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# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## FEATURED NEWS

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### **Administration Releases FY 2020 Budget Request; Read COSSA's Analysis of Social Science Impacts**

On March 11, the Trump Administration released a preview of its [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2020 budget](#)

[request to Congress](#), with additional details unveiled the following weeks. The budget was delivered about a month late, largely due to the partial government shutdown that paralyzed much of the federal workforce throughout December and January.

The President's request proposes steep cuts to all corners of the federal budget, with the exception of national security-focused agencies which would see significant boosts. When considering the Trump Administration's proposals for FY 2020 it is important to remember that the budget request remains a political, largely symbolic document outlining the Administration's priorities for the years ahead. It is important to take note of the policy priorities contained within the budget as they could shape some legislative and/or executive actions later in the year; however, as is always the case, Congress has the final say over the appropriation of funds and, in the case of the FY 2020 budget request, legislators are not likely to share the President's funding priorities, especially cuts to research, the elimination of entire agencies, and reductions in domestic funding more generally.

[Read on](#) for COSSA's full analysis of the President's proposals as they pertain to social and behavioral science research. You can read our supplement on the Department of Commerce budget request (which was released late) [here](#).

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## COSSA IN ACTION

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### Read COSSA's 2018 Annual Report

COSSA's [2018 Annual Report](#) is out now. Check it out to learn more about COSSA's activities and successes over the past year. Find out how your organization can become a member of COSSA [on our website](#).

### Congressman Paul Tonko Answers "Why Social Science?"



The latest *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Congressman Paul Tonko, of New York's 20th Congressional District, who writes about the role social science can play in helping to address climate change. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

### Letters & Statements

- 3/28/2019: [CNSF Letter on FY 2020 Budget Caps](#)
- 3/25/2019: Letter on Investment in Data and Surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [House/Senate](#)

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## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

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### Release of President's Budget Puts Pressure on Congress to Raise Caps; COSSA Urges Advocates to Take Action

The release of the President's budget request signals the official kick-off of the annual appropriations process in Congress. However, before Congress can fully dive into the FY 2020 bills, lawmakers must address a larger threat facing federal funding for next year. As COSSA has

been reporting, discretionary spending that is appropriated every year by Congress has been subject to austere caps that were put in place in 2011 as part of a larger effort to significantly reduce the size of the federal budget over 10 years. The Budget Control Act of 2011, or BCA, put in place caps on discretionary spending for both nondefense and defense spending for the period of 2013 through 2021.

Thankfully, since 2013, Congress has been able to find bipartisan ways to amend the BCA and provide relief to the caps, allowing federal R&D agencies (as well as other parts of the federal budget) to achieve funding increases above the caps each year. However, the latest relief measures only raised the caps for fiscal years 2018 and 2019, meaning that unless Congress acts to address the caps again for FY 2020, they will take effect once again, resulting in a cut of \$54 billion (9 percent) from nondefense discretionary (NDD) spending (which includes most research accounts), and \$71 billion (11 percent) from defense discretionary accounts. In future years, under the President's proposal, NDD funding would be reduced by an additional 2 percent each year through 2029, while shifting funding to "resource national defense requirements." Interestingly, the President's request itself violates the BCA by proposing to bust the defense discretionary caps by \$165 billion (using the controversial Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account to further pad defense budgets). Therefore, regardless of where you stand, a deal will need to be struck in some form in the coming months if either side-defense or nondefense-are to see desired increases.

Lawmakers have already started talks and will be working for the next several months to attempt to strike a deal to prevent these cuts from taking effect in FY 2020. Of course, given the hyper-partisan and contentious nature of today's Washington, a bipartisan deal is not guaranteed. You can expect to see the funding debate heat up in the coming weeks and perhaps also stretch into the fall or beyond.

COSSA has issued an [action alert](#) urging members to write to their Members of Congress to tell them to prioritize a budget deal that gives fair treatment to vital non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs-including science and research agencies-- which have disproportionately borne the brunt of federal spending cuts over the past several years.

