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Recap of the 2018 COSSA Science Policy Conference

COSSA held its 2018 Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day on April 30-May 1 in Washington, DC. The conference and advocacy day brought together COSSA members and other stakeholders for a day of discussion about federal policy impacting our science followed by the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences.

Plenary panels included "Post Truth: Communicating Facts, Not Fiction," featuring William K. Hallman, Rutgers University; Cary Funk, Pew Research Center; and Melanie Green, University at...
COSSA IN ACTION

Social Science Advocates Take to Capitol Hill

On May 1, 70 social and behavioral science researchers, stakeholders, and advocates met with their Members of Congress and staff to advocate in support of funding for federal agencies and programs that support social and behavioral science research. Advocates from 20 states converged on Capitol Hill, completing 79 individual meetings. Materials used to help articulate the value of social science research are available on the COSSA website, including fact sheets on COSSA’s FY 2019 funding requests. For more resources, and to participate in social science advocacy from home, visit COSSA’s Take Action page.

COSSA Submits Testimony in Support of Science Funding

On April 26, COSSA submitted testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2019. The testimony calls for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Institute for Education Sciences (IES), and International Education and Foreign Language Programs (Title VI and Fulbright-Hays).

The following day COSSA submitted testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for FY 2019. The testimony calls for increased funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the Census Bureau. You can read this and other statements on the COSSA website.

Letters & Statements

- 5/1/2018: Letter on FY 2019 Funding for the Bureau of Economic Analysis
- 5/1/2018: Census Project Letter on FY 2019 Funding for the Census Bureau

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Senators Join Together in Support of the Institute for Education Sciences

On April 11, 19 Senators submitted a letter to the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations subcommittee, in support of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). IES is the research and development agency of the Department of Education and also houses the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The letter calls for Congress to appropriate $670 million for IES, providing critical support for NCES as well as the National Center for Special Education Research, Regional Education Laboratories, and the National Center for Education Research.
Common Rule Agencies Release Proposal for 6-Month Delay of Revisions, Optional Implementation of "Burden-Reducing" Provisions; Comments Sought for 30 Days

On April , the 17 agencies regulated under the Common Rule, the set of regulations governing human subjects research, released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would delay implementation of revisions to the Common Rule by an additional six months, setting a new compliance date of January 21, 2019. The stated rationale for the delay is to "provide additional time to regulated entities for the preparations necessary to implement the 2018 Requirements." The Obama-era changes had been originally scheduled to go into effect on January 19, 2018 but were delayed by an Interim Final Rule announced in January 2018 that pushed the compliance date by six months, to July 19, 2018, and indicated that further delays might be proposed. The rulemaking process to update the Common Rule has been in progress since 2011 (read COSSA's summary of the proposed changes). The regulations themselves have not been updated since 1991.

Read on for more details.

Nomination Opportunities

- CDC: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Closes: June 1, 2018)
- AHRQ: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Closes: May 15, 2018)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH/NIGMS: Training Modules to Enhance the Rigor and Reproducibility of Biomedical Research (Closes: June 29, 2018)
- NEW: SSA/ORES: Retirement and Disability Research Consortium (RDRC) (Closes: June 8, 2018)
- IARPA: Forecasting Counterfactuals in Uncontrolled Settings (FOCUS) (Closes: May 30, 2018)
- NIFA: Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program (Closes: May 24, 2018)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- NEW: NIH/NIA: Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Scientific Interest in Geroscience Summit III (Closes: June 1, 2018)
- IARPA: Request for Information on Credibility Assessment Datasets (Closes: May 31, 2018)
- NEW: OHRP: Comment Period on Six Month Delay of Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (Closes: May 21, 2018)
- NIJ: Request for Comment on Changes to the National Crime Victim Survey (Closes: May 11, 2018)
- NSF: Request for Public Comment on New Reporting Requirements Regarding Findings of Sexual Harassment, Other Forms of Harassment, or Sexual Assault (Closes: May 4, 2018)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

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COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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- CASBS: [Nominations Open for 2018 SAGE-CASBS Award](#) (Closes: May 7, 2018)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- NIH/OBSSR: Screening and Referral for Social Determinants of Health: Innovative Health Care Applications and Future Directions, May 3, 2018, Bethesda, MD
- The Lab @ DC: Taking Stock of the District's Housing Stock, May 3, 2018, Washington, DC
- CNSF Exhibition & Reception, May 9, 2019, Washington, DC
- American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference, May 16-19, 2018, Denver, CO
- Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, May 29-June 1, 2018, Washington, DC
- The Lab @ DC: Why the Maternal Mortality Rate is so High in DC and How We Address It, May 31, 2018, Washington, DC
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 7-10, 2018, Toronto, Canada
- Joint Statistical Meetings, July 28-August 2, 2018, Vancouver, Canada

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA events page. COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@cossa.org.
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (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.