



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

2018 Social Science Advocacy Day FY 2019 Talking Points

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Thank you for meeting with us. **[INTRODUCE THE GROUP MEMBERS BY NAME/AFFILIATION AND EACH BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR WORK/EXPERTISE.]** Our organizations belong to 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 and hopefully eradicate the opioid 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 Ebola during the height of the epidemic in West Africa?
 - Political science research is used in counter terrorism efforts and international conflict prevention?
 - The IT industry depends on linguists for advancements in machine translation and artificial intelligence?
 - Research in psychology and economics has informed major changes in federal policy to encourage employers to take measures, such as automatic enrollment and contribution escalation, to increase the number of Americans now saving for retirement?
- Most people don't realize the extent to which we all rely on social and behavioral science in our everyday lives. For example, findings from social science research funded by the federal government:
 - Increase the efficiency of our industries;
 - Improve the quality of K-12 education;
 - Help us understand crime patterns and evaluate prevention strategies;
 - Help manage our natural resources;
 - Keep our troops safe; and
 - Help us to be informed as consumers.
- **[IF YOU ARE A RESEARCHER, STUDENT, OR UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATOR:** Provide more specifics on your work or research conducted at your institution. If you can, try to explain how it engages students, the number of jobs associated with the work, or how it contributes to our national interest.]

[OR]

[IF YOU ARE FROM AN ASSOCIATION OR SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY: Highlight some of the advancements within your discipline or subfield. If you can, try to explain how it contributes to our national interest.]

- I would like to draw your attention to the contributions federal support for social and behavioral science make to our local economy. **Included in your folder is a fact sheet detailing the amount and top recipients of federal social science funding in our state.** A significant amount of money comes to the state in the form of social science research funding each year. **[A COMPARISON OF ALL STATES IS INCLUDED IN YOUR FOLDER]**

OUR ASK:

- First, I know competition for scarce resources is a significant challenge. But I hope you will agree that scientific research is a critical investment and a driver of future economic growth and global competitiveness. Social and behavioral science research is supported and utilized across the federal government, including at the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, at federal statistical agencies, and many other departments and agencies. **We are asking for your strong support in FY 2019 for federal agencies that fund and use social and behavioral science research.** More information on these agencies and how they benefit our national interest can be found in your packet.
- Second, we ask that Congress reject specific policy and funding proposals that would be harmful to the social and behavioral science enterprise including the **proposal in the President’s FY 2019 budget request to disproportionately cut the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) at the National Science Foundation and the proposal to include a citizenship question on the 2020 Census** (see separate one-pager).
- Lastly, I **hope you will use us as resources**—as experts in your state—when topics come up for which it would be helpful to know the latest science. Please let me know if there are any policy or local issues for which it would be helpful to receive findings from the social and behavioral sciences. I would be happy to serve that role for you.
- Thank you** very much for taking the time to speak with us. Please do call on us or COSSA at any time.

CHEAT SHEET: COSSA’s “Asks”

COSSA’s “asks” for social science funding fall within three different appropriations bills, listed below. Refer to the three one-pagers in your blue folder for additional details. (Percentages are comparisons to the FY 2018 funding level)

Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (aka: “CJS bill”)

- National Science Foundation: **\$8.45 billion** (+9%)
- National Institute of Justice: **\$42 million** (maintain funding)
- Bureau of Justice Statistics: **\$48 million** (maintain funding)
- Census Bureau: **\$4.735 billion** (+68%)

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (aka: “Ag bill”)

- National Institute of Food and Agriculture: **\$1.67 billion** (+19%)
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: **\$525 million** (+31%)
- National Agricultural and Statistics Service: **\$180 million** (-6%)*
- Economic Research Service: **\$91.3 million** (+5%)

* Reflects ramped down funding after the 2017 Census of Agriculture

Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (aka: “Labor-HHS bill”)

- National Institutes of Health: **\$39.3 billion** (+6%)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: **\$454 million** (+36%)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: **\$8.445 billion** (+5%)
- National Center for Health Statistics: **\$175 million** (+9%)
- Institute of Education Sciences: **\$670 million** (+9%)
- International Education & Foreign Language Studies: **\$78.5 million** (+9%)