Building a stronger social and behavioral science research community. TOGETHER.
About COSSA

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, as well as 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 robust social and behavioral 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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COSSA Treasurer (2019–2020)
Chad Rummel, Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Executive Director and COSSA Secretary
Wendy A. Naus, COSSA

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Message from COSSA

Dear Colleagues,

COSSA’s gaze has been firmly fixed on the future this past year, advocating for the protection of public support for social and behavioral science research funding, the quality and integrity of federal statistics, and evidence-based public policy making.

COSSA’s staff and organizational members work every day to nurture champions in Congress for funding research, and to impress upon policy-makers in the legislative and executive branches of government how science matters in our daily lives as much now as it ever has, and how the social sciences help make sure that people, communities, and institutions are written into the science equation.

One highlight for me this past year was having the opportunity, along with Executive Director Wendy Naus, to represent COSSA at a conference of the Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science (AESIS Network) in Washington in October. In addition to highlighting the concrete ways in which the social sciences help contribute to a more just and sustainable world, we were also able to speak to the ways in which assessing the public impacts of our work helps in setting priorities for future research, improves accountability to taxpayers, investors and decision-makers, and generates a higher public profile for our findings.

Yes, our work results in policy, interventions, products, and clinical guidelines. And it also leads to changes in technology, environmental resource use, and institutions. Ultimately, our work can be a force for good as it leads to health gains, economic self-sufficiency, and improvements in the common welfare.

Although we have plenty of work to do in the years ahead, 2019 should be recognized for a year of meaningful collective accomplishments.

Ed Liebow
Chair, COSSA Board of Directors

Greetings!

As we have witnessed over the last year, demand for insights from the social and behavioral sciences has never been greater. In response to ever-increasing calls for reliable, science-based solutions to some of the most challenging questions, our community has worked tirelessly to explain to policy audiences how social and behavioral science research can and already is changing the world for the better.

As the voice for social and behavioral science research in our nation’s capital, COSSA serves as a conduit between the research community and lawmakers on Capitol Hill and in Executive Branch agencies. This is not a responsibility we take lightly. As you will read throughout this report, COSSA has strived to show the many sides of social and behavioral science research. We communicate the impacts our sciences can have on everyday life through our Why Social Science? blog series and its potential for helping to address some of the greatest challenges confronting society today, be it sexual harassment, the ethical use of artificial intelligence, climate change, or the opioid epidemic.

We have a lot to celebrate as we close out 2019—increased science budgets across the federal government, heightened appreciation for and recognition of the social and behavioral sciences by policymakers across political parties, and specific policy wins such as the defeat of the Census citizenship question. But our work continues.

I invite you to be part of our movement—join us in Washington for Social Science Advocacy Day in March, engage your students in advocacy, or simply tune into COSSA’s monthly Headlines webchats to stay informed.

Together we can achieve COSSA’s goal to preserve and protect the undeniable place of social and behavioral science research in creating a safer, healthier, and more prosperous world.

Wendy Naus
COSSA Executive Director
the COSSA team

Wendy A. Naus | Executive Director
wnaus@cossa.org

Wendy Naus became the fourth Executive Director of COSSA in 2014 following a decade of lobbying for the federal research and policy interests of scientific societies and U.S. universities. Over her career, she has worked to shape legislation, programs, and regulations important to the research community and has advocated for increased research funding across federal agencies. In her role at COSSA, Wendy serves as the lead advocate for federal funding and policy that positively impact social and behavioral science research across the federal government, representing the breadth of the social science research enterprise. She is also responsible for the day to day operations of COSSA and member engagement. A native of Buffalo, New York, Wendy holds a B.A. in political science and urban studies from Canisius College, graduating magna cum laude from the All-College Honors Program.

