



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

President Issues Executive Order to Reduce Number of Federal Advisory Committees

On June 14, the White House released an [executive order](#) directing federal agencies to

eliminate at least one-third of their advisory committees by October 2019. The executive order applies to committees established under the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* (FACA) and provides exemptions for committees authorized in statute and merit review panels that are "necessary to fund extramural research." While merit review panels are exempt from the order, science advisory committees-important for delivering scientific advice and guidance to agency leaders across the government-are not.

Agencies are directed to terminate at least one-third of their advisory committees by the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2019. Agencies can seek waivers from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) if committees are "necessary for the delivery of essential services, for effective program delivery, or because it is otherwise warranted by the public interest." The order can be read on the White House [website](#) and a database of FACA committees is available [online](#). COSSA will be monitoring these developments and will report on any changes within agencies important to the social science community.

COSSA IN ACTION

Communications Researchers Answer "Why Social Science?"



The latest [Why Social Science?](#) guest post comes from communications researchers Leanne Knobloch of the University of Illinois and Steven R. Wilson of the University of South Florida, who write about how social science has helped us better meet the needs of U.S. servicemen and women. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

Letters & Statements

- 6/17/2019: [Census Project Letter on FY 2020 Funding for the Census Bureau](#)

Share Your Story with COSSA!

COSSA is always looking for tangible examples from the social and behavioral sciences to help make the case that federal investment in these sciences is not only a wise use of taxpayer dollars, but that this research yields results that make the nation and world healthier, safer, and more prosperous. If you have a social science story-- a research success, an example of how social science is being used effectively in your community, an educational experience or teacher who shaped the trajectory of your social science career, or any other experience or activity that showcases the many positive impacts the social and behavioral sciences make to all aspects of life-- share it with COSSA by filling out the [form on our website](#).



CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

House Passes First of FY 2020 Bills

The House of Representatives passed the first set of fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations bills on June 21, including the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill, which is responsible for funding the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of

Education, among other agencies. The House next turned to consideration of another package of bills, including the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies bill (CJS), which funds the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Census Bureau, among other agencies. At the time of publication, the House is still considering the CJS bill package, but is expected to pass nearly all twelve appropriations bills before Congress leaves for Independence Day recess.

While the House has nearly completed its appropriations work, the Senate Appropriations Committee is waiting for top-level discretionary funding (known within the Beltway as "302a allocations") to be finalized before proceeding on their versions of the FY 2020 appropriations bills. As COSSA [has reported](#), discretionary budget caps must be raised if federal agencies and programs are to realize any funding increases in FY 2020.

Follow COSSA's reporting on FY 2020 appropriations [here](#) and take action on social science funding and spending caps [here](#).

House Science Committee Holds Hearing on Sexual Harassment in Science, Passes Bipartisan Bills

On June 12, the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology (SST) held a [hearing](#) to discuss combatting sexual harassment in scientific and research-oriented settings. Witnesses included Managing Director of Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) John Neumann, Wellesley College President Dr. Paula Johnson, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Boston University Dr. Jean Morrison, and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of California, Davis Dr. Phillip Kass.

SST Committee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) both expressed concern about the prevalence of sexual harassment in science and research and questioned the witnesses on best practices for prevention and reporting. Some of the topics raised in the hearing included the inconsistencies in policies of federal research agencies, the cultural forces that discourage the reporting and prevention of sexual harassment, successful prevention techniques used by other countries such as the United Kingdom's Athena SWAN program, and the drastically higher rates of sexual harassment facing women of color. Some recommendations offered by the witnesses included increasing staff and funding for prevention and reporting at federal agencies, making prevention and reporting policies uniform across federal agencies, introducing better sexual harassment training at research settings, and increasing diversity in research settings. A [statement from Chairwoman Johnson](#) and a recording of the full hearing are available on the [SST Committee website](#).

The following week on June 20, the SST Committee [marked up](#) the *STEM Opportunities Act of 2019* (H.R. 2528), the *Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019* (H.R. 36), and the *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act* (H.R. 3153), among others. The bills held bipartisan support from the SST Committee members and amendments for H.R. 2528 and H.R. 36 were agreed upon in order to incorporate stakeholder input and to clarify language. COSSA officially [endorsed](#) the sexual harassment bill earlier this year. A [statement from Chairwoman Johnson](#) and a recording of the markup are available on the [SST Committee website](#).

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

OSTP Requests Information for Research Strategy to End Veteran Suicide

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released a [request for information](#) (RFI) for the National Research Strategy portion of the *President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide* (PREVENTS). PREVENTS was established by executive order in March 2019 and includes a National Research Strategy to

advance efforts to improve quality of life and reduce the rate of suicide among veterans.

OSTP hopes to better coordinate research within and beyond the Federal government, and enhance cross-disciplinary research into the social, behavioral, and biological determinants of wellness and brain health. The deadline for responses to the RFI is July 15, 2019. Questions to inform the National Research Strategy and additional information are available in the [Federal Register Notice](#).

