



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the Final FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill | May 2, 2017

On May 1, Congress announced that a bipartisan deal had been brokered to fund the federal government through the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2017. The omnibus appropriations bill includes 11 individual appropriations bills and keeps the government operating through September 30, 2017.

Should the bill pass this week, the final, much-delayed result for FY 2017 will be mostly positive for social and behavioral science research. Compared to where we have been in recent years and with all of the unknowns surrounding the Trump Administration’s position on science funding, this outcome is about the best we could have hoped for.

FY 2017 APPROPRIATIONS SNAPSHOT

<i>(in millions)</i>	FY 2017 Final	FY 2017 vs. FY 2016
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
Economic Research Service	86.8	1.6%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	171.2	1.7%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1362.9	2.7%
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE		
Bureau of the Census	1470.0	7.3%
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
Institute of Education Sciences	605.3	-2.1%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	72.2	0.0%
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
National Institutes of Health	34084.0	6.2%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	324	-3.0%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	6293.5	0.4%
National Center for Health Statistics	160.4	0.0%
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
Bureau of Justice Statistics	45.5	11.0%
National Institute of Justice	39.5	9.7%
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR		
Bureau of Labor Statistics	609	0.0%
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	7472.2	0.1%

Of course, FY 2018 (which is not far off) may be a different story. We are still awaiting full details of the President’s FY 2018 budget request, which could be released in the next couple of weeks (preliminary details are available [here](#)). It is quite likely that FY 2018 will begin on September 1 under another

continuing resolution (CR) at FY 2017 levels. For now, though, agencies will be busily allocating their resources for the remainder of this fiscal year.

The omnibus bill is expected to be considered in the House on Wednesday and by the Senate shortly thereafter. Last week, the House and Senate passed an extension to the current CR to allow work on the bill to continue through Friday, May 5 (the previous CR expired at midnight on April 28). Though the President has so far remained silent on the bill, he is expected to sign it to avert a government shutdown at the end of this week.

The following pages include analysis of the final bill and accompanying report language as they pertain to social and behavioral science research. The text of the bill and explanatory statement can be viewed on the House Appropriations Committee [website](#).

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Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The compromise agreement would provide \$324 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a cut of \$10 million or 3 percent compared to FY 2016. Given that the House had proposed a much steeper cut for the agency, and that AHRQ is often targeted for termination—both in prior years’ legislation and in the Administration’s “skinny” budget for FY 2018—this comparatively small cut is welcome news for proponents of the agency. However, AHRQ can only endure so many years of accumulating “minor” cuts to its budget before the decreased funding affects the volume and scope of the research projects it is able to support.

Half of the cut to AHRQ’s budget (\$5 million) would come from the Health IT research portfolio, leaving it with \$16.6 million, or 23 percent below FY 2016. The rest would come from Patient Safety (a 5.4 percent cut), Crosscutting Activities (also called Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination) (a 0.7 percent cut), and program support. The agreement retains \$10 million within the Patient Safety research portfolio earmarked in the Senate draft bill for Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria in ambulatory and long-term care settings (see [COSSA’s analysis](#) of the Senate bill for details).

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	334.0	363.7	280.2	324.0	324.0	-3.0%
Patient Safety	74.3	76.0	64.6	74.3	70.3	-5.4%
Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency Research ¹	89.4	113.5	58.5	81.9	88.7	-0.7%
Health Information Technology	21.5	22.9	15.7	16.5	16.5	-23.3%
Prevention/ Care Management ²	11.6	11.6	7.4	11.6	11.6	0.0%
Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys	66.0	69.0	65.0	68.9	66.0	0.0%

Bureau of Labor Statistics

The agreement would provide the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with flat funding at \$609 million. The funding accounts within BLS would be held at their FY 2016 levels of \$273 million for Labor Force Statistics, \$207 million for Prices and Cost of Living, \$83.5 million for Compensation and Working Conditions, \$10.5 million for Productivity and Technology, and \$35 million for Executive Direction and Staff Services.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics	609.0	640.9	609.0	609.0	609.0	0.0%

¹ This account is sometimes named “Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination.”

² Funds in this account go to AHRQ’s support for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, and it is sometimes labeled accordingly.

Census Bureau

The omnibus would provide the Census Bureau with a 7.3 percent increase for FY 2017, bringing it to a total of \$1.5 billion, in line with the House’s proposal. The Bureau’s Periodic Censuses and Programs account (which includes the 2020 Decennial Census, the American Community Survey, and the Economic Census and Census of Governments) would receive the entirety of the \$100 million increase. Activities funded under Current Surveys and Programs would be held flat.

