



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.

**“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.**