## **Congressional Appropriators Get to Work; NSF Director Testifies**

Following the release of the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2020 [budget request](#), Congressional leaders have gotten to work on spending bills for the coming fiscal year. As COSSA has previously reported, Congress must first address the limits to discretionary spending ("raise the caps") before they can complete the FY 2020 appropriations process. Congress has until the end of September to finalize all government spending. COSSA has signed onto a [letter](#) as part of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) to encourage Congress to raise the caps on discretionary spending.

While Congress has yet to reach a broader budget deal to address the caps on discretionary spending, Appropriations Subcommittees have started reviewing federal agencies' budget requests as the first step in the appropriations process.

Last week, the House Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee (CJS) received testimony from France Córdoba, the Director of the National Science Foundation, on the agency's FY 2020 budget request. In her prepared statement, Director Córdoba emphasized NSF's [Ten Big Ideas](#) and the many contributions that NSF-funded research has made to the everyday lives of Americans - from iPhone and search engine technology to Doppler radar and American Sign Language adoption. Members of the subcommittee expressed concern about the proposed twelve percent decrease for the agency in FY 2020, and how the agency was going to balance the rest of their research portfolio while investing in the Ten Big Ideas. Members of the subcommittee also highlighted the importance of social science in relation to the priorities of the NSF, including artificial intelligence, and their own priorities, including program evaluation,

STEM education, and economic opportunity. Other topics of discussion included NSF investment in scientific infrastructure and broadening participation in STEM. An archive of the hearing can be viewed on the House Appropriations Committee [website](#).

Leaders from the [National Institutes of Health](#) and the [Census Bureau](#) are scheduled to testify this week. For more information on Appropriations hearings and bills follow the *COSSA Washington Update*.

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## FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

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### IES Requests Comment on Proposed Priorities

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the statistics, research, and evaluation arm of the Department of Education, has released a request for comment on proposed priorities for IES. The [Federal Register Notice](#) explains that the request is part of the process required by the agency's authorizing legislation to receive public comment on priorities the Director of IES recommends to the [National Board for Education Sciences](#).

Proposed priorities fall into two categories: A Focus on Outcomes and Increasing Dissemination and Use. The Outcomes priority includes specific outcomes at the preschool, K-12, and postsecondary levels of education. The Dissemination and Use priority includes a renewed focus on enhancing the experience of *What Works Clearinghouse* users, increasing outreach to teachers, and investing in postsecondary programs that support education researchers.

Comments will close on May 28, 2019. More information can be found in the [Federal Register](#).

### NSF Releases Dear Colleague on Research on Sexual Harassment in STEM

The National Science Foundation (NSF) released a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) on March 29 highlighting NSF's continued support for competitive research that advances fundamental knowledge about the nature and underlying dynamics of sexual and other forms of harassment and the evaluation of harassment prevention in research, STEM, and workplace settings. The letter outlines that NSF has designated liaisons for harassment research in their research directorates and offices to help potential grantees determine whether a research idea is within the scope of the Dear Colleague Letter and appropriate for existing programs at NSF. The letter also includes several potential research foci in the social and behavioral sciences including understanding the underlying social and behavioral process, mechanisms for assessing and evaluating harassment prevalence and prevention, and the nature and dynamics of harassment.

More information can be found on the NSF [website](#).

### Nomination Opportunities

- AHRQ: [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) (Closes: May 15, 2019)

### Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** BJS: [FY 2019 Survey of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies \(SCLEA\)](#) (Closes: May 28, 2019)
- **NEW:** BJS: [BJS Statistical Support Program](#) (Closes: May 28, 2019)
- **NEW:** BJS: [Survey of Public Defenders \(SPD\)](#) (Closes: May 28, 2019)
- **NEW:** BJS: [FY 2019 Graduate Research Fellowship Program for Criminal Justice Statistics](#) (Closes: May 21, 2019)
- NIH/NIGMS: [Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement \(G-RISE\)](#)

