



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

House Appropriations Committee Approves FY 2021 Funding Bills

During the week of July 13, the House Appropriations Committee completed its marathon

markups of its 12 annual appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2021, making way for consideration by the full House of Representatives; the relevant subcommittees advanced their respective measures the week prior.

Despite the semblance of "regular order," the outlook for final FY 2021 spending bills is still very much up in the air as lawmakers continue to grapple with pandemic relief negotiations and as the November elections approach. In addition, the House bills-which were written by the Democrats-include several funding and policy provisions that will be non-starters for the Republican-controlled Senate. For example, one area of contention between the parties is whether to use the FY 2021 spending bills to provide additional coronavirus relief (as currently included in the House Labor, HHS, Education bill), or to negotiate such measures separately (which is the position of that subcommittee's Ranking Republican). Also threatening final passage of the FY 2021 bills is the perennial fight over whether to fund the President's border wall; the House Homeland Security bill contains no funding for the project.

Complicating things further are the budget caps to which appropriators were forced to adhere when writing the FY 2021 bills. As [previously reported](#), a bipartisan budget agreement was passed in August 2019 providing much needed relief from tight budget caps on discretionary spending for FY 2020 and FY 2021. The deal allowed Congress to increase funding to federal agencies across the FY 2020 appropriations bills; however, for FY 2021, the deal raised the caps by only 0.4 percent, setting this year up at the outset to be a particularly challenging one.

Timing for consideration of the FY 2021 spending bills in the Senate remains unclear. The chamber returned from a two-week recess to face ongoing COVID-19 relief negotiations and must-pass [defense authorization legislation](#).

[Read on](#) for COSSA's full analysis of the House FY 2021 funding bills for federal agencies and programs important to the social and behavioral science research community.

Notable COVID-19 Resources

- **NEW:** [NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research](#)

COSSA IN ACTION

Letters & Statements

- 7/17/2020: [Letter on CDC Collection of COVID-19 Patient Data](#)
- 7/14/2020: [Letter on the U.S. Withdrawal from the World Health Organization](#)

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 Budget Committee Holds Hearing on Federal R&D Spending

On July 8, the House Committee on the Budget held a [hearing](#) focused on the federal role in research and development (R&D) in fueling American innovation and recovery in light of the effort to combat the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee heard testimony from several experts on the research and development enterprise including CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Sudip Parikh, Professor at New York University Paul Romer, President and CEO of the Council on Competitiveness Deborah Wince-Smith, and Professor of Management Practice at Harvard Business School Willy Shih.

The Committee questioned the witnesses on a variety of topics including the ideal level of federal R&D spending as a percentage of GDP, research on mobilizing the manufacturing sector, the development of graduate students in research careers, the merits of the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act (see COSSA's [previous coverage](#) for more details) in assisting the U.S. research enterprise, and the recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) order regarding international students at U.S. universities. AAAS CEO Sudip Parikh also lauded the role of social scientists in prescribing policy, noting the importance of data and transparency in that effort. A recording of the hearing and the witnesses' testimonies are available on the [Committee website](#).

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

HHS Bypasses CDC in COVID-19 Data Collection, Sparking Concerns

On July 10, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released [new guidance](#) that instructed hospitals to bypass the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in reporting COVID-19 data and instead send the information directly to the Department through a relatively new system called HHS Protect. The change has raised concerns among many public health and science stakeholder groups that it could signal an effort to sideline the CDC in responding to the pandemic and to limit the data available to the public.

Prior to the change, hospitals submitted COVID-19 information to the CDC's [National Healthcare Safety Network](#) (NHSN), which released data on hospital capacity and staffing, but is now no longer being updated. While [some reporting](#) indicates that HHS officials intend to make data collected by the new system publicly available at some point, no concrete plans to do so have been announced.

COSSA joined nearly 100 stakeholder organization in [a letter to the Coronavirus Task Force](#) calling for the Administration to reverse this decision and commit to ensuring that COVID-19 data remains publicly available.

NIH Releases Agency-Wide Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research

On July 13, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released an agency-wide [strategic plan](#) on how NIH intends to direct research in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan is intended to provide a framework of new research programs and repurposing of existing programs that would assist in mobilizing the research community in developing treatments, prevention methods, and vaccines. The strategic plan cites five overarching priorities for NIH in responding to COVID-19:

- **Improve fundamental knowledge** of COVID-19 disease progression, outcomes, and recovery.

- **Advance research to improve detection** by developing and validating new assays and retooling existing diagnostic platforms.
- **Support research to advance treatment** by evaluating new or repurposing existing treatments and defining implementation strategies.
- **Accelerate research to improve prevention** by developing vaccines, other methods to prevent transmission, and implementation models.
- **Prevent and redress poor COVID-19 outcomes** in health disparity and vulnerable populations.

The strategic plan and more information is available on the [NIH website](#).

NIMHD Funding Research on Digital Interventions to COVID-19

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) within the National Institutes of Health has released a [funding opportunity](#) seeking research applications on digital healthcare practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding announcement cites the primary focus of the research to be the role of digital health interventions like telehealth, mobile health, health information technology, and wearable devices in addressing health disparities that may be caused or exacerbated by the pandemic. Applications will be accepted through August 20, 2020. More information is available on the [NIH website](#).

Nomination Opportunities

- **NEW:** NSF/NSB: [Vannevar Bush Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- **NEW:** NSF/NSB: [Public Service Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- 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)
 - 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)
 - **NEW:** NIH/NIMHD: [Digital Healthcare Interventions to Address the Secondary Health Effects Related to Social, Behavioral, and Economic Impact of COVID-19 \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: August 20, 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)

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)
- DOJ/FBI: [National Use-of-Force Data Collection: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection](#) (Closes: July 30, 2020)

COMMUNITY NEWS & REPORTS

Nomination Opportunities

- AAAS: [Kavli Science Journalism Awards](#) (Closes: August 1, 2020)

Recent Reports

- NASEM: [Reopening U.S. Research Universities: Confronting Long-Standing Challenges and Imagining Novel Solutions](#)
- Fordham Institute: [Moonshot For Education: A Federal Policy Proposal to Spur Effective Research and Development for K-12 Education](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

APA Seeks Nominations for Climate Change Task Force

The American Psychological Association (APA), a COSSA governing member, has announced the opening of nominations for individuals to serve on a new [APA Task Force on Climate Change](#). The task force, which was authorized by APA's Council of Representatives in February 2020 as part of a greater APA [policy resolution](#) responding to climate change, will focus on how the academic discipline of psychology can better address climate change and will produce a report to be shared publicly.

Nominees should be willing to self-nominate and be able to serve a full year on the task force. Nominations will be accepted through August 21, 2020. More information is available on the [APA website](#).

Nomination Opportunities

- NEW: APA: [Task Force on Climate Change](#) (Closes: August 21, 2020)

EVENTS CALENDAR

- 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
- CANCELLED: [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), October 8-11, 2020

- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | October](#), October 8, 2020, 2:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Evaluation 2020](#), October 26-31, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), October 29-31, 2020

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

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

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
 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
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 University of Maryland
 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Virginia
 University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Virginia Tech
 West Virginia University
 Yale University

Affiliates

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
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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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