



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

Introducing HEADLINES: A Monthly Look at What's New and Noteworthy in Social Science Policy

COSSA is excited to announce its newest program, [exclusively for members: *Headlines: A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy.*](#)

Launching in November, Headlines will be a monthly webchat in which members will learn about the latest policy and funding developments impacting social science research. The COSSA team, joined by periodic special guests, will take participants behind the headlines and explain what they need to know. COSSA is excited to offer this interactive space for members to get the policy-related information they need when they need it.



The first edition of Headlines will be two days after the midterm elections for a discussion on the "2018 Midterm Election Results and What's Next for Social Science Funding and Policy." During this webchat, COSSA will recap the results of the 2018 midterm elections, including the notable winners and losers, changes in Congressional leadership, and how the results will affect the Congressional committees overseeing social science funding and policy. Presenters will also look ahead and share our outlook for what to expect in the coming months and answer questions. COSSA members can [register here](#) to attend November's monthly webchat.

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA Encourages Response to NIH Clinical Trials RFI

As [previously reported](#), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been taking steps in recent years to enhance its stewardship of and increase transparency over the clinical trials it funds. This has included the development of a new, expanded definition of the term "clinical trial," which now applies to all research involving human subjects that involves a *prospective experimental manipulation of an independent variable*, and triggers the need for researchers to adhere to a number of new registering and reporting requirements using clinicaltrials.gov (see COSSA's [Hot Topic](#) piece for details). Many basic behavioral and social science studies will be caught up in these new requirements.

NIH released a Request for Information (RFI) ([NOT-OD-18-217](#)) in September seeking input on the standards NIH should use in registration and results reporting for prospective basic science studies involving human participants (see [COSSA's previous coverage](#) of the RFI). COSSA has issued an [Action Alert](#) to assist stakeholders concerned about this revised "clinical trials" definition in responding to the RFI. The alert includes additional context on the NIH clinical trials policy, a step-by-step guide to responding to the RFI, and sample text respondents can use in submitting their comments. **Responses to the RFI are due by November 12, 2018.** COSSA encourages individuals concerned about this policy to respond and share the action alert widely.

COSSA Seeks Interns for 2019

COSSA is accepting internship applications for the spring semester beginning in January 2019. The opportunity is best suited for undergraduate students who wish to learn about advocacy/lobbying, policy impacting social science, and/or non-profit organizations. Responsibilities include conducting research to assist COSSA staff with their lobbying activities and coverage of events, such as Congressional hearings, federal agency advisory committee meetings, community and coalition events, which may result in a written product, such as a contribution to the COSSA Washington Update. More information is available in the [internship description](#). Applications will be evaluated as they are received, so apply now!

Disaster Researchers Brandi Gilbert and Nnenia Campbell Answer "Why Social Science?"



The latest *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Brandi Gilbert of the Urban Institute and Nnenia Campbell of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder, who write about what social science research related to children and older adults has taught us about building community resilience and enhancing recovery after disasters. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

Letters & Statements

- 10/16/2018: [Thank-You Letter to Appropriators for Medical and Public Health Research Funding in FY 2019](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Census Reissues Request for Input on 2020 Data Products

The Census Bureau has reopened a [request for comments](#) published [over the summer](#) to encourage additional feedback on how data products from prior decennial censuses (including summary and detailed tables, national and state demographic profiles, and topical briefs) have been used. As part of the Bureau's ongoing efforts to safeguard privacy, **some data products released after previous decennial censuses may be eliminated**. Stakeholder input is necessary to help the Bureau prioritize which data products are most important to maintain. More information, including specific questions of interest to the Bureau and a spreadsheet containing a complete list of data products and tables, is available in the original [Federal Register](#) notice published in July. Note: this request does not have any bearing on the inclusion of a [citizenship question](#) in the 2020 Census. Comments must be submitted by November 8, 2018.

NSF Releases Dear Colleague Letter on Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure Opportunities

On October 15, the National Science Foundation (NSF) [released a Dear Colleague Letter](#), signed by the Assistant Directors of all seven research directorates and various Office Heads, announcing the intention to release Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure funding opportunities this fall. Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure is one of [NSF's 10 Big Ideas](#) for future investment and focuses on experimental research capabilities in the mid-scale range (projects costing between \$6 million and \$70 million)-including in the social and behavioral sciences-that will serve as enabling tools for research and support the work of many investigators over time. The letter ([NSF 19-013](#)) outlined that one solicitation will include an opportunity to propose Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure projects with a total project cost of between approximately \$6 million and approximately \$20 million, pending the availability of funds, and a second solicitation is expected to include an opportunity to propose projects with a total project cost of between approximately \$20 million and approximately \$70 million, also pending the availability of funds. Keep up with the COSSA Washington Update for the release of these funding opportunities.

NIH Seeks Input on BRAIN Initiative

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking feedback through November 15 on a Request for Information (RFI) on the next phase of the [Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies \(BRAIN\) Initiative \(NOT-NS-18-075\)](#). The agency is requesting input on the vision, priorities and goals outlined in the 2014 strategic plan, specifically in the following areas:

ideas for new tools and technologies that have the potential to transform brain circuit research, questions about brain circuit function in humans or animal models that could be addressed with new technologies, considerations for data sharing infrastructure and policies, questions about ethical implications of BRAIN-supported neurotechnologies and advancements, approaches for disseminating new tools and technologies, and training the broader neuroscience research community. The American Psychological Association (APA), a COSSA member, provides additional details [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

