



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the Senate FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill | June 15, 2018

On June 14, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Bill; the bill was marked up in subcommittee on June 12. The CJS bill serves as the vehicle for annual appropriations for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and many other federal departments and agencies. The House Appropriations Committee passed its bill on May 17. Read COSSA's full analysis of the House bill [here](#).

At a Glance...

- **The Senate CJS bill includes \$8.1 billion for NSF in FY 2019**, which is 3.9 percent above the FY 2018 enacted level and 8 percent above the President's request, but about 1 percent below the House's proposal.
- **The Senate bill would provide NIJ with \$42 million and BJS with \$48 million**, flat with the FY 2018 enacted level and 17 percent above the President's request for both agencies.
- **The Senate bill would provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$3.82 billion for FY 2019**, which is slightly higher than the Administration's request (+\$21 million) but nearly \$1 billion below the House's proposal.

The next step for the bill is consideration by the full Senate. It remains to be seen whether/how Senate leadership will proceed with the individual appropriations bills this year, but with most of the Senate's August recess cancelled, more time is available for considering the spending bills. However, the entire House is up for reelection and other priorities remain to be considered, so it is still likely that FY 2019 will begin under a continuing resolution (CR) on October 1, 2018. Summarized below are the Senate Appropriations Committee's proposals for the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the Census Bureau.

The bill, Committee's full report, and webcast of the markup can be found [here](#).

COSSA's coverage of the President's FY 2019 budget request and other funding developments is available [here](#).

National Science Foundation

The Senate CJS bill includes \$8.1 billion for NSF in FY 2019, which is 3.9 percent over the FY 2018 enacted level and 8 percent above the President's request. The Committee enthusiastically rejected the Trump Administration's proposed reductions to NSF, earning the bill bipartisan praise in both subcommittee and full committee markups.

The Senate bill proposes \$6.6 billion for the Research and Related Activities account, which funds NSF’s six research directorates, a 3.5 percent increase over the FY 2018 enacted amount. The bill would provide a modest 1.4 percent increase for the Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate. Much like the FY 2019 proposal from the House, the largest comparative increase proposed for NSF is the Major Research Equipment, Facilities and Construction (MREFC) account, which the committee recommended receive \$249 million, 36.4 percent more than enacted in FY 2018.

The Senate bill does not include any language targeting the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Science Directorate (SBE) for cuts, which we have seen in recent years. The bill as written preserves NSF’s flexibility to fund the very best science across all scientific domains. The absence of language targeting SBE is a significant win for the social science research community and NSF more broadly.

The Committee included some passages of note in the report accompanying the bill. The report states that “the Committee is supportive of NSF using its position as the lead Federal agency in supporting basic research in all fundamental science areas and expects that as NSF uses the 10 Big Ideas as a focusing tool, the funding for the fundamental scientific disciplines will be maintained” and that “the Committee has provided significant funding above the amount provided in fiscal year 2018 and also above the amount requested in fiscal year 2019. Therefore, NSF shall maintain its core research at levels not less than those provided in fiscal year 2017.” This language seems to clarify that the NSF should not diminish funding for its core research to support the new [10 Big Ideas](#) initiative, which was a concern expressed by some.

| | Enacted FY 2018 | Request FY 2019 | House FY 2019 | Senate FY 2019 | Senate vs. FY 2018 | Senate vs. Request | House vs. Senate |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| National Science Foundation | 7767.4 | 7472.0 | 8174.9 | 8068.7 | 3.9% | 8.0% | 1.3% |
| Research and Related Activities | 6334.5 | 6150.7 | 6651.5 | 6556.2 | 3.5% | 6.6% | 1.5% |
| Education and Human Resources | 902.0 | 873.4 | 902.0 | 915.0 | 1.4% | 4.8% | -1.4% |
| Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction | 182.8 | 94.7 | 268.0 | 249.3 | 36.4% | 163.3% | 7.5% |
| Agency Operations and Award Management | 328.5 | 333.6 | 333.6 | 328.5 | 0.0% | -1.5% | 1.6% |
| National Science Board | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 0.0% | 1.2% | 0.0% |
| Office of the Inspector General | 15.2 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 1.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics

The Senate bill would provide \$48 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and \$42 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). This would represent flat funding for both agencies compared with FY 2018 enacted levels. The report accompanying the bill includes some notable language. The committee report proposes that \$4 million of NIJ’s appropriation be directed to studying domestic radicalization, \$1 million to research school violence, \$1 million to administer a competitive grant to direct the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study, and \$3 million for NIJ to partner with a research university to establish a National Center on Restorative Justice with the purpose of educating and training the “next generation of justice leaders.” The committee also recommends transferring \$4 million from the Office of Violence Against Women to NIJ for research and evaluation on violence against women and Native American women.

| | Enacted FY 2018 | Request FY 2019 | House FY 2019 | Senate FY 2019 | Senate vs. FY 2018 | Senate vs. Request | House vs. Senate |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Bureau of Justice Statistics | 48.0 | 41 | 50.0 | 48.0 | 0.0% | 17.1% | 4.2% |
| National Institute of Justice | 42.0 | 36 | 44.0 | 42.0 | 0.0% | 16.7% | 4.8% |

Census Bureau

The Senate bill would provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$3.82 billion for FY 2019, which is slightly higher than the Administration’s request (+\$21 million) but nearly \$1 billion below the House’s proposal. The bill would maintain flat funding for the Bureau’s Current Surveys and Programs at \$270 million, which the Administration had proposed to cut. It would accept the President’s proposed allocation for Periodic Censuses and Programs, which includes the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey, of \$3.551 billion for FY 2019.

The Committee’s report directs the Bureau to “ensure that the current proposed decennial questionnaire and the impact of new enumeration methods do not negatively affect” potentially undercounted demographic groups but does not otherwise comment on the Administrations’ plans to add a citizenship on the 2020 Census. In addition, the report expresses concern about the “proposed levels for partnership staff and communications efforts for the 2020 Decennial Census” and directs the Census Bureau to provide a plan to increase “the number of partnership program staff, communication efforts, and field operations.”

In contrast to the House bill, which included report language calling the American Community Survey (ACS) “burdensome,” the Senate bill reiterates language from prior years in support of the survey:

“American Community Survey [ACS].—The Committee supports the ACS and directs the Bureau to continue using the ACS as a testbed for innovative survey and data processing techniques that can be used across the Bureau. The Committee notes that ACS is often the primary or only source of data available to State, local, and Federal agencies that need adequate information on a wide range of topics. The data provided is especially important to small towns and rural areas across the country, and the Bureau should ensure that rural areas are covered with the same accuracy as urban areas to the maximum extent practicable. The Committee further expects the Bureau to continue providing updates to the Committee on efforts to evaluate and, where possible, to reduce the number of questions included in the ACS, and the steps being taken to ensure that the ACS is conducted as efficiently and unobtrusively as possible.”

| | Enacted FY 2018 | Request FY 2019 | House FY 2019 | Senate FY 2019 | Senate vs. FY 2018 | Senate vs. Request | House vs. Senate |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Bureau of the Census | 2814.0 | 3800.5 | 4799.7 | 3821.4 | 35.8% | 0.5% | 25.6% |
| Current Surveys and Programs | 270.0 | 249.1 | 270.0 | 270.0 | 0.0% | 8.4% | 0.0% |
| Periodic Censuses and Programs | 2544.0 | 3551.4 | 4529.7 | 3551.4 | 39.6% | 0.0% | 27.5% |

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