Camille Hosman | Assistant Director of Government Relations
chosman@cossa.org

Camille Hosman joined COSSA in 2016. She manages the day-to-day execution of COSSA’s legislative strategy and represents the COSSA constituency before Congress and among a variety of federal agencies. Additionally, she supports COSSA’s communications efforts. Camille previously worked with the state and federal government relations offices for the University of Missouri System and helped promote policy in support of science and higher education. A Missouri native, Camille holds her B.A. in political science from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Julia Milton | Director of Public Affairs
jmilton@cossa.org

Julia Milton has been with COSSA since 2012 and is responsible for overseeing COSSA’s communications with its members, stakeholders, policymakers, media, and the public. She is the editor of COSSA’s biweekly newsletter and the Why Social Science? blog and manages COSSA’s social media channels and website. In addition, Julia leads COSSA’s lobbying and advocacy efforts related to the Census and other federal statistical agencies and the evidence-based policymaking movement. Before joining COSSA, Julia was a research and editorial assistant at the George Washington University and worked for a workforce development initiative and a local women’s magazine in her home state of New Jersey. She holds a B.A. in government and English from Wesleyan University.

Ben Goodrich | Staff Assistant
bgoodrich@cossa.org

Ben Goodrich joined the COSSA team in January 2019. He enjoys a wide array of responsibilities including supporting COSSA’s federal advocacy efforts, assisting with COSSA’s communications materials, and providing administrative support to the Executive Director. Ben joined COSSA following a brief stint with Global Citizen, an international non-profit concerned with poverty alleviation, where he worked as a policy & government affairs assistant. Born and raised in the Upper Midwest, Ben graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2018.

COSSA Gives Back

On August 15, 2019 the COSSA team participated in its annual community service outing. This year, staff volunteered at Martha’s Table Joyful Food Market (www.capitalareafoodbank.org/joyful-food-market) in Southeast DC distributing fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy options to residents of the community. The Joyful Food Markets are no-cost markets held in elementary schools in Washington’s Wards 7 and 8. They aim to increase access to healthy, high quality foods in DC neighborhoods in most need and encourage healthy eating habits. COSSA initiated the service outing in 2015 as a way to give back to the DC community.

I N T E R N S W A N T E D !

COSSA is always looking for interns to join the team throughout the year, especially students from COSSA member institutions. We had the privilege of hosting two undergraduate interns in 2019:

Summer: Joanna Hua, Cornell University
Fall: Kira Nash, Boston University

To inquire, email bgoodrich@cossa.org.
2019 in review

COSSA MEMBERSHIP

COSSA enjoys a robust and diverse membership—a community with a shared commitment to ensuring a secure future for federally-supported social and behavioral science research. Membership in COSSA is institutional and comprised of professional associations, scientific societies, and colleges and university. Anyone formally affiliated with a member organization may sign up to receive COSSA’s members-only resources (see COSSA Resources section).

COSSA’s complete membership list can be found on the back cover of this report and is available online at www.cossa.org/members.

COSSA welcomed one new university member in 2019:

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

NEW in 2019 – COSSA Affiliates

COSSA established a new Affiliates membership category in 2019 to bring new and interesting voices into our advocacy work. Affiliate membership is intended for partners in industry, non-social science associations, private foundations, and other stakeholders.

COSSA welcomed one new affiliate in 2019:

SAGE Publishing

Learn more about COSSA membership at www.cossa.org/members/join-cossa.

Members of Congress ❤️ SOCIAL SCIENCE

“I draw on my education in the humanities and social sciences every single day—not only in understanding specific issues, but in gaining a broader understanding of our historical setting, and the social and ethical implications of what we do in Congress.”

—Rep. David Price (NC-4)

“Social sciences are a cornerstone of the kind of fact-based inquiry that is crucial for policymakers.”

—Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20)

“America’s greatest strength is innovation … Our propensity for being entrepreneurial and cutting edge is fostered through the social sciences.”

—Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR-1)

WHEN SCIENCE SPEAKS

COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus was featured in a 2019 episode of the When Science Speaks podcast on “How to Engage in Effective Science Advocacy.” Her conversation with host Mark Bauer of Bayer Strategic Consulting focused on ways to successfully convey the importance of science to policymakers and what effective science advocacy entails.

