



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS *for* SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

COSSA joins the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) and other scientific organizations in urging Congress to appropriate **\$8 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF)** in FY 2018.

NSF funds basic scientific discovery, workforce training, and state-of-the-art facilities that keeps the U.S. ahead of its global competitors. It is the only U.S. federal agency tasked with *supporting scientific research across all fields of science*. By funding innovative, cutting-edge research in all STEM areas, the U.S. is not betting on a single field of research to produce the next big innovation or life-changing finding. Instead, we are making investments that allow researchers to simultaneously uncover breakthroughs on all possible fronts. The agency utilizes a “portfolio” approach with the projects it supports. This recognizes that not every project will—or is expected to—yield a positive result, but that taken together, a diverse portfolio of research can collectively advance science.

NSF supports about a quarter of all federally-funded basic scientific research conducted at colleges and universities nationwide. **Notably, the agency serves as the largest single funder of basic social and behavioral science research.** Though the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)—one of seven research directorates at NSF—represents less than 5% of the entire NSF research budget, it supports around two-thirds of total federal funding for academic *basic research* in the social and behavioral sciences (excluding psychology). Further, NSF’s Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR) plays a critical role in fostering a well-prepared and diverse STEM workforce—across all STEM fields—and also supports research into education, learning, and teaching across the continuum of education.

Social science discoveries funded by NSF have helped to **improve public health, enhance the safety of troops in combat zones, understand how to prepare for and respond to natural and human-made disasters, reduce violence among our youth, improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and generate billions of dollars for the U.S. Treasury with the creation of the telecommunications spectrum auctions.** Further, every winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences over the last 20 years has been an NSF grantee, with a total of **54 Economics Laureates** having received NSF funding at some point in their careers.

NSF, through its gold-standard merit review process, allows the demands of scientific discovery to dictate how best to spend basic research dollars, leaving politics and individual ideologies at the door. This process has been emulated the world over. COSSA urges Congress to maintain NSF’s authority over the distribution of its precious research dollars and not set arbitrary funding levels for NSF’s individual directorates, keeping with current practice.

“Social and behavioral science” encompasses a collection of STEM disciplines engaged in the rigorous study of why and how humans behave as they do as individuals, groups and within institutions, organizations, and society. It often refers to the disciplines of and fields within anthropology, communication, demography, economics, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics, as well as countless multidisciplinary subfields.



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$40 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)** and **\$48 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**, respectively, for FY 2018.

Numerous pressing criminal justice and law enforcement issues are at the fore of public consciousness today, including understanding the **mental health** needs of people who become involved in the justice system, the **drivers of domestic radicalization**, **effective solutions to opioid addiction**, and **ways to improve police officer safety** and **community relations**. By working with jurisdictions at all levels to compile data and support research, DOJ provides key insights to help improve public safety by funding research through NIJ and BJS and other DOJ agencies. Making the results of this research available to state and local officials and the public allows justice and law enforcement professionals to learn what works, adopt best practices, and improve public safety by leveraging the best research and data to protect the public, reduce recidivism, and support law enforcement and communities. While objective research is needed now more than ever, federal funding in support of such research has been largely stagnant. **Congress must prioritize federal data collection and research if we are to provide local, state, and federal officials with the information they need** to develop strategies to improve public safety in our communities.

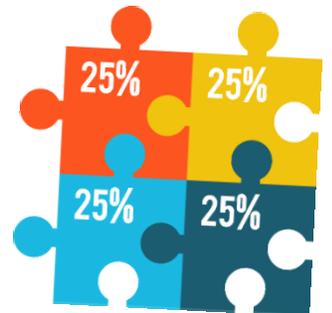


CENSUS BUREAU

COSSA urges Congress to **appropriate sufficient funding to the U.S. Census Bureau** in FY 2018 to keep the agency on track to execute an innovative and cost-effective 2020 Decennial Census.

The 2020 Census is less than three years away. After years of research, testing, evaluation, and development, activities will culminate next year in the 2018 End-to-End Census Test—a “dress rehearsal,” if you will—which will integrate all systems and operations into a census-like environment. The success of the 2018 End-to-End Test is central to ensuring an accurate and cost-effective Decennial Census. At this critical juncture when testing moves to implementation, **reliable funding is essential**.

Technological advancements just since 2010 make the 2020 Census poised to be the most innovative yet. New counting methods—enabled by Internet response options, digital mapping and imagery to update address lists, and the use of administrative data—hold the potential to save about \$5 billion over the lifecycle of the 2020 Census. To do that, though, the Census Bureau will need to stay on schedule and finalize and test its new design, IT systems, and operations within the next year in advance of the End-to-End Census Test in 2018.



In addition, **COSSA calls on Congress to fully fund the American Community Survey (ACS) and maintain its status as a mandatory federal survey**. The ACS is the only source of comparable, consistent, timely, and high quality demographic and socio-economic data for all communities in the U.S. As a component of the Constitutionally-mandated Decennial Census, the ACS is a “mandatory” national survey. The accuracy of the data collected by the ACS relies on this mandatory status. Targeted cuts and changes to its status would significantly undermine the ability to collect usable data on all U.S. counties, particularly in less populous, rural areas of the country.



