



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## In This Issue

### FEATURED NEWS

[House to vote on COMPETES Act](#)

### CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

[Analysis of the Draft 21st Century Cures Act](#)

[House FY 2016 CJS Bill: Preliminary Analysis](#)

### FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

[OMB Asks Agencies to Plan for 5 Percent Reductions in FY 2017](#)

[PCAST Hears Interim Report on Precision Medicine Initiative](#)

[NCHS Releases \*Health, United States, 2014\*](#)

[AHRQ Seeks Nominations for Advisory Council](#)

[NSF Requests Nominations to Advisory Committees](#)

### PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

[NRC Report Offers Guidance on Team Science](#)

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[NIH: AIDS Research Center/Developmental Research Centers on Mental Health and HIV/AIDS](#)

### EVENTS CALENDAR

## FEATURED NEWS

### House to vote on COMPETES Act

The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015* (H.R. 1806) tomorrow, May 20. The bill, which authorizes funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other science agencies, has faced criticism from the scientific community. COSSA has published an [analysis](#) of the bill, as well as a [statement](#) opposing it. Click [here](#) to read all of our COMPETES coverage.

## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

### Analysis of the Draft 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act

On May 14, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee approved by voice vote its

[discussion draft](#) of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. An amendment to an earlier discussion draft was introduced by full committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO), Health Subcommittee Chairman Joe Pitts (R-PA), full committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX). The bipartisan amendment incorporated federal agency and scientific community feedback to a draft bill the preceding day.

The legislation is scheduled to be considered by the full Energy and Commerce Committee the week of May 18; the Committee will convene for opening statements only on May 19 and on May 20 to mark up the bill.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's full analysis of the bill.

## **House FY 2016 CJS Bill: Preliminary Analysis**

On May 13, a [draft](#) of the fiscal year (FY) 2016 House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Bill was publicly released in anticipation of the CJS Subcommittee markup scheduled for Thursday, May 14. This is the bill that provides annual appropriations to the National Science Foundation (NSF), Census Bureau and other statistical agencies, and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). *[It should not be confused with the NSF reauthorization ([COMPETES](#)) bill that we have also been reporting on in recent weeks.]*

[Read on](#) for preliminary details on the contents of the draft bill as it pertains to federal agencies important to the social and behavioral science research community. We will know more, such as whether there are any provisions specifically targeting social science, once the Committee Report is released.

## **FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

### **OMB Asks Agencies to Plan for 5 Percent Reductions in FY 2017**

Although Congress is just beginning the process of working to enact fiscal year (FY) 2016 appropriations for federal agencies and programs, agency officials are beginning their work on the FY 2017 budget request. In a [memo](#) from Shaun Donovan, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), federal agencies have been advised to prepare their FY 2017 budget proposals with a five percent reduction below the net discretionary total provided in the FY 2016 President's budget request. The scenario is meant to assist the Administration in its efforts to "deliver a Government that is more effective, efficient, and supportive of economic growth." This is a common exercise in the annual federal budget preparation process. Additional details and guidance for FY 2017 can be viewed in the OMB memo.

### **PCAST Hears Interim Report on Precision Medicine Initiative**

On May 15, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) received an interim report on the President's proposed Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI). Opening the meeting, PCAST co-chair and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) John Holdren discussed the ongoing budget process and the challenges associated with the FY 2016 budget. Despite these challenges, Holdren noted, there are a number of exciting initiatives in progress, including the Precision Medicine Initiative.

PCAST co-chair Eric Lander reminded members that President Obama announced his Precision Medicine Initiative on January 30. It is designed to take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities that are available in medicine, including the ability to gather a large amount of data as the result of technology along with the opportunity to turn the health care system into a learning system. Lander noted that the President's introduction of the Precision Medicine Initiative recognized the scientific opportunities across the health care spectrum with regard to common diseases that affect everyone. He pointed out, however, that there has been a considerable amount of work to follow up on the President's broad direction.

[Read on](#) for more details.

## **NCHS Releases *Health, United States, 2014***

The National Centers for Health Statistics (NCHS) has released the 2014 edition of its annual report, [Health, United States](#), which compiles data on Americans' health, including life expectancy, fertility, disease prevalence, use of health care, and health expenditures. The 2014 edition includes a special feature on adults aged 55-64-baby boomers who are about to become eligible for Medicare, and whose aging is expected to have a significant impact on the U.S. health care system.

## **AHRQ Seeks Nominations for Advisory Council**

The [National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality](#), which advises the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), is seeking nominations for new members to serve terms beginning in spring 2016. The Council is interested in individuals whose background includes: "(1) The conduct of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations with respect to health care; (2) the fields of health care quality research or health care improvement; (3) the practice of medicine; (4) other health professions; (5) representing the private health care sector (including health plans, providers, and purchasers) or administrators of health care delivery systems; (6) the fields of health care economics, information systems, law, ethics, business, or public policy; and, (7) representing the interests of patients and consumers of health care." More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#). Nominations must be received by July 6, 2015.

## **NSF Requests Nominations to Advisory Committees**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has issued its [annual call for recommendations](#) for membership to its various advisory committees and technical boards. These committees advise NSF's offices and directorates on program management, research direction, and policies impacting the agency. Committees of particular interest to the COSSA community include the [Advisory Committee for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences](#) and the [Advisory Committee for Education and Human Resources](#). Recommendations for membership are maintained for 12 months.

## **PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **NRC Report Offers Guidance on Team Science**

Given the increasing number of scientists engaged in collaborative research, referred to as "team science," the National Research Council (NRC) appointed the Committee on the Science of Team Science, chaired by Nancy J. Cooke, Arizona State University, to conduct and release a consensus study to provide guidance for these science teams or groups. The study was funded by the National

Science Foundation (NSF) and Elsevier, and the final report, entitled [Enhancing the Effectiveness of Team Science](#), was released on April 24.

[Read on](#) for more details.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### NIH: AIDS Research Center/Developmental Research Centers on Mental Health and HIV/AIDS

The Division of AIDS Research (DAR) within the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking applications for Center Core grants to support an HIV/AIDS Research Center (ARC) ([PAR-15-197](#)) and applications to support Developmental AIDS Research Centers (D-ARC) ([PAR-15-196](#)). ARC supports innovative, interdisciplinary research in the areas of basic research, neuro-AIDS, behavioral and social, integrated biobehavioral, clinical, translational, and implementation science. D-ARC provides infrastructure support that facilitates the development of high impact science in HIV/AIDS and mental health that is relevant to the NIMH mission.

NIMH's intent is to support research that addresses the most current research priorities in the field. Accordingly, the proposed ARC priorities should align with the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) and international research directions outlined in guidance from the [NIH Office of AIDS Research](#) (OAR). The Centers must have the potential to support research in a variety of areas: biological, biomedical, behavioral, neuroscience, mental health, prevention, clinical sciences, and implementation science research. ARCs are expected to serve as local, regional, national, and global resources for rigorous HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and implementation science. D-ARCs have the potential to assemble the evidence base critical to health policy decisions-making pertaining to resource allocation, strategic priorities, and best practices.

Applications are due September 14, 2015.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

[NSF Education and Human Resources Advisory Committee Meeting](#), Arlington, VA, May 19-20, 2015

[Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), Seattle, WA, May 28-31, 2015

[OBSSR 20th Anniversary Celebration](#), Bethesda, MD, June 23-25, 2015

[OBSSR Capitol Hill Exhibition & Reception](#), Washington, DC, June 24, 2015

[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@coffa.org](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

# 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  
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

## 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

## 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 Colorado, Boulder  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
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  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

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

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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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