You can listen to the podcast on the web at https://bit.ly/38QhxTg, iTunes, or wherever you get your podcasts.
COSSA’s
2019 Legislative Priorities

Throughout 2019, the COSSA team worked to advance a multi-faceted legislative agenda. Our efforts centered around four priorities.

1. Cancel harmful sequestration cuts for fiscal year 2020 and protect nondefense discretionary spending

2. Provide real growth in basic research funding across all areas of STEM

3. Invest in and protect the federal statistical and data enterprise

4. Support the use of social science research across federal agencies to ensure policies are based on sound evidence

SCIENCE AGENCIES SEE BUDGET BOOSTS FOR 2020

With few exceptions, funding for federal agencies and programs important to the social and behavioral science community received increases from Congress for fiscal year (FY) 2020, which began on October 1, 2019. Notable increases include:

- National Science Foundation +2.5%
- National Institutes of Health +6.7%
- Department of Education International Education and Foreign Language Programs +5.5%

In addition to boosts in funding, lawmakers took opportunities in the annual appropriations bills to express support for social science activities across the government, including recognition of the contributions of NIH’s Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate at NSF. The FY 2020 bills also include $25 million split between NIH and the CDC for “research on firearm injury and mortality prevention”—reversing a long-time moratorium on gun violence-related research—and encouraged the reestablishment of an important Science Advisory Board at the Department of Justice. COSSA’s full coverage of FY 2020 appropriations is available at www.cossa.org/policy.

SOCIAL SCIENCE MAKES ITS MARK ON CONGRESS

Members of Congress representing states and districts across the U.S. continue to acknowledge the importance of social and behavioral science research to policy making, whether through legislation, Congressional hearings, or other public outlets. COSSA’s expertise was sought on a variety of topics in 2019, such as the need for better integration of social and behavioral science in extreme weather forecasting, decision-making, and communication, and the role of social science in addressing issues associated with bias in artificial intelligence and facilitating effective human-machine interaction.

In addition, COSSA’s support was sought on several pieces of legislation in 2019, including:

- Improving Justice Programs through Science Act of 2019 (S. 2286/H.R. 3989)
- Census Improving Data and Enhanced Accuracy (IDEA) Act (S. 358)
- Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019 (H.R. 36)
- Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance & significance of the 2020 Census (S. Con. Res. 31)
- Agriculture Research Integrity Act of 2019 (H.R. 1221)
- Securing American Science and Technology Act of 2019 (H.R. 3039)

More on COSSA’s legislative activities can be found at www.cossa.org/policy/statements-press-releases.
CENSUS CITIZENSHIP QUESTION DEFEATED

COSA continued the fight in 2019 to remove a citizenship question from the 2020 Census after it was added by the Trump Administration in March 2018. As legal challenges to the question’s inclusion worked their way through the courts, COSA sought other avenues to nullify the Administration’s efforts. COSA endorsed Sen. Brian Schatz’s Census IDEA Act, a bill to prohibit the addition of new Census questions without prior research and testing, when it was reintroduced in the 116th Congress in February. COSA also argued to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that the question should be removed on the grounds that it violated the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court agreed to take up the matter and expedite its decision-making in order to give the Census Bureau adequate time to make final preparations for the 2020 count. However, when the Court issued its ruling in June, the result did not provide the clarity many had hoped for. The Court ultimately decided that, while there was not necessarily a legal reason to prohibit the Administration from asking a question about citizenship on the 2020 Census, it had not provided adequate justification for its decision to do so. The Court’s ruling led to several weeks of tense uncertainty and confusion as the Administration issued contradictory statements about how it planned to respond, advocates readied additional lawsuits, and stakeholders wondered whether there would even be time to print the forms in time for Census Day should the fight continue into the summer.

