



# FY 2020 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS for SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

## LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

*COSSA joins with organizations across the science, research, and data community in requesting robust funding in FY 2020 for the many agencies funded within the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill that support research and produce data critical to the social and behavioral sciences. Their vital contributions to the social science enterprise make our population healthier, our democracy fairer, our nation safer, and our economy stronger.*

### National Institutes of Health: \$41.6 billion

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate at least \$41.6 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2020. 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. 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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: \$460 million

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$460 million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for FY 2020. 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; identifying strategies to help primary care practices cope with the challenges of the opioid epidemic; and helping 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: \$7.8 billion National Center for Health Statistics: \$175 million



COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and \$175 million for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in FY 2020. As the country's leading health protection and surveillance agency, 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, 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.

## Bureau of Labor Statistics: \$655 million



COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$655 million for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for its core programs in FY 2020. BLS produces **economic data that are essential for evidence-based decision-making** by businesses and financial markets, federal and local officials, and households faced with spending and career choices. BLS produces some of the statistical system's most recognizable products and surveys, including the national employment rate, the Consumer Price Index, and the Consumer Expenditure Survey, as well as data on other crucial labor market areas such as inflation, pay and benefits, workplace injuries, employment by occupation, and productivity.

## Institute of Education Sciences: \$670 million



COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$670 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in FY 2020. IES provides the nation with **important 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.

## International Education & Foreign Language Studies: \$106 million



COSSA urges Congress to appropriate a total of \$106 million for the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language programs in FY 2020. The Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs play an active role in **keeping American students at the forefront of global education**. They 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 \$106 million requested, COSSA urges Congress to appropriate **\$95.7 million to Title VI** and **\$10.4 million to Fulbright-Hays**.





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## COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE & RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

COSSA joins with organizations across the science, research, and data community in requesting robust funding in FY 2020 for the many agencies funded within the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill that support research and produce data critical to the social and behavioral sciences. Their vital contributions to the social science enterprise make our population healthier, our democracy fairer, our nation safer, and our economy stronger.

### National Science Foundation: \$9 billion

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$9 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY 2020. 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**. The agency's "portfolio" approach to the research it supports 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 research across all scientific disciplines through both its core research directorates and its cross-cutting 10 Big Ideas initiative, which aims to address some of the most pressing problems the world faces.

**NSF 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 American winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences over the last 20 years has been an NSF grantee.

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. COSSA urges Congress to maintain NSF's authority over the distribution of its precious research dollars and ensure a balanced approach is taken within NSF to support the 10 Big Ideas while maintaining support for NSF's core research activities.



## National Institute of Justice: \$46.5 million

## Bureau of Justice Statistics: \$48 million



COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$46.5 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and \$48 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), respectively, for FY 2020. 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: \$8.45 billion

COSSA urges Congress to appropriate \$8.45 billion to the U.S. Census Bureau in FY 2020 to support the agency as it conducts the 2020 Decennial Census and to maintain support for its other crucial economic and demographic surveys. The Census Bureau will require a substantial appropriation in FY 2020 as it completes preparations for and executes the next decennial census, the nation's largest non-military mobilization. Further complicating 2020 preparations is the potential addition of a citizenship question, which, while currently in legal limbo, could be re-added to the questionnaire before Census Day. Given the potential—and currently unquantified—impact this question could have on self-response, it is crucial that the Bureau have sufficient FY 2020 funding to enable it to nimbly respond to contingencies like this to protect the quality of the Census.



Funding in FY 2020 will be used to complete a final push of preparation ahead of Census Day, to orchestrate the massive operation, and to begin the process of analyzing the data once the count wraps up. Underfunding the Census in its final push towards Census Day on April 1, 2020 could undo years of work and preparation, resulting in disastrous consequences for the accuracy of the census count.

**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 component of the Constitutionally-mandated 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 make the survey voluntary would significantly undermine the ability to collect usable data on all U.S. counties, particularly in less populous, rural areas of the country.