Given that the Census is in the midst of ramping up ahead of the 2020 Decennial (including preparing the for the “dry run” End-to-End Census Test in 2018), policy experts are skeptical that this funding level is sufficient to keep the 2020 Decennial on track while maintaining support for the Bureau’s other important programs and surveys.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Bureau of the Census	1370.0	1633.6	1470.0	1518.3	1470.0	7.3%
Current Surveys and Programs	270.0	285.3	270.0	270.0	270.0	0.0%
Periodic Censuses and Programs	1100.0	1348.3	1200.0	1248.3	1200.0	9.1%

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Under the agreement, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would receive an increase of \$22.8 million in discretionary funding, bringing its FY 2017 budget authority to \$6.3 billion, in addition to \$891.3 million in transfers from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) would receive flat funding of \$160.4 million.

Language in the conference report directs the CDC to develop a public health strategy to increase hepatitis C testing among adults born between 1945 and 1965 by raising provider and patient awareness of testing recommendations. The report also reiterates language from the [House report](#) requesting information on the sciences surrounding vitamin D recommendations. The CDC is directed to include an update on “the current state of the sciences around skin cancer prevention including the link between sun exposure and skin cancer” with its FY 2018 budget request. The CDC is also instructed to work with the National Academy of Medicine to develop a dietary reference intake report on sodium.

The omnibus also provides an increase of \$3 million for the CDC’s Global Disease Protection program, to be used to:

“...support existing longitudinal, population-based infectious disease surveillance platforms that enable comparative analysis between urban and rural populations in the developing world.”

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	6270.7	5967.4	6875.1	6153.4	6293.5	0.4%
HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention	1122.3	1127.3	1122.3	1112.3	1117.3	-0.4%
Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion	1177.1	1117.1	1097.8	1064.6	1115.6	-5.2%
Health Statistics	160.4	160.4	160.4	156.0	160.4	0.0%

Environmental Health	182.3	182.3	160.8	182.3	215.8	18.3%
Injury Prevention and Control	236.1	268.6	261.1	264.1	286.1	21.2%
Occupational Safety and Health	339.1	285.6	329.1	334.1	335.2	-1.2%
Global Health	427.1	442.1	556.7	432.1	435.1	1.9%
Public Health Preparedness and Response	1405.0	1402.2	1485.8	1396.8	1405.0	0.0%
Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant	160.0	0.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	0.0%

Department of Agriculture

Overall, the omnibus provides small increases to the statistical and extramural research agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Economic Research Service (ERS) would receive a \$1.4 million increase, or 1.6 percent above FY 2016, to support “cooperative agreements on groundwater modeling, drought resilience and pay costs as requested in the budget.” The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) would receive an increase of \$2.8 million over FY 2016, a total of \$171.2 million. Within the increase, the agreement directs \$1.6 million for NASS to expand its current feed cost component surveys nationally. NASS will also receive the requested \$42.2 million to conduct the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) would receive an additional \$36.4 million above FY 2016. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), the Department’s main competitive extramural grants program, would receive a \$25 million increase, bringing it to a total of \$375 million. As in past years, the agreement stipulates that “not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA’s agriculture research enhancement awards program, including USDA-EPSCoR.”

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Economic Research Service	85.4	91.3	86.0	86.8	86.8	1.6%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	168.4	176.6	168.4	169.6	171.2	1.7%
Census of Agriculture	42.2	42.2	41.9	42.2	42.2	0.0%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1326.5	1374.0	1341.2	1363.7	1362.9	2.7%
Hatch Act	243.7	243.7	243.7	243.7	243.7	0.0%
Agricultural and Food Research Initiative	350.0	375.0	375.0	375.0	375.0	7.1%

Department of Education

For Institute for Education Sciences (IES) within the Department of Education, the bipartisan agreement would provide \$605.3 million, a reduction of \$12.7 million below the FY 2016 funding level. The report directs IES’ National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to explore ways “to collect aggregate teacher-level data on student characteristics when it administers the National Teacher and Principal Survey so that in the future NCES is able to provide better data about the characteristics of students taught by teachers with different certifications.”