With final printing deadlines ahead of the 2020 Census looming, in July, the Administration ultimately decided to end its effort to include the question and announced that the 2020 Census would proceed without a question on citizenship. President Trump also signed an executive order directing the Census Bureau to compile estimates of citizenship using existing data from administrative records. COSA issued a statement applauding the removal of the question and expressing its continued commitment to a fair and accurate 2020 Census.


NSF Repositions Social Science Programs

In September 2019, the National Science Foundation (NSF) issued a Dear Colleague letter announcing the “repositioning” of several research programs within the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBSE). Prior to the announcement, COSA and the broader social science research community engaged with NSF to ensure that changes to existing programs would not disenfranchise any social and behavioral science disciplines or fields.

While some of the changes are largely in name only, the COSA community paid particular attention to structural changes to some of the programs. For example, the Political Science program was restructured into two distinct programs: Accountable Institutions & Behavior and Security & Preparedness. For the first year of the transition, proposals will still be accepted through the previous Political Science program. However, NSF intends to discontinue the use of the “Political Science” nomenclature, while still funding political science research through the two new programs.

Another significant change is the broadening of the Law and Social Science program—now known as Law and Science—to expand beyond the study of the connection between human behavior and the law to include studies on the interactions of law and the broader STEM sciences beyond just the social and behavioral sciences.

As of the end of 2019, discussions continue between NSF and the research community to understand the totality of the changes, including how funding for the new programs will be determined within existing SBSE resources, how review panels will be structured given new research foci in some of the programs, and other important questions. Changes take effect January 1, 2020. More at www.cossa.org/tag/nsf.

NIH Extends Delay in Enforcement of Clinical Trials Policy

In July 2019, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a notice announcing a further delay in enforcing clinical trials reporting requirements for NIH-funded research designated as “basic experimental studies with humans.” COSA has worked actively with its many partners to respond to and mitigate potential unintended consequences of the revised definition of “clinical trial” by the NIH. The enforcement date, originally extended to September 2019, has been pushed to September 24, 2021. NIH describes the extension as necessary to address the challenges of reporting requirements for some researchers by continuing to search for common ground with the basic science community. More at www.cossa.org/tag/nih.

Work Begins to Implement the Evidence Act

With the passage of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, real work began in 2019 to implement the law’s provisions. Notably, 2019 saw the release of guidance from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on developing agency learning agendas, requirements and responsibilities for the senior roles mandated by the legislation, creating evaluation plans, undertaking capacity assessments, and identifying data needs. In addition, the first round of nominations for the newly created Advisory Committee on Evidence Building were solicited, and a pilot project was commissioned to test a single portal for accessing federal data from across the statistical system. In addition, the Federal Data Strategy’s first-year action plan for 2020 was released, which will support the work being done throughout the government to implement the Evidence Act as well as other Administration priorities related to federal data. Much of these efforts in 2019 were directed and coordinated by Nancy Potok, the Chief Statistician of the United States, who retired from federal service at the end of the year. COSA greatly appreciates her hard work and looks forward supporting the continuation of her efforts with the next Chief Statistician. More at www.cossa.org/tag/evidence-based-policymaking.
**Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society**

On October 17-18, 2019 COSSA partnered with the Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science (AESIS Network) on an international conference on the Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society in Washington, DC. AESIS is an international, open community for various types of professionals working on stimulating and demonstrating the impact of science on economy, culture and well-being. The Washington event was the third of its kind organized by AESIS to discuss ways to optimize the impact of research and scholarship specifically in the social sciences and humanities. More at aesisnet.com/events/ssh19.

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**National Academies Report: Decadal Survey of Social and Behavioral Science Applications to National Security**

In March 2019, the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences released a Consensus Study Report of the Decadal Survey of Social and Behavioral Science for Applications to National Security. A decadal survey is a method of engaging members of a scholarly community to identify lines of research with the greatest potential to be used over a 10-year period in pursuit of a particular goal. This was the first decadal survey to attempt to set a research agenda for the social and behavioral sciences or the intelligence community. The report, A Research Agenda for Advancing Intelligence Analysis, recommends that the intelligence community make sustained collaboration with research in the social and behavioral sciences as a central part of the 10-year research agenda. The report and its recommendations were featured in May as part of COSSA’s monthly Headlines webinar. More at www.cossa.org/event/cossa-headlines-may-headlines-2019.

