



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Advocating for Social Science from Home



TAKE ACTION

[Advocacy](#) | [Policy Statements & Testimony](#) | [Funding Updates](#) | [Take Action](#)

ACTION ALERT! [3/30/17: Tell Congress to Protect Social Science Funding](#)

Why get involved in advocacy?

COSSA works hard every day to communicate the importance of social and behavioral science research to policymakers. But ultimately, the most powerful stories come from people who can speak from experience about what it's like to apply for a federal grant, conduct research, or watch as their findings reach (or fail to reach) a broader audience.

In a survey conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation, 64 percent of Congressional staff said that constituent visits have "a some" or "a lot" of influence on an undecided Member of Congress—more than any other strategy for communicating with Congress. And social and behavioral sciences are not just any constituents—they bring invaluable expertise on a wealth of important issues facing our nation.

Educating policymakers about social and behavioral science research—and its contributions to sound public policy—is especially important because these sciences are not always well understood on Capitol Hill or in some federal agencies.

Get Started

Find your Member of Congress.

[HOUSE](#)

[SENATE](#)

Once you have identified your delegation, you can do a little background research to aid in your advocacy efforts. You might want to find out what committees and subcommittees they serve on or if they belong to any relevant caucuses (informal groups of Members formed around issues of mutual interest). Each Member of Congress maintains a website where you can find detailed information on their legislative priorities and policy positions.

[Sign up for Action Alerts.](#)

Subscribe to COSSA's Advocacy list to be alerted to opportunities to take action in support of social and behavioral science.

[Read our Advocacy Handbook.](#)

Ways to Get Involved

Participate in the 2017 Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day.

2017 Edition



COSSA Handbook *for*
Social & Behavioral Science Research
Advocacy



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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Engaging from Home

- Get active in your professional societies.
- Consider joining other groups focused on advocacy.
- Connect with your GR professionals.
- Engage your elected officials directly:
 - District meetings
 - Emails/phone calls
 - Town hall meetings
 - Respond to COSSA Action Alerts



ACTION ALERT: Tell Congress to Protect Social Science Funding

March 30, 2017

Use the tool below to write to your Members of Congress and tell them why you support funding for social science research. You can share the important role research in the social sciences play in making our population healthier, our democracy fairer, our nation safer, and our economy stronger and ask them to support funding for social and behavioral science. Our [TAKE ACTION](#) page has all the resources you need to get started, including brand-new talking points, state fact sheets, and one-pagers.

Tell Congress to Protect Social Science Funding!

- Please personalize the letter below by explaining why you care about federal support for social science.
- You may wish to talk about your research or field of study or about the local impacts of federal R&D investment in social science on your community.
- For help crafting your message, use the resources available at www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action.

Personalize it: A personalized constituent message is one of the most effective ways to influence lawmakers.

As a constituent who feels strongly about the countless contributions the social sciences make to the lives of all Americans, I am writing to ask that you protect the federal agencies that support social and behavioral science research throughout the appropriations process. So many of the immediate challenges facing our nation will require solutions based on sound, reliable science. Federally-supported scientific research—including social and behavioral science research—provides an evidence base that you and your colleagues can use to produce science-backed strategies for addressing issues of national importance, such as crime prevention, health care for the underserved, the safety of our troops, early childhood education, and improved efficiency of American businesses, to name a few. Every day, insights from the social and behavioral sciences help make people's lives better, both here in the U.S. and around the world, from slowing the spread of Ebola in West Africa.



enter your email address

Next

District Meetings

- Timing: Recess is an excellent time for a district meeting.
- Staff: District staff do not generally handle legislative portfolios – they are experts on what is going on in the district and local impacts of federal programs (DC staff work on specific policy issues).
- Message: District meetings are good opportunities to discuss the impacts of federal research funding on the local economy – to put a constituent face on a topic.



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
COSSA joins the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) and
Congress to appropriate \$8 billion for the National Science Foundation

NSF funds basic scientific discovery, workforce training, and state-of-the-art
science. It is the only U.S. federal agency tasked with supporting
its global competitors. It is the only U.S. federal agency in all STEM areas
science. Its funding innovative, cutting-edge research in all STEM areas
research to produce the next big innovation or life-changing finding.
researchers to simultaneously uncover breakthroughs on all possible
approach with the projects it supports. This recognizes that not every
positive result, but that taken together, a diverse portfolio of research



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 \$40 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.



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION &
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

NIH

appropriate an increase of at least \$2 billion above the FY 2017 appropriated
NIH (NIH) is the world leader in basic biomedical, behavioral, social, and population
sciences that enhance the health and well-being of Americans. A \$2 billion
level, in addition to funds included in the 21st Century Cures Act for targeted
NIH-funded research can continue to improve our nation's health.

need to continue to embrace research from a wide
range of social and behavioral sciences. NIH supports
research across its 27 institutes and
these disciplines add to preventing and treating most
NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
in the social and behavioral sciences.

supported by NIH have reduced tobacco use, possibly the biggest public
health risk of developing type-2 diabetes by demonstrating the impact
of physical activity; and slowed the HIV/AIDS epidemic by extending our
understanding of human behavior.