Administration Releases Updated Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Plan

On June 21, the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) released a 2019 update to its [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Research and Development Plan](#). The first national AI R&D plan was released in 2016 and has been updated to include strategic priorities and accounts for new research and technologies in AI. The new strategic priorities include: making long-term investments in AI research; developing effective methods for human-AI collaboration; understanding and addressing the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI; ensuring the safety and security of AI systems; developing shared public datasets and environments for AI training and testing; and expanding public-private partnerships to accelerate advances in AI; among others.

Artificial Intelligence is a priority of the Trump Administration and several federal research agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), have incorporated and highlighted AI research and development at their agencies. More about the NIH AI initiatives can be found on the NIH [website](#) and more about the NSF AI initiatives can be found on the [NSF website](#).

More information about the Trump Administration's effort on AI can be found on the [White House website](#).

Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** AHRQ: [National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality: Request for Nominations for Members](#) (Closes: August 12, 2019)

Funding Opportunities

- **NEW:** IES: [Research and Research Training Grant Programs](#) (LOIs Due: July 11, 2019; Closes: August 29, 2019)
- NIH: Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health ([R01 Clinical Trial Optional](#)) (Closes: July 5, 2019); ([R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed](#)) ([R21 Clinical Trial Optional](#)) (Closes: July 16, 2019)
- NIH: Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral and Social Sciences ([R21 Clinical Trial Optional](#)) (Closes: July 16, 2019); ([R01 Clinical Trial Optional](#)) (Closes: July 5, 2019)
- NIH: Improving Patient Adherence to Treatment and Prevention Regimens to Promote Health ([R21 Clinical Trial Optional](#)) (Closes: July 16, 2019); ([R01 Clinical Trial Optional](#)) (Closes: July 5, 2019)
- NIH: Population Health Interventions: Integrating Individual and Group Level Evidence (R21) ([Clinical Trial Not Allowed](#)), ([Clinical Trial Optional](#)) (Closes: July 5, 2019)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- NIH: [Accomplishments in Behavioral and Social Sciences Research](#) (Closes: July 31, 2019)
- NSF: [Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information-NSF Proposal and Award Policies and](#)

- [Procedures Guide](#) (Closes: July 29, 2019)
- **NEW:** OSTP: [Request for Information: National Research Strategy for the President's Roadmap To Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide \(PREVENTS\)](#) (Closes: July 15, 2019)
- GSA: [Request for Comments: Federal Data Strategy Year-1 Action Plan](#) (Closes: July 5, 2019)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Principal Investigator Survey](#) (Closes: July 1 2019)
- NSF: [2026 Idea Machine Entries](#) (Closes: June 26, 2019)

Open Positions

- **NEW:** CDC/NCHS: Director, National Center for Health Statistics ([Title 42: 0602](#)) ([Title 42: 0601](#)) ([SES: 1530](#)) (Closes: July 16, 2019)
- **NEW:** CDC/NCHS: Director, Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys ([Title 42: 1530](#)) ([Title 42: 0601](#)) (Closes: July 2, 2019)

Fellowships & Professional Development

- **NEW:** NCHS: [Health Policy Graduate Fellow](#) (Closes: June 28, 2019)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

Nomination Opportunities

- AAAS: [Award for Science Diplomacy](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [Kavli Science Journalism Awards](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [Mani L. Bhaumik Award for Public Engagement with Science](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [John P. McGovern Award Lecture in the Behavioral Sciences](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [Mentor Awards](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [Philip Hauge Abelson Prize](#) (Closes: August 1, 2019)
- AAAS: [Newcomb Cleveland Prize](#) (Closes: June 30, 2019)

Funding Opportunities

- NASEM: [Building Capacity for Science Communication Partnership Awards: Request for Applications](#) (Closes: July 1, 2019)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- NASEM: [Call for White Papers: Phase One of the Decadal Survey on Reducing the Burden of Alzheimer's Disease & Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias](#) (Closes: June 30, 2019)

Recent Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Monitoring Educational Equity](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [NIJ Seminar: Protecting Against Stress & Trauma: Research Lessons for Law Enforcement](#), June 28, 2019, 10:00 am
- [COSSA Headlines | July Headlines](#), July 11, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), July 23-27, 2019, Utrecht, Netherlands
- [AMSTAT: Joint Statistical Meeting](#), July 27-August 1, 2019, Denver, CO
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), August 7-10, 2019, Richmond, VA
- [COSSA Headlines | August Headlines](#), August 8, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), August 8-11, 2019, Chicago, IL
- [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 10-13, 2019, New York, NY
- [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), August 29-September 1, 2019, Washington, DC
- [COSSA Headlines | September Headlines](#), September 12, 2019, 2:00 pm
- [2019 Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), October 24-27, 2019, Denver, CO
- [2019 Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), October 30 - November 2, 2019, San Diego, CA

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
 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

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 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
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 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
 Council on Social Work Education
 Economic History Association
 History of Science Society

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 University of Colorado, Boulder
 University of Georgia
 University of Illinois
 University of Iowa
 University of Maryland
 University of Michigan

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

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University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
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Centers and Institutes

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American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
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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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