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**Congressional Briefing: Ask a Criminologist**

COSSA and the Crime & Justice Research Alliance (CJRA)—a collaborative effort of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the American Society of Criminology, both COSSA members—hosted the fourth in a series of “Ask a Criminologist” Congressional briefings in June 2019. The interactive briefing explored the relationships between immigration trends, policies, and public safety. Experts included Dr. Nancy La Vigne of the Urban Institute, Dr. Anthony Pequero of Virginia Tech, Dr. Daniel E. Martinez of the University of Arizona, Dr. Janice Iwama of American University, and Edward Flynn, former Chief of the Milwaukee Police Department. More at crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org.

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**COSSA awards**

As part of the 2019 Social Science Advocacy Day festivities, COSSA recognized the exceptional service of members of the social and behavioral science community with two awards. The COSSA Distinguished Service Award recognizes leaders who have gone above and beyond to promote, protect, and advance the social and behavioral science research enterprise. The COSSA Public Impact Award celebrates ways individuals or organizations are using social and behavioral science research to achieve notable improvements in communities. Awardees are chosen by the COSSA Board of Directors.

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**2019 Distinguished Service Award: Katharine Abraham & Ron Haskins, U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking**

Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland) and Ron Haskins (The Brookings Institution) were recognized for their dedication to the social and behavioral sciences and evidence-based policymaking. Under their leadership of the Commission on Evidenced-Based Policymaking, Drs. Abraham and Haskins worked to reshape the way evidence and data could be used in decision-making. Their work laid the groundwork for enactment of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.

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**2019 Public Impact Award: The Lab @ DC**

The Lab @ DC was established in 2017 within the administration of District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and is charged with designing policy and program interventions and evaluations to improve services to DC residents. Its work in applying social and behavioral science insights to on-the-ground issues affecting residents has informed policies around body-worn camera use by police and flexible rent programs for addressing homelessness, among others.
COSSA★2019
SOCIAL SCIENCE ADVOCACY DAY
April 30 - May 1, 2019 ★ Washington, DC

COSSA held its largest-ever Social Science Advocacy Day on May 1. Over 70 social
and behavioral science researchers, stakeholders, and advocates met with their
Members of Congress and staff to advocate in support of funding for federal
agencies and programs that support social and behavioral science research.
Advocates from 20 states converged on Capitol Hill, completing 77 individual
meetings.

A full recap of the 2019 Advocacy Day
events is available at
www.cossa.org/event/2019-advocacy-day.

What colleagues are saying about
Social Science Advocacy Day...

“Because this organization is very
professional and prepares the lobbying
faculty members
well, I would definitely recommend to colleagues.”

“This is an important event that serves COSSA
and its member societies well.”

“I feel like this event is an important form of service
to our community of social scientists and also gives me
great insight into the federal agency
appropriations landscape.”

“This experience has helped to reinforce
to me that personal
conversations with our Congressmen go far in helping
them appreciate the kinds and value of
social science research.”

A special thank you to
our 2019 sponsors:

JOIN US IN 2020
More at
www.cossa.org/event/2020-advocacy-day

Where has your
COSSA swag been?
Let us know!

COSSA 2019 / ANNUAL REPORT

C O N S O R T I U M o f S O C I A L S C I E N C E A S S O C I A T I O N S
Timely Analysis & Policy Expertise

COSSA serves as a reliable resource for in-depth analysis of bills, proposed regulations, and other policy developments impacting social and behavioral science research. The team of policy experts boils down often-complicated topics into easy-to-digest briefs, articulating how the issue specifically impacts the social and behavioral science community. COSSA’s Advocacy webpage (www.cossa.org/advocacy) is an excellent source for statements, funding analysis, testimony, and other resources.