For International Education (Title VI), the agreement would provide \$65.1 million. The Foreign Language (Fulbright-Hayes) program would receive \$7.1 million, an increase of \$4.9 million above the request and

equal the FY 2016 funding level, rejecting the cut proposed by the Obama Administration and included in the Senate's FY 2017 appropriations bill.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Institute of Education Sciences	618.0	693.8	536.0	612.5	605.3	-2.1%
Research, Development, and Dissemination	195.0	209.3	154.5	190.0	187.5	-3.8%
Statistics (National Center for Education Statistics)	112.0	125.4	103.1	112.0	109.5	-2.2%
Regional Education Laboratories	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.4	54.4	0.0%
Research in Special Education	54.0	54.0	49.3	54.0	54.0	0.0%
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	10.8	13.0	10.8	10.8	10.8	-0.2%
Assessment	157.2	156.7	136.7	156.7	156.8	-0.3%
StateWide Data Systems	34.5	81.0	27.2	34.5	32.3	-6.5%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	72.2	67.3	72.2	67.3	72.2	0.0%
Domestic Programs (Title VI)	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.1	0.0%
Overseas Programs (Fulbright-Hays)	7.1	2.2	7.1	2.2	7.1	0.6%

Department of Justice

Within the Department of Justice (DOJ), the omnibus would provide \$45.5 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and \$39.5 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), both more than the amount appropriated in FY 2016. The omnibus allows for two percent of funds appropriated to the DOJ Office of Justice Programs to be transferred to NIJ and BJS for research, evaluation and statistics activities, the same amount as the last two years. The proposal also calls for \$4 million of the NIJ budget to be dedicated to domestic radicalization research and for \$5 million of the BJS budget to be dedicated to the National Crime Statistics Exchange. Finally, the bill includes \$3 million in transfers from the Office on Violence against Women (OVW) for research and evaluation on violence against women.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Bureau of Justice Statistics	41.0	58.0	48.0	41.0	45.5	11.0%
National Institute of Justice	36.0	48.0	40.0	36.0	39.5	9.7%

National Institutes of Health

The final agreement reflects continued bipartisan support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The omnibus would provide the agency a total of \$34 billion, which is \$2 billion (6.2 percent) over the FY 2016 enacted level. The bill includes \$352 million provided in the *21st Century Cures Act* for targeted initiatives.

The \$34 billion total NIH appropriation is \$3.2 billion more than the Obama Administration proposed for FY 2017 and \$7.8 billion more than the Trump Administration requested for FY 2018 in the “skinny budget” released in March (recall that the President’s skinny budget sought to cut the NIH budget by \$6 billion in FY 2018 at the same time the Congress was working to increase the NIH budget by \$2 billion in FY 2017). The increase in the agency’s budget is expected to support “an increase in the number of new

and competing Research Project Grants.” See APPENDIX A for details on individual institute and center funding levels.

Highlighted areas of research receiving directed increases in the bill include:

- Alzheimer’s disease research – \$1.39 billion, an increase of \$400 million
- National Cancer Institute – \$5.7 billion, an increase of \$475.8 million (including a \$300 million transfer as directed in the *21st Century Cures Act*)
- Precision Medicine Initiative – \$320 million, an increase of \$120 million
- BRAIN Initiative – \$260 million, an increase of \$110 million
- Institutional Development Award (IDeA) – \$333.4 million, an increase of \$12.5 million
- National Children’s Study Follow-on program – \$165 million, the same as FY 2016
- *Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act* – \$12.6 million, the same as FY 2016

Additional report language and directives relevant to the social and behavioral sciences included in the agreement include:

National Institute of General Medical Science

The agreement expects that Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA) program to receive at least \$18.5 million in FY 2017, the same level as in FY 2016. It also transfers SEPA funding from the Office of the NIH Director to National Institute of General Medical Science (NIGMS).

National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities

The Congress directs the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to provide not less than \$58.4 million, the FY 2016 funding level “plus the proportional share of the general increase provided,” to the institute’s Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMIs) program.

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is directed “to maintain the number of Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) awards,” including the number of clinical and translational research institutions at no less than the FY 2016 level.

National Science Foundation

The omnibus bill includes a total of \$7.47 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for FY 2017, an increase of 0.1%. The final appropriation essentially splits the difference between the House (\$7.4 billion) and Senate (\$7.5 billion) levels proposed earlier in the process (see COSSA’s earlier [analyses](#) for details on the House and Senate bills). Similarly, the final bill directs the entire increase to the NSF’s facilities and construction account, leaving the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account flat. R&RA is where most of NSF’s competitive research programs receive their funding, including the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (the exception is the Education and Human Resources Directorate, which is funded separately).

In this funding and political environment, flat funding for NSF should be considered a win, especially for the social and behavioral sciences. The final agreement (like the House and Senate bills before it) does not include any language or directives aimed at cutting social science research (or other disciplines), like

we saw a number of years ago with political science research. Thanks to the hard work of the science advocacy community (including COSSA) and champions on Capitol Hill, the final FY 2017 appropriations bill does not arbitrarily pick winners and losers among the scientific disciplines supported by NSF.

