



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

Federal Research Agencies Release Guidance on OMB's Administrative Flexibility Changes

In response to a June 18 memo ([M 20-26](#)) issued by the White House Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) extending certain administrative flexibilities to federal grant recipients as relief for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, federal research agencies have released guidance statements clarifying the memo's implications for recipients of research grants. On June 25, both the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) and the [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) released nearly identical sets of guidance in response to the OMB memo explaining how the changes to the flexibilities will specifically affect recipients of their grants. The flexibilities include an allowance to continue charging salaries, benefits, and other applicable program costs to active NIH and NSF awards through September 30, 2020 (assuming that payroll costs have not already been paid through other COVID-19 relief programs), and an extension of the single audit submission deadline by up to three months.

More information is available on the [NIH website](#) and the [NSF website](#).

Notable COVID-19 Resources

- **NEW:** JASON: [Managing the Risk From COVID-19 During a Return to On-Site University Research](#)
- **NEW:** OMB: [Memorandum 20-26: Extension of Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) due to Loss of Operations](#)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-26](#)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-26](#)
- **NEW:** NIH: [New and Updated COVID-19 FAQs](#)

COSSA IN ACTION

July's Headlines Webinar to Feature Deep Dive Discussion on NSF/NASEM Network to Answer COVID Policy Questions

COSSA members are encouraged to sign up for the monthly Headlines webchat on Thursday, July 9 at 2:00 pm Eastern Time. The COSSA team will break down the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month, followed by a deep dive discussion with [Dr. Monica Feit](#), Deputy Executive Director of the Academies' Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) on the [Societal Experts Action Network](#) (SEAN), an initiative of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to deploy the social sciences to answer urgent COVID-19 policy questions. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).



"Why Social Science?" Features Experts on Policing

The logo for "WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE?" features the words "WHY", "SOCIAL", and "SCIENCE" stacked vertically in a blue, serif font. To the right of the text is a large, yellow question mark.

The latest *Why Social Science?* post features an article from [The Conversation](#) that asked several social scientists who study different aspects of policing to explain what their research has found that could help reduce police prejudice and violence. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

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

Funding for DOD Social Science Research Restored in House and Senate Defense Authorization Bills

Both the House and Senate's drafts of the annual authorization bill for the Department of Defense (DOD), the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), include language preventing the elimination of funding for DOD's basic social science research program, the Minerva Research Initiative, as proposed in the [Administration's budget request](#) for fiscal year (FY) 2021. Both bills propose a total of \$17 million in the Defense-Wide funding line for the Minerva initiative, which if enacted would be a sizeable increase over the \$11.4 million the program received in FY 2020. While the Minerva Initiative receives some funding from the Navy and Air Force, Defense-Wide funding accounts for the majority of its budget.

Both bills include language in support of the Minerva Initiative and social science research at the Department of Defense more generally. They contain nearly-identical language asserting that maintaining America's technological superiority "requires not only investing in physical sciences but also the integration of cross-disciplinary research that explores the social, cultural, behavioral, political, historical, and religious drivers of today's increasingly complex global security environment." In addition, both bills would require that DOD report back on how it plans to continue to cultivate the social sciences within the Department.

The [Senate NDAA \(report\)](#) was approved by the Armed Services Committee on June 23. Floor debate began on July 1 and continued until the Senate adjourned for a two-week recess on July 2. The Senate will resume consideration when it returns on July 20. Among the amendments proposed for consideration are a version of Senator Charles Schumer's (D-NY) *Endless Frontier Act*, which as [previously reported](#), proposes sweeping structural changes for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Should the amendment pass, it would fall to the conference committee to negotiate whether and in what form the legislation would be included in the final bill.

The House Armed Services Committee approved [its version](#) of the bill ([Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities mark](#)) on July 1. A timeline for consideration by the full House is unclear, but the NDAA is considered "must-pass" legislation by the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

RISE Act Would Provide Relief Funding for Federally Funded Scientists

On June 24, Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Fred Upton (R-MI) introduced the *Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act* ([H.R. 7308](#)), which would authorize \$26 billion in relief funding for federal science agencies to support researchers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds could be used to enable graduate students, post-doctoral

researchers, and Principal Investigators to complete work that was disrupted by COVID-19, or extend the training or employment of researchers on an existing research project for up to two years because of the disruption of the job market. The bill follows a similar [Dear Colleague Letter](#) led by DeGette and Upton in April with 180 Members of Congress signing on. A timeline for consideration and potential passage of the bill remains unclear. While it would be a likely candidate for inclusion in a larger COVID-19 aid package, the House is still waiting for the Senate to introduce a counterpart to its previously passed COVID-19 relief bill before it considers a new one.