RESEARCH AND QUALITY
million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

work with the expertise and explicit mission to fund research on
hospitals, medical practices, nursing homes, and other medical
care settings. Evidence, data, and tools needed to tackle some of the
most pressing health care issues.

in STEM disciplines
behave as they do as
and society. It often
communication,
is, political science,
subdisciplinary subfields.



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

**1 Cancel harmful sequestration cuts for FY 2018 and beyond and protect nondefense
discretionary spending.**

Federal science agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have
Nondefense discretionary programs encompass a wide range of critical federal functions from education and job
training, to housing and science, to natural resources and veterans services, to public health, safety and security.
These and other programs have been cut dramatically and disproportionately in recent years (13.4 percent
together since 2010, adjusting for inflation) as lawmakers have sought to reduce the deficit, even though experts
across the political spectrum agree that the discretionary side of the federal budget is not a driving factor behind
our nation's mid- and long-term fiscal challenges.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 established a parity principle that treats
defense and nondefense discretionary programs equally. It is critical that this principle be maintained in any deal to
replace sequestration, recognizing the equally important role of both defense and nondefense programs in
protecting the safety and security of Americans.

**2 Provide real growth in research funding, including for basic research across all
STEM disciplines.**

Federal science agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have
innovation: An American imperative (<https://www.amacad.org/content/innovationimperative>). The statement calls
for at least four percent annual growth for federal basic science research agencies, such as NSF and NIH. The U.S.
scientific enterprise requires stability, predictability, and sustainable funding growth, and federal policies that are
patient and can tolerate a reasonable amount of risk in order to achieve the greatest payoff.

In 2015, COSSA joined top U.S. businesses, universities, and scientific organizations in endorsing the statement
innovation: An American imperative (<https://www.amacad.org/content/innovationimperative>). The statement calls
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scientific enterprise requires stability, predictability, and sustainable funding growth, and federal policies that are
patient and can tolerate a reasonable amount of risk in order to achieve the greatest payoff.



For more information, check out COSSA's report,
Social and Behavioral Science Research: Essential to keeping
America competitive, prosperous and safe
Available at www.cossa.org

INTERNAL DOCUMENT—DO NOT DISTRIBUTE IN YOUR MEETINGS



2017 Social Science Advocacy Day FY 2018 Talking Points

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Thank you for meeting with us. [INTRODUCE THE GROUP MEMBERS BY NAME/AFFILIATION AND EACH
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR WORK/EXPERTISE.] We are members of the Consortium of Social Science
Associations, which works to advance federal support for social and behavioral science research.
- We would like to talk with you about the importance of social and behavioral science research, particularly
in our state.

WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE FUNDING IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST:

- Social and behavioral science research provides an evidence base that allows us to produce science-backed
solutions for addressing issues of national and global importance. It helps us as a nation better address
complex, human-centered questions, such as:
 - How to convince a community in the path of a tornado to seek cover; or
 - Ways to slow the HIV/AIDS epidemic; or
 - How to thwart cybercrime and protect Americans' privacy and security in an increasingly connected
world.
- For example, did you know that [MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EXAMPLES IS INCLUDED IN YOUR FOLDER]:
 - Anthropologists slowed the spread of the epidemic in West Africa?

COSSA 2017 Legislative Agenda for Social and Behavioral Science Research

of social science research across federal agencies to ensure policy
evidence.

the lion's share of federal support to social and behavioral science researchers, other
in the social and behavioral sciences helps to ensure that policy-making is based on
and justice. For example:

Department of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Department of Justice provides
with needs of people involved in the criminal justice system, community policing,
and justice. For example:

looks to social science to study regions of the world of strategic importance to
questions like how information is spread and how organizations change.
science provides critical evidence to support the Department of Education's
outcomes and developing sound assessment measures.

rely on social science to help reduce childhood obesity, address water
supply, all through understanding behavior and economic incentives.
Research and Quality has used social science to identify ways to reduce hospital-
admission over 5 years, saving an estimated 87,000 lives and \$20 billion in health
care costs.

General statistical and data enterprise.

makers on the federal, state, and local level with much-needed
evaluating the performance of government programs. They are used in
how to make strategic investments, and the availability of objective,
reliable, comparable across time periods, and touch on nearly every aspect
of health, the economy, employment, transportation, agriculture, crime,
that federal statistics are appropriately free from external influences

for the Constitutionally-mandated decennial census for
districts. In addition, the data are also used to inform the
states and localities each year, not to mention the utility of the
managers, and scientific researchers. In the lead up to the 2020
census to ensure that the decennial is not only successful, but costs
less a stable annual budget that allows the agency to adequately

American Community Survey (ACS), which is the nation's only
quality demographic and socio-economic data for all
areas: changes to the mandatory nature of the survey could
communities, likely less populous, rural areas of the country.