With this flexibility maintained, NSF will determine the final funding levels for its individual directorates and will deliver those details to the Congress by way of a spending plan in the coming weeks.

The absence of SBE-specific language, and the fact that the Congress was able to come to agreement on a final FY 2017 bill as opposed to enacting a year-long continuing resolution (CR) that would have kept the FY 2016 appropriations legislation in place through the end of the fiscal year, is especially important because it nullifies language included in last year’s NSF funding bill that singled out SBE for flat funding while all other directorates could be increased. While the SBE budget is likely to be flat-funded for the remainder of FY 2017 anyway, it was important to remove any language that singled out the social sciences for adverse treatment. This is another example of how the science advocacy community has been able to successfully communicate the value of NSF’s support for *all scientific disciplines*.

The Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate, which is the only NSF directorate to receive a direct appropriation from Congress, is funded at \$880 million in the final agreement, flat with FY 2016. The bill earmarks \$35 million for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities program, \$51.9 million for the STEM+C program (which seeks to integrate computing into early childhood STEM education), \$46 million for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program, \$14 million for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program, \$62.5 million for the Advanced Informal STEM Learning Program, and \$55 million for Cyber Corps: Scholarships for Service. It also includes \$15 million to establish a capacity-building program for Hispanic Service Institutions.

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
National Science Foundation	7463.5	7564.0	7406.1	7509.8	7472.2	0.1%
Research and Related Activities	6033.6	6079.4	6079.4	6033.6	6033.6	0.0%
Education and Human Resources	880.0	898.9	880.0	880.0	880.0	0.0%
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	200.3	193.1	87.1	246.6	209.0	4.3%
Agency Operations and Award Management	330.0	373.0	340.0	330.0	330.0	0.0%
National Science Board	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0%
Office of the Inspector General	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	0.3%

Appendix A: NIH Funding by Institute and Center

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 House	FY 2017 Senate	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
National Institutes of Health	32084.0	33136.3	33334.0	34084.0	34084.0	6.2%
John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences	70.4	69.1	72.1	73.0	72.2	2.6%
National Cancer Institute	5214.7	5097.3	5338.4	5429.8	5389.2	3.3%
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	685.4	660.1	712.8	713.8	705.9	3.0%
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	130.8	126.7	134.5	136.2	134.7	3.0%
National Eye Institute	715.9	687.2	737.6	740.8	732.6	2.3%
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	3115.5	3069.9	3190.5	3242.7	3206.6	2.9%
National Human Genome Research Institute	518.9	509.8	531.4	534.5	528.6	1.9%
National Institute on Aging	1600.2	1265.1	1982.1	2067.1	2048.6	28.0%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	467.4	459.6	480.3	488.8	483.4	3.4%
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	4629.9	4700.5	4738.9	4961.3	4906.6	6.0%
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	542.1	532.7	555.2	564.1	557.9	2.9%
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	346.8	334.0	357.0	361.1	357.1	3.0%
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	1339.8	1316.6	1373.4	1395.8	1380.3	3.0%
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	423.0	416.1	434.1	441.8	436.9	3.3%
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	415.6	404.6	425.6	430.5	425.8	2.5%
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	1818.4	1936.1	1862.1	1891.6	1870.6	2.9%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1077.5	1020.5	1107.7	1103.0	1090.9	1.2%
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	693.7	681.6	710.4	722.3	714.3	3.0%
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	2513.1	2434.1	2583.8	2633.7	2650.8	5.5%
National Institute of Mental Health	1548.4	1459.7	1599.7	1619.5	1601.9	3.5%
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	279.7	279.7	286.4	292.3	289.1	3.4%
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	1696.1	1659.4	1751.0	1803.3	1783.7	5.2%
National Institute of Nursing Research	146.9	143.9	150.0	152.0	150.3	2.3%
National Library of Medicine	394.7	395.1	403.1	412.1	407.5	3.2%

Appendix B: Funding for Other Agencies Relevant to Social and Behavioral Science Research

<i>(in millions)</i>	Enacted FY 2016	Proposed FY 2017	FY 2017 Final	2017 vs. 2016
Bureau of Economic Analysis	105.1	107.6	103.3	-1.7%
Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs, Department of State	590.9	639.8	634.1	7.3%
Energy Information Administration	122	131	122	0.0%
National Archives and Records Administration	372.4	398.0	380.6	2.2%
National Endowment for the Humanities	147.9	149.8	149.8	1.3%
Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development	85	185	89	4.7%
United States Institute of Peace	35.3	37.9	37.9	7.4%
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	10.5	10.4	10.5	0.0%

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