House Committee Releases Climate Policy Report, Recommends Strengthening of Research Enterprise

On June 30, the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis majority staff released the report [Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America](#), a sweeping set of policy recommendations to address and combat climate change. The report recommends several initiatives to be taken by the U.S. government that would expand the federal science and technology sector's ability to address climate change, including strengthening the research enterprise. Some of the recommendations that are relevant to the social and behavioral science research enterprise include:

- Expanding and sustaining funding for federal agencies to support research and monitoring of climate change's impact on human systems;
- Expanding support for climate STEM career training and education by emphasizing the removal of barriers for underrepresented groups;
- Directing the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support research on methodologies to improve education and training of climate scientists;
- Requiring strong scientific integrity policies at federal research agencies; and
- Reviving the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) and increase funding for the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to better inform Congress about science and technology policy.

The full report and more information is available on the [Committee website](#).

Recent Reports

- **NEW:** House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: [Solving the Climate Crisis: Majority Staff Report](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Census Releases Updated Demonstration Data Products

The Census Bureau has released a new set of demonstration data products that show how its new disclosure avoidance strategy (DAS) will impact the quality of its 2020 Census data products (see [previous coverage](#)). The Census Bureau is releasing a set of [benchmark metrics](#) to track the impact of the ongoing development and improvements to its privacy-protecting algorithm on data accuracy. These metrics will be updated every six weeks so data users can track the ongoing improvements Bureau staff are making to the algorithm. In addition, the Census Bureau has released a set of privacy-protected microdata files (PPMF) to allow users to assess the impact of the disclosure avoidance strategy for their own specific use cases. The Bureau notes that "while the data in the PPMFs look like individual records, all of the data are privacy-protected. The microdata records generated by the DAS ensure respondent privacy through the application of differentially private statistical noise. The microdata included in the PPMF do not include any actual census responses."

Data users can submit feedback or questions to the Census Bureau by emailing 2020DAS@census.gov. More information about the new data products is available on the [Census Bureau website](#).

PCAST Holds Virtual Meeting, Swears in New Members from Academia

On June 30, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) held a virtual meeting during which two new members of PCAST were sworn in. Abraham "Avi" Loeb, Professor and Chair of the Department of Astronomy at Harvard University, and Daniela Rus, Director of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, were sworn in after being nominated in April amid discussions that new PCAST nominees would represent academia given that representatives from industry have already been appointed (see previous COSSA [coverage](#) for more details).

Much of the meeting was dedicated to discussing recommendations for the Administration's Industries of the Future (IoF) initiative, which include strategically important tech industries such as quantum and artificial intelligence. The meeting focused on four main discussions:

- Enhancing multi-sector engagement in IoF research and innovation;
- Meeting national needs for a diverse, multi-sector IoF workforce;
- New models of engagement for national laboratories; and
- Students, post-doctoral scholars, and early career professionals in IoF.

More information about PCAST, presentation slides, and the meeting [agenda](#) can be found on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science website.

NIMHD Seeking Research Applications Addressing COVID-19 Consequences on Vulnerable Populations

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a new [funding opportunity](#) for community interventions to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic among health disparity and vulnerable populations. The announcement specifically encourages applicants to address adverse psychosocial, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic on the health of these populations. Applications open on July 28 and will be accepted through August 28. More information is available on the [NIMHD website](#).

Nomination Opportunities

- Census: [Request for Nominations of Members To Serve on the Census Scientific Advisory Committee](#) (Closes: August 1, 2020)
- Census: [Request for Nominations of Members To Serve on the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations](#) (Closes: August 1, 2020)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH/NCCIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Stress Management in Relation to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (Closes: October 7, 2021)
- NIH/NIMHD: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Competitive and Administrative Supplements for the Impact of COVID-19 Outbreak on Minority Health and Health Disparities](#) (Closes: May 1, 2021)
- NIH/NIA: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): NIA Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (Closes: May 1, 2021)
- NIH/NIMH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Administrative](#)

[Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Mental Health Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (Closes: April 16, 2021)

- NIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus and the Behavioral and Social Sciences](#) (Closes: April 1, 2021)
- NIH/NIDA: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- NIH: [Mid-Career Enhancement Awards to Integrate Basic Behavioral, Biomedical, and/or Social Scientific Processes \(K18 No Independent Clinical Trials\)](#) (Opens: February 16, 2021) (Closes: March 17, 2021)
- NIH: [Mid-Career Enhancement Awards to Integrate Basic Behavioral, Biomedical, and/or Social Scientific Processes \(K18 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#) (Opens: February 16, 2021) (Closes: March 17, 2021)
- NIH/NIGMS: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and the Causative Virus SARS-CoV-2](#) (Closes: February 6, 2021)
- NIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Competitive and Administrative Supplements for Community Interventions to Reduce the Impact of COVID-19 on Health Disparity and Other Vulnerable Populations](#) (Closes: December 30, 2020)
- NIH/NHLBI: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (Closes: October 6, 2020)
- NIH: [NIH Director's Emergency Transformative Research Awards \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure - NEH Documenting Endangered Languages \(DLI-DEL\)](#) (Closes: September 15, 2020)
- NIH/NIMHD: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Emergency Competitive Revisions for Social, Ethical, and Behavioral Implications \(SEBI\) Research on COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and/or Vulnerable Populations](#) (Closes: September 9, 2020)
- NIH/NIMHD: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Emergency Competitive Revisions for Community-Engaged Research on COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and/or Vulnerable Populations](#) (Closes: September 9, 2020)
- NIH/OBSSR: [Advancing Research to Develop Improved Measures and Methods for Understanding Multimorbidity \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Opens: September 5, 2020)
- NIH: [NIH Director's Emergency Early Independence Awards \(DP5 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: September 4, 2020)
- NIH: [NIH Director's Early Independence Awards \(DP5 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: September 4, 2020)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Community Interventions to Address the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic among Health Disparity and Vulnerable Populations \(R01- Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: August 28, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Education Research \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Education Research and Development Centers \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Special Education Research \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Training Programs in Special Education \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Grants Focused on NAEP Process Data for Learners with Disabilities](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication in Special Education \(FY 2021\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 2020)
- NIH/NIMHD: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Limited Competition for Emergency Competitive Revisions for Community-Engaged Research on COVID-19 Testing among](#)

- [Underserved and/or Vulnerable Populations](#) (Closes: August 9, 2020)
- NIH: [Emergency Awards: RADx-UP Coordination and Data Collection Center \(CDCC\) \(U24 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: August 7, 2020)
- HUD/PD&R: [Impact of RAD on Children in HUD Assisted Households](#) (Closes: July 30, 2020)
- ED/IES: [Statistical and Research Methodology in Education and Using Longitudinal Data To Support State Education Policymaking Grant Programs](#) (Closes: July 30, 2020)
- NIH: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Community Interventions to Address the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Health Disparity and Vulnerable Populations \(R01- Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: July 22, 2020)
- NSF: [Program on Fairness in Artificial Intelligence in Collaboration with Amazon](#) (Closes: July 13, 2020)
- NSF/SBE: [The Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence Program \(SL\)](#) (Closes: July 8, 2020)

Notices & Requests for Comment

- Census: [Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Internet Panel Pretesting and Qualitative Survey Methods Testing](#) (Closes: August 3, 2020)
- Census: [Submission to the Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Household Pulse Survey](#) (Closes: August 3, 2020)
- **NEW:** DOJ/FBI: [National Use-of-Force Data Collection: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection](#) (Closes: July 30, 2020)
- Census: [Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Small Business Pulse Survey](#) (Closes: July 20, 2020)
- Census: [Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Household Pulse Survey](#) (Closes: July 20, 2020)
- **NEW:** NIH/NIGMS: [Request for Information: Soliciting Input on the NIGMS 2021-2025 Strategic Plan Framework](#) (Closes: July 17, 2020)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

Nomination Opportunities

- AAAS: [Kavli Science Journalism Awards](#) (Closes: August 1, 2020)
- AAAS: [AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books](#) (Closes: July 20, 2020)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | July Headlines](#), July 9, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [COPAFS/FCSM: Privacy and Accuracy for 2020 Census Data Products: The CNSTAT Workshop](#), July 9, 2020, 3:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Child Health Webinar from the NIH ECHO Program](#), July 30, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Join Statistical Meetings](#), August 1-6, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), August 6-9, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), August 6-9, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 8-11, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | August](#), August 13, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), September 10-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Economic History Association Annual Meeting](#), September 10-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | September](#), September 10, 2020, 2:00 pm

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

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

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

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,

Colleges and Universities

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Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
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Cornell University
Duke University
George Mason University
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Harvard University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
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
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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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