- [\(T32\)](#) (Closes: May 21, 2019)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Research on Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Harassment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics \(STEM\) Contexts](#)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grants](#) (Closes: May 13, 2019)
- NIH: [Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives](#) (Closes: May 13, 2019)
- NIH: [Research Project Grant \(Parent R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#) (Opens: May 7, 2019)
- BJS: [Law Enforcement Core Statistics \(LECS\) Program FY 2019 Competitive Grant Solicitation](#) (Closes: May 6, 2019)
- NIH: [Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime FY 2019](#) (Closes: May 6, 2019)
- NIH: [Predoctoral Training in Advanced Data Analytics for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research \(BSSR\) - Institutional Research Training Program \[T32\]](#) (Opens: April 25, 2019)
- NIH: [Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice](#) (Closes: April 19, 2019)
- NIH: [Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics](#) (Closes: April 17, 2019)
- NSF: [NSF Convergence Accelerator Pilot \(NSF C-Accel\)](#) (Closes: April 15, 2019)
- NIH: [Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes](#) (Closes: April 11, 2019)

## Notices & Requests for Comment

- NIH: [Request for Information \(RFI\) Seeking Stakeholder Input on the Need for an NIH Administrative Data Enclave](#) (Closes: May 30, 2019)
- **NEW:** IES: [Proposed Priorities for the Institute of Education Sciences and Request for Comment](#) (Closes: May 28, 2019)
- **NEW:** BJS: [Public comments requested on the proposed reinstatement and update of BJS's Identity Theft Supplement \(2020/2022\) to the National Crime Victimization Survey](#) (Closes: May 20, 2019)
- **NEW:** NIH: [NIH Releases Protocol Template for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Involving Humans](#)
- **NEW:** NIH: [NIH Funding Strategies](#)

## Fellowships & Professional Development

- NIH: [Graduate Research Fellowship in the Social and Behavioral Sciences](#) (Closes: April 8, 2019)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

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### Notices & Requests for Comment

- NASEM: [National Call for Commitment Statements on Reversing the U.S. Opioid Epidemic](#) (Closes: April 15, 2019)

### Recent Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Save Lives](#)

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## COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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### Recent Reports

- **NEW:** ISA: [Annual Report on the State of Linguistics in Higher Education](#)

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- [NSF Convergence Accelerator Pilot \(NSF C-Accel\) Webinar](#), April 3, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting](#), April 3-7, 2019, Washington, DC
- [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), April 4-7, 2019, Chicago, IL
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), April 5-9, 2019, Toronto, Canada
- [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), April 10-13, 2019, Atlanta, GA
- [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), April 10-13, 2019, Austin, TX
- [COSSA Headlines | April Headlines & Deep Dive on FY 2020: Part II - Time to Act](#), April 12, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), April 17-20, 2019, Chicago, IL
- [American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting](#), April 25-27, 2019, New York, NY
- **COSSA 2019 Social Science Advocacy Day, April 30-May 1, 2019, Washington, DC**
- [COSSA Headlines | May Headlines & Deep Dive TBA](#), May 9, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration](#), May 15-17, 2019, Baltimore, MD
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 16-19, 2019, Toronto, Canada
- [NSF Grants Conference](#), May 20-21, 2019, Los Angeles, CA
- [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), May 28-31, 2019, San Francisco, CA
- [Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), May 30-June 2, 2019, Washington, DC

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](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

**REGISTER NOW!**



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### 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  
Law and Society Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Political Science Association  
National Communication Association

#### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Fielding Graduate University  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
Johns Hopkins University

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 American Law Schools  
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  
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

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
North Carolina State University  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University, The  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Stanford University  
Texas A&M University  
University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Georgia  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Texas, San Antonio  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

## Centers and Institutes

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

### COSSA

**Executive Director:** Wendy A. Naus

**Director of Public Affairs:** Julia Milton

**Assistant Director of Government Relations:** Camille Hosman

**Staff Assistant:** Ben Goodrich

*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.*