COSSA Washington Update

COSSA’s most recognizable public resource is its biweekly newsletter, the COSSA Washington Update. A staple deliverable since COSSA’s earliest days, Update provides members and the public with comprehensive coverage of policy developments impacting social and behavioral science research. Check it out and subscribe for free online at www.cossa.org/washington-update.

University Social Science Annual Rankings

COSSA’s annual College and University Rankings for Federal Social and Behavioral Science R&D highlights the top university recipients of federal research dollars in the social and behavioral sciences. Based on federally collected data, the COSSA rankings use an inclusive collection of fields to calculate the total federal R&D funding received by universities in the social and behavioral sciences. The 2019 rankings reflect federal expenditures in fiscal year 2017, the most current available data. View the rankings at www.cossa.org/resources/sbs-r-d-rankings.

Grassroots Action Alerts

COSSA issues alerts to members when action is needed on a federal policy issue. Our alert platform allows members to easily write to their elected officials in Congress and tailor the communication to highlight their own expertise and local impacts. COSSA members receive background information and talking points to help them craft their message to lawmakers. Check out COSSA’s TAKE ACTION page at www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action.

State Funding Fact Sheets

COSSA’s state funding fact sheets use federally collected data to show how much federal social and behavioral science research funding is awarded to each state annually. In addition to the total dollars, the fact sheets list the primary federal sources of funding (e.g., NSF, NIH, DOD) as well as the leading university recipients in the state. View the fact sheets online at www.cossa.org/resources/state-fact-sheets.

Advocacy Resources

The COSSA website houses several resources for members wishing to engage in advocacy. There you will find the COSSA Advocacy Handbook, funding and policy-related talking points, and policy briefs on a variety of topics. You can also find links to Congressional and federal agency websites that are relevant to social science research. Find this and more at www.cossa.org/resources.

2019 Deep Dives

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COSSA’s monthly webinar series continued in 2019 with recaps of the most important social and behavioral science news and “deep dive” discussions on timely topics with featured guests.

Recordings and more at www.cossa.org/resources/headlines.
COSSA’s Why Social Science? initiative continued in 2019 with regular blog posts from guest contributors. Why Social Science? aims to offer insights about the value of the social sciences to our everyday lives.

Read all the blog posts at www.whysocialscience.com

Because It Can Improve Government Efficiency via Evidence-Based Policy
Taylor Scott, PhD & Max Crowley, PhD, Research-to-Policy Collaboration

Because It Guides Us Toward Practical & Attainable Solutions
Tom Kecskemethy, EdD, American Academy of Political and Social Science

Because It Requires Confronting the Assumptions We Have About Others
Lee Hoffer, PhD, Case Western Reserve University

Because Social Science Is a Form of Service that Improves Quality of Life for People Around the World
Arthur Lupia, PhD, National Science Foundation

Because Social Science Equips Us with Tools We Will Need to Face Down the Biggest Issues of Our Time, Including the Growing Global Threat of Climate Change
The Honorable Paul Tonko, United States Representative, New York’s 20th Congressional District, U.S. House of Representatives

Because It Tells Us How to Create More Engaged Citizens
Adam Seth Levine, PhD, Cornell University & research4impact

Because It Helps to Address Graduate Unemployment in Sub-Saharan Africa
Joseph K. Assan, PhD, Brandeis University

Because It Provides Empirical Answers to Critical Public Health Questions
Jeni L. Burnette, PhD & Sarah L. Desmarais, PhD, North Carolina State University

Because It Can Improve the Lives of Those Who Serve Our Country
Leanne K. Knobloch, PhD, University of Illinois & Steven R. Wilson, PhD, University of South Florida

Because It Makes Informed Democracy Possible
Rush D. Holt, PhD, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Because Collaborating Across Cultures & Beyond Boundaries Leads to Progress on the World’s Biggest Issues
Amanda B. Clinton, PhD, American Psychological Association

Interested in contributing to Why Social Science? Contact jmilton@cossa.org