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CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate an increase of at least **\$2 billion above the FY 2017 appropriated level for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)** in FY 2018.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the world leader in basic biomedical, behavioral, social, and population science research, fostering discoveries that enhance the health and well-being of Americans. A \$2 billion increase above the FY 2017 appropriated level, in addition to funds included in the *21st Century Cures Act* for targeted initiatives in FY 2018, will help ensure that NIH-funded research can continue to improve our nation's health and enhance our competitiveness.

To be truly transformative, NIH will need to continue to embrace research from a wide range of scientific disciplines, including the **social and behavioral sciences**. NIH supports basic and applied social and behavioral science research across its 27 institutes and centers (ICs) in recognition of the value these disciplines add to preventing and treating most diseases, disorders, and conditions. The NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) coordinates trans-NIH activities in the social and behavioral sciences.



Social and behavioral science discoveries supported by NIH have **reduced tobacco use**, possibly the biggest public health success story of the 20th century; **reduced the risk of developing type-2 diabetes** by demonstrating the impact of lifestyle changes, such as diet and regular physical activity; and **slowed the HIV/AIDS epidemic** by extending our knowledge about decision-making, drug use, and sexual behavior.

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$364 million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** for FY 2018.

AHRQ is the only agency in the federal government with the expertise and explicit mission to fund research on improving health care at the provider level (i.e. in hospitals, medical practices, nursing homes, and other medical facilities). AHRQ-funded research provides us with the evidence, data, and tools needed to tackle some of the health care system's greatest challenges.



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For example, AHRQ-funded research has been instrumental in **reducing hospital-acquired conditions by 17% in five years**, translating to 87,000 lives and nearly \$20 billion in health care costs saved; identifying strategies to help primary care practices **cope with the challenges of the opioid epidemic**; and helping doctors make better decisions and improve patients' health by taking advantage of **electronic health records and other IT advances**.

Without AHRQ, important research on topics like **reducing waste and unnecessary costs, improving access to health care, and getting the best treatments into the hands of providers** would fall through the cracks.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and \$170 million for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in FY 2018.

As the country's leading health protection and surveillance agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works with state, local, and international partners to keep Americans safe and healthy. CDC relies on insights from the social and behavioral sciences to understand the **effects of behavioral, social, and cultural factors on public health** and to rigorously **evaluate public health interventions, policies, and programs**. The CDC is also home to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which collects critical **data on all aspects of our health care system** through data cooperatives and surveys that serve as the **gold standard for data collection around the world**.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

COSSA joins the Friends of IES in urging Congress to appropriate \$670 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in FY 2018.

Housed within the U.S. Department of Education, IES provides the nation with **critical statistics, research, and evaluation that improve education policy and practice**. IES-supported research has led to the development of **early interventions for improving child outcomes, generated and validated assessment measures for use with children, and led to the creation of the "What Works Clearinghouse" for education research**, which catalogs interventions that work and identifies those that don't. It allows us to understand trends in student populations, as well as in schools and universities. Still, many research questions remain, such as how best to prepare teachers and how to understand the opportunities afforded by advances in technology in the classroom.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate a total of \$78.7 million for the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language programs in FY 2018.

The Department of Education's Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs play an active role in keeping American students at the forefront of global education. These programs nurture cadres of college graduates with the cultural and language proficiencies needed to serve in government, including at the Department of Defense, Department of State, and federal intelligence agencies. Investment in international education and language programs helps to ensure America remains competitive within the global community.

Within the \$78.7 million requested, COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$70.15 million to Title VI** and **\$8.56 million to Fulbright-Hays**.



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CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$420 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** in FY 2018. COSSA also urges strong support for the capacity-building programs at the **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**.

Housed within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) premier peer-reviewed grants program for basic and applied agricultural research. In addition to AFRI, NIFA also supports capacity-building programs to ensure that U.S. research institutions are equipped to conduct rigorous research that supports our agricultural sector. Social and behavioral science research supported by the USDA helps us **protect and enhance our food supply** through better understanding of human behavior and economic incentives, **improve quality of life and alleviate poverty in rural areas**, find new ways to **reduce childhood obesity and promote healthy behaviors**, develop **solutions to water shortages**, and **support and train the next generation of researchers** in the agriculture and food sciences.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$176.6 million for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)** in FY 2018.



The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) produces timely, accurate, and useful statistics covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. A strong FY 2018 appropriation for NASS will enable it to continue to provide the information necessary to keep agricultural markets stable and efficient and to help maintain consistency for all users of agricultural statistics.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$91.3 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS)** in FY 2018.

The Economic Research Service (ERS) conducts sound, peer-reviewed economic and social science research that measures the health of the farm sector through data on farm income, the health of the agriculture sector including trade, and the food security system both in the U.S. and abroad.

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