed to ensure we have the resources to remain globally competitive."

Similarly, a [March 25 Dear Colleague letter](#) to the House Appropriations leadership expressed support for robust FY 2016 funding for the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays international education and foreign language programs. Sponsored by Reps. David Price (D-NC), Don Young (R-AK), and Joe Crowley (D-NY), the letter had a total of 46 signatures from members of the House. The letter notes, "Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs have had a tremendous impact on our nation over the years by developing a strong foundation in international education, research, and foreign language studies, especially in the less-commonly taught languages of U.S. strategic interest."

### House Subcommittee Discusses CDC Budget; Director Questioned on Gun Violence, HIV/AIDS Research

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies [met](#) on March 25 to consider the administration's fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget proposal for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In attendance was CDC Director Thomas Frieden, accompanied by Beth Bell, Director of the CDC's National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases, and Anne Schuchat, Assistant Surgeon General and Director of the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases.

Subcommittee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) praised the CDC in his opening statement for protecting public health in the U.S. and abroad. He noted that while the CDC enjoys bipartisan support from the committee, sequestration remains in place for FY 2016 (at least for the time being) and expressed a desire to ensure taxpayer dollars are not spent on "politically motivated activities." Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) also spoke about sequestration in her opening statement, calling it "disastrous" and pointing out that CDC has lost \$1.35 billion (adjusted for inflation) since 2010.

[Read on](#) for full details.

## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

### Nominations Sought for USPSTF Members

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is inviting nominations for individuals to serve on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The USPSTF is an independent body of experts that makes evidence-based recommendations about the effectiveness of clinical preventive services and health promotion. Qualified nominees will have demonstrated expertise in the following areas: (1) critical evaluation of peer-reviewed research; (2) clinical prevention, health promotion, and primary health care; and (3) implementation of evidence based recommendations in clinical practice. In addition, expertise in the following areas is also desirable:

- Behavioral medicine
- Public health
- Health equity and the reduction of health disparities
- Application of science to health policy
- Communication of scientific findings to multiple audiences, including health care professionals, policymakers, and the general public.

Nominations are due by May 15. Additional information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#) and on AHRQ's [website](#).

### White House Releases Antibiotic Resistance Action Plan

On March 27, the White House released the [National Action Plan for Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria](#). The Action Plan outlines "federal activities over the next five years to enhance domestic and international capacity to prevent and contain outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant infections; maintain the efficacy of current and new antibiotics; and develop and deploy next-generation diagnostics, antibiotics, vaccines, and other therapeutics." The plan is consistent with an initiative in the President's budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2016 that would allocate \$1.2 billion to combatting antibiotic-resistance (see [COSSA's analysis](#)).

### National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Strategic Visioning

## Initiative Seeks Scientific Community's Input

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking the scientific community's input in its [Strategic Visioning Initiative](#). To help determine NHLBI's future direction, the Institute is seeking the community's participation in an "ongoing process that will inform its priority setting, decision making, and resource allocation." The purpose of the Initiative is to develop the Institute's priorities for the next decade. In the video launching the initiative, NHLBI director Gary H. Gibbons explained that he is asking the NHLBI community to help identify the most *compelling questions and critical challenges* that the Institute must attend to in the coming years if it is "to take advantage of emerging scientific opportunities and bold new approaches for actively promoting human health, as well as significantly reducing and preventing disease."

[Read on](#) for full details.

## RFI: Proposed Funding Priorities for Neuroscience Research, Input on High Impact and Cross-Cutting Opportunities

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) [Blueprint for Neuroscience Research](#) is seeking input from the scientific community on how the Blueprint might best accelerate discovery in neuroscience research. Specifically, the request for information (RFI), *Proposed Funding Priorities for Neuroscience Research, Input on High Impact and Cross-Cutting Opportunities* ([NOT-NS-15-020](#)), is seeking suggestions regarding how future Blueprint investments can have a broad impact on neuroscience and serve the interests of the 15 participating NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices that support research on the nervous system.

[Read on](#) for full details.

## RFI: Optimizing Funding Policies and Other Strategies to Improve the Impact and Sustainability of Biomedical Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued a Request for Information (RFI), [Optimizing Funding Policies and Other Strategies to Improve the Impact and Sustainability of Biomedical Research](#), soliciting input from the scientific community regarding the possible development of new policies and other strategies to improve the impact and sustainability of the NIH-funded biomedical research enterprise.

[Read on](#) for full details.

## Let Out Your Inner Behavioral & Social Scientist - OBSSR Issues Call for Videos

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The celebration includes a call to social and behavioral scientists to submit videos that showcase their research. The best videos will be featured at the **OBSSR 20th Anniversary Research Symposium** on June 25, at the NIH William H. Natcher Conference Center and on the OBSSR's [website](#) throughout 2015.

[Read on](#) for more details.

## **NIMH Releases *Strategic Plan for Research***

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently released its [Strategic Plan for Research](#) which will guide the Institute's research priorities over the next five years, from basic science of the brain and behavior, to public health impact. This plan updates the objectives of the 2008 strategic plan. Its aim is to balance the need for long-term investments in basic research with urgent medical health needs.

[Read on](#) for full details.

## **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **New AAAS Study Investigates the Social Responsibilities of Scientists**

The notion that scientists have a responsibility to society that goes beyond their responsibilities to the profession is long-standing. While there is a growing literature concerning the issues encapsulated by the phrase "social responsibility of scientists," a review of that literature reveals many and sometimes competing views. What is more, to date there has been no empirical basis on which to define the content and scope of such social responsibilities.

It is within this context that the [AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition](#), of which COSSA is a member, and the [AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program](#) decided to develop and distribute an online questionnaire to scientists, engineers and health professionals globally. The primary aim of this preliminary investigation was to elicit their perspectives on the nature and scope of their responsibilities and to identify any potential similarities and differences in perspectives according to multiple demographic variables. Read a [summary of the report's major findings](#) or the [full report](#). Please direct any inquiries about the report to [srhrl@aaas.org](mailto:srhrl@aaas.org).

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **ED: Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (April 28)**

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is seeking applications for a new competition: [Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program](#). The program provides opportunities to doctoral candidates to engage in full-time doctoral research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. Only applications that propose research on the following geographic areas will be accepted: Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, South Asia, the Near East, Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere (excluding the U.S.). Applications are due April 28.

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

[Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), Denver, CO, April 8-11, 2015  
[American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, April 16-20, 2015  
[Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2015

[Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting](#), Chicago, IL, April 21-25, 2015  
[Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions](#), San Antonio, TX, April 22-25, 2015  
[Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), San Diego, CA, April 30-May 2, 2015  
[American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), Hollywood, FL, May 14-17, 2015  
[Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), Seattle, WA, May 28-31, 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@coffa.org](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

## **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

### **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

### **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  
 University of Chicago  
 University of Illinois  
 University of Iowa  
 University of Maryland  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Minnesota  
 University of Missouri  
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Texas, San Antonio  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

### **Centers and Institutes**

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Political and Social Science  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Institutes for Research  
The 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 Social Science Research,  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
Population Reference Bureau  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council  
Vera Institute of Justice

### **COSSA**

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*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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