- NIH: [Predoctoral Training in Advanced Data Analytics for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research \(BSSR\) - Institutional Research Training Program \[T32\]](#) (Opens: April 25, 2019)
- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: NSF ENG, GEO, and SBE Directorates Accepting Proposals for Research Related to the 2018 Hurricane Season](#)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Navigating the New Arctic \(NNA\)](#) (Closes: February 14, 2019)
- NSF: [Understanding the Rules of Life: Epigenetics](#) (Closes: February 1, 2019)
- NSF: [Understanding the Rules of Life: Building a Synthetic Cell](#) (Closes: December 28, 2018)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- **NEW:** NSF: [National Science Board Statement on Security and Science](#)
- Census: [Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey](#) (Closes: December 17, 2018)
- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure \(Mid-scale RI\) Opportunities](#)
- NIH: [Request for Information \(RFI\) on Proposed Provisions for a Draft Data Management and Sharing Policy for NIH Funded or Supported Research](#) (Closes: December 10, 2018)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems \(NCS\)](#) (FRONTIERS LOI Due: December 7, 2018; FOUNDATIONS LOI Due: January 8, 2019)
- NIH: [Request for Information To Solicit Feedback on the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies \(BRAIN\) Initiative](#) (Closes: November 15, 2018)
- NIH: [Request for Information \(RFI\): Registration and Results Reporting Standards for Prospective Basic Science Studies Involving Human Participants](#) (Closes: November 12, 2018)
- **NEW:** Census: [Soliciting Feedback From Users on 2020 Census Data Products; Reopening of Comment Period](#) (Closes: November 8, 2018)

Recent Reports

- **NEW:** NIJ: [Corrections Strategic Research Plan 2018-2023](#)

Open Positions

- NIH: [Deputy Director, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development \(NICHD\)](#) (Closes: December 5, 2018)
- NSF: [Division Director, Social and Economic Sciences, SBE](#) (Closes: October 31, 2018)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

Briefing Highlights Role of Vital Statistics in Protecting Maternal and Child Health

On October 25, the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and the March of Dimes held a Congressional briefing entitled "Vital Statistics: Vital to Maternal and Child Health." The briefing featured Shawna Webster, Executive Director of NAPHSIS; Devin George, State Registrar and Director for the Louisiana Bureau of Vital Records and Statistics; Rebecca Russell, Senior Director of Applied Research for the March of Dimes; Judette Louis, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of South Florida; and Elizabeth Saadi, State Registrar in the Kansas Office of Vital Statistics.

[Read on](#) for more details.

Notices & Requests for Comment

- NASEM: [Committee on Assessing the Minerva Research Initiative and the Contribution of Social Science to Addressing Security Concerns: Call for Public Comments](#)

Recent Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [English Learners in STEM Subjects: Transforming Classrooms, Schools, and Lives](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Carol Dweck Receives the 2018 SAGE-CASBS Award

On October 23, SAGE Publishing and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University, a COSSA member, announced that [Carol Dweck](#) of Stanford University is the recipient of the [2018 SAGE-CASBS Award](#). The SAGE-CASBS Award recognizes outstanding achievement in the behavioral and social sciences that advance our understanding of pressing social issues. Dweck has previously held posts at Columbia University, Harvard University, and the University of Illinois and is most associated with launching a body of research collectively showing that individuals possess implicit theories of intelligence that reside on a continuum from "fixed mindset" to "growth mindset" - now widely-used concepts that Dweck defined and clarified. Dweck will deliver a public lecture in March 2019 at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

Fellowships & Professional Development

- APA: [Congressional Fellowship](#), [Jacquelin Goldman Congressional Fellowship](#), and [Executive Branch Science Fellowship](#) (Close: January 6, 2019)
- AERA: [AERA Congressional Fellowship](#) (Closes: December 15, 2018)
- SRCD: Federal and State Policy Fellowships (Close: December 14, 2018)
- CASBS: [CASBS Fellowship](#) (Closes: November 2, 2018)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Evaluation 2018](#) (American Evaluation Association), October 29-November 3, 2018, Cleveland, OH
- NIH: [NICHD Strategic Planning Webinar](#), October 31, 2018
- [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), November 1-4, 2018, Seattle, WA
- [North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting](#), November 7-10, 2018, San Antonio, TX
- [National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference](#), November 7-10, 2018, San Diego, CA

- [Social Science History Association Annual Meeting](#), November 8-11, 2018, Phoenix, AZ
- [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), November 8-11, 2018, Salt Lake City, UT
- [Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference](#), November 8-10, 2018, Washington, DC
- [Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), November 8-11, 2018, Orlando, FL
- [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), November 14-17, 2018, Atlanta, GA
- [Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Annual Meeting](#), November 14-17, 2018, Chicago, IL
- [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), November 14-18, 2018, San Jose, CA
- [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention](#), November 15-18, 2018, Washington, DC
- [African Studies Association Annual Meeting](#), November 29-December 1, 2018, Atlanta, GA

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@coffa.org.

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
 American Association for Public Opinion Research
 American Economic Association
 American Educational Research Association
 American Political Science Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Society of Criminology
 American Sociological Association
 American Statistical Association
 Association of American Law Schools
 Law and Society Association
 Linguistic Society of America
 Midwest Political Science Association
 National Communication Association
 Population Association of America
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology
 Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
 African Studies Association
 American Association of Geographers
 American Council of Learned Societies
 American Evaluation Association
 American Historical Association
 American Psychosomatic Society
 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
 Association of Research Libraries
 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
 Council on Social Work Education
 Economic History Association
 History of Science Society
 Midwest Sociological Society
 National Association of Social Workers

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 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
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 Cornell University
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 Fielding Graduate University
 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
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 Johns Hopkins University
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 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota

National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

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University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
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University of Virginia
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Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
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Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
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University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
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Social Science Research Council

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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.

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