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the web at:
www.socialscience.com
and www.SocialScience.com

So many of the immediate challenges facing our nation will require solutions based on sound, reliable science. Federally-supported scientific research—including social and behavioral science research—provides an evidence base that policy makers can use to produce science-backed strategies for addressing issues of national importance, such as crime prevention, health care for the underserved, the safety of our troops, early childhood education, and improved efficiency of American businesses, to name a few.

To achieve results in these and other pressing areas, science should be put to work for the nation. Social and behavioral science research is an integral component of the U.S. STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) research enterprise. Though often misunderstood and underappreciated, federally-supported social and behavioral science research makes meaningful contributions to nearly every aspect of American life.

DID YOU KNOW?

WHERE YOU LIVE CAN MAKE YOU HEALTHIER

Built environments can greatly influence health behaviors. Social science has taught us that the "walkability" of neighborhoods—how conducive an area is to pedestrian activity versus driving—can influence obesity rates, which in turn influences the incidence of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other health outcomes. Everything from the number and proximity of grocery stores to the availability of public bike share programs and parks to the prevalence of locations where people can gather and socialize affect behaviors, such as diet, activity, stress levels, and social dynamics.

THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION HAS ROOTS IN LINGUISTICS

Study of the systematic nature of language—a central question within linguistics—has made important contributions to the creation of computer languages. In fact, the IT industry is one of the principal employers of linguistically-trained professionals. Major leaps in

emulating human mental capabilities in the fields of information technology and computer science, such as in machine translation and artificial intelligence, have been possible thanks to basic linguistic research.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology Mission for were the f spreading outbreak practice, delay but often bri for moul Working anthrop briefing evidence shape li combat ECONOMIC GOVERNMENT Funda

POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SUPPORTS COUNTER-TERRORISM AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Political science plays a critical role in understanding causes of international conflict and informing the means to prevent it. Research in the discipline, including federally funded projects, has



Social and Behavioral Science Research:

Essential to keeping America competitive, prosperous and safe



Ten Recommendations for the 45th President of the United States

December 2016

ILLINOIS

colleges and universities receive
\$75.2 million
in
annual federal investment in
Social & Behavioral Science Research

Federal agencies supporting social & behavioral science research in Illinois include:



National Science Foundation: \$17.1M



Dept. of Defense: \$3.7M



Dept. of Agriculture: \$1.7M

Institutions supported by federal social & behavioral science investment include:



University of Chicago: \$16.4M



Northwestern University: \$14.1M



University of Illinois at Chicago: \$13.7M



Rush University: \$3.7M



DePaul University: \$2.4M

Investments in social and behavioral science research contribute to a stronger economy and generate knowledge that helps us make America healthier, safer, and more prosperous.

Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education Research and Development Survey, FY 2015
For more information, visit cossa.org/state-fact-sheets

www.cossa.org
@COSSADC • #WhySocialScience

SOCIAL SCIENCE?

Smallest annual investment in social and behavioral science research provides significant benefits for the American people.

Investment depends on research and development (billions) is invested in



Investment in STEM disciplines is much smaller than in other fields. People behave as they do as individuals, groups and within the disciplines of and fields within anthropology, history, law, linguistics, political science, and multidisciplinary subfields.

Public research—including social and behavioral science—provides an evidence base that policy makers can use to develop strategies for addressing issues of national importance, such as crime prevention, health care for the underserved, the safety of our troops, early childhood education, and improved efficiency of American businesses, to name a few. Learn more at www.cossa.org.

Investment in social and behavioral science research has made our population healthier, our democracy fairer, our nation safer, and our economy stronger. But more still needs to be done—investment in social and behavioral science must continue to grow to yield benefits for the American people.

COSSA is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

www.cossa.org

Following Up

- Find organic ways to **stay in touch** – local connections are always appreciated.
- **Be a resource** – Send updates about your research.
- Forward the occasional **press release or news story** highlighting research in the district.
- **Following a meeting** – Always send a follow-up email thanking them for the time and provide any additional information or answers to questions that came up during the meeting. **Begin to build a rapport.**

Changing the Conversation

- New public-facing website launched last month
 - www.whysocialscience.com
- Recent blogs from:
 - National Academy of Sciences
 - American Anthropological Association
 - National Institutes of Health
 - Congressman Dan Lipinski
 - Society for Personality and Social Psychology

WHY
SOCIAL
SCIENCE ?



MARCH FOR SCIENCE

— EARTH DAY —

APRIL 22, 2017

www.cossa.org/event/march-for-science

www.marchforscience.com

Questions?

