



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

FY 2019 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$8.45 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY 2019.

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 **55 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$42 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)** and **\$48 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**, respectively, for FY 2019.

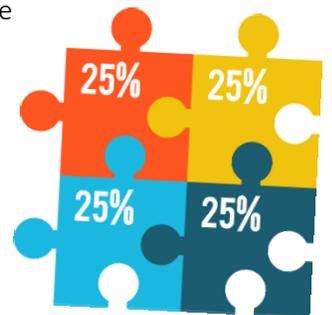
Numerous pressing criminal justice and law enforcement issues are at the fore of public consciousness today, including understanding the **mental health** needs of people who become involved in the justice system, **school safety**, the **drivers of domestic radicalization**, **effective solutions to opioid addiction**, and **ways to improve police officer safety** and **community relations**. 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 **\$4.735 billion to the U.S. Census Bureau** in FY 2019 to keep the agency on track to execute an innovative and cost-effective 2020 Decennial Census and maintain support for its other crucial economic and demographic surveys.

With the 2020 Census less than two years away, the Census Bureau is entering its peak phase of decennial operations. The Bureau is putting years of research, testing, evaluation, and development into practice in service of the nation's largest peacetime mobilization. In FY 2019, the Bureau will finalize its operational plan for 2020, building on the lessons learned during the 2018 End-to-End Census Test, the "dress rehearsal" for the real count. The Bureau will begin hiring tens of thousands of census workers, launch the first phase of its public information campaign to educate communities about the Census, mobilize thousands of partner organizations to enhance its reach in hard-to-count communities, and finalize IT systems to ensure the security of Americans' personal information. With time before Census Day running out, **robust and stable funding is essential in order for the Bureau to complete the necessary preparations and ensure a fair and accurate Census**. The Census Bureau is obligated by the U.S. Constitution to count every person in the country, regardless of expense. Interfering with the careful preparations undertaken by the Census Bureau—by inadequately funding operations during the lead-up years or by adding last-minute untested questions to the form—will only add to costs down the road.



COSSA also 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 critical component of the 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 2019 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 **at least \$39.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2019.**

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. An appropriation of \$39.3 billion, *in addition* to funds included in the *21st Century Cures Act* for targeted initiatives, 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 **\$454 million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for FY 2019.**

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 the evidence, data, and tools needed to tackle some of the health care system's greatest challenges. 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

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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 \$8.445 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and \$175 million for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in FY 2019.

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 urges Congress to appropriate \$670 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in FY 2019.

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 \$78.5 million for the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language programs in FY 2019.

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 \$78.5 million requested, COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$70.5 million to Title VI** and **\$8 million to Fulbright-Hays**.



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

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$1.67 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** and **\$525 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** in FY 2019.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) primary extramural funding agency, supports capacity-building programs to ensure that U.S. research institutions are equipped to conduct rigorous research that supports our agricultural sector. NIFA also administers USDA's premier peer-reviewed grants program for basic and applied agriculture research, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Social and behavioral science research supported by NIFA 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 **\$180 million for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)** in FY 2019.



The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) produces timely, accurate, and useful statistics covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. A strong FY 2019 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 **\$90 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS)** in FY 2019.

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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