



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Transition 2021

Early Days of Biden Administration Marked by Slew of Executive Actions

Since Inauguration Day, President Biden's spate of executive orders and presidential declarations have focused primarily on undoing many of the damaging actions of the last Administration. As expected, several actions were taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic, such as [mandating mask-wearing](#) in federal facilities, appointment of a COVID-19 Response Coordinator, and providing economic relief to individuals and families struggling with unemployment and underemployment, eviction, and other effects of the pandemic. In addition, numerous executive actions directly address the U.S. scientific enterprise and U.S. participation in global scientific efforts. Discussed below are several recent actions taken by the Biden Administration that will be of interest to the social and behavioral science community.

Biden Administration Executive Actions: Equity & Inclusion

Another early Biden Administration executive order rescinded various [Trump Administration actions](#) that attempted to push back against perceived "political correctness" by actions prohibiting trainings and other activities that touch on white privilege, structural inequality, implicit bias, and other supposedly "divisive" concepts based on decades of social science research. President Biden's [Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#) goes beyond simply revoking the Trump Administration policies and instead sets a policy of actively working to improve racial equity government-wide. The Executive Order outlines a systematic approach for accurately assessing "whether agency policies and actions create or exacerbate barriers to full and equal participation by all eligible individuals" and identifying strategies to remove barriers. The Executive Order also establishes an Interagency Working Group on Equitable Data to be co-chaired by the Chief Statistician and the Chief Technology Officer and tasked with facilitating the collection of detailed demographic data on ethnicity, gender, disability, income, veteran status, or other key demographic variables in order to measure and advance equity across the government.

President Biden also signed several other Executive Orders intended to advance equity and inclusion, including orders [prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation](#) and [combating bias against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#).

Biden Administration Executive Actions: COVID-19

On January 21, President Biden issued an [Executive Order](#) ensuring that the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic would be guided by the best available science and data, further protecting from potential future public health threats. The Executive Order lays out several directives for federal agencies including focusing energy on building public health infrastructure, directing agency heads to share and coordinate COVID-19 data with other agencies, improving federal capacity for data collection practices, and reviewing existing public health data systems for potential areas for improvement. The Department of Health and Human Services is directed to ensure public health data systems that detect and monitor major public health threats are interconnected and interoperable and to review state and local collection of morbidity and mortality data to ensure these systems can quickly respond to emerging developments. The Executive Order also charges the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) director with developing a plan for advancing innovation in public health data and analytics. The Executive Order is available on the [White House website](#).

Biden Administration Executive Actions: Climate Change

In addition to his day-one promise to rejoin the [Paris Climate Agreement](#), President Biden has also issued executive orders [directing federal agencies](#) to review and, where appropriate, take corrective action to address or reverse actions of the Trump Administration that are found to be “harmful to public health, damaging to the environment, unsupported by the best available science, or otherwise not in the national interest.” On January 27, a detailed order on [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) was issued. Among other things, the order ensures that “climate considerations” will have a place in U.S. foreign policy and national security, promises a government-wide approach to addressing the climate crisis, including by establishing a White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy and interagency National Climate Task Force, and seeks action to spur workforce development in sustainable infrastructure, agriculture, and the energy sector, while also addressing environmental justice for the most vulnerable populations.

Biden Administration Executive Actions: Scientific Integrity

On January 27, President Biden issued a [Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking](#) that states the Administration’s policy to “make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data” and affirms that “scientific findings should never be distorted or influenced by political considerations.” The memorandum builds on and updates an [Obama Administration Executive Order](#) requiring federal agencies develop scientific integrity policies. President Biden’s memorandum establishes a Task Force on Scientific Integrity that will review existing scientific integrity policies and recommend improvements. It also sets more detailed requirements for what should be included in agency scientific integrity policies and outlines how these policies should complement agencies’ evidence-building plans required by the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act* (see COSSA’s [previous coverage](#)). It also requires agencies that fund, conduct, or oversee scientific research designate individuals to act as Chief Science Officers and as Scientific Integrity Officials. See our [previous coverage](#) for more on the Biden Administration’s science team.

President Biden also signed an [executive order](#) to maintain the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), a senior independent advisory body that consists of scientific experts from within and outside the federal government. As [previously reported](#), PCAST’s external co-chairs will be Dr. Frances H. Arnold and Dr. Maria Zuber. The early action to preserve PCAST is a departure from President Trump, who waited [nearly three years](#) into his administration before reestablishing the council.

Biden Executive Actions: Federal Workforce

On January 22, President Biden issued an [Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce](#), which repealed several Trump-era executive actions affecting the civil service. Notably, the executive order revokes the controversial Schedule F excepted service category (see [previous COSSA coverage](#)), which would have reclassified some federal employees to be more prone to hiring and firing as if they were political appointees. The executive order is available on the [White House website](#).

Biden Executive Actions: Immigration and Research Security

On January 20, President Biden issued a [presidential proclamation](#) ending several orders from the Trump Administration banning certain individuals from traveling to the United States, primarily, individuals from African countries and countries with large Muslim populations. The proclamation also reverses many Trump-era practices used to aggressively tighten immigration such as restrictions on the visa process and the intrusive screening of individuals’ social media accounts.

At the same time, the Biden Administration has signaled potential actions related to the security of the U.S. research enterprise (see COSSA’s [January 2020](#) and [October 2020](#) Hot Topics for more info). In particular, the Biden Administration has turned its attention to the [National Security Presidential Memorandum \(NSPM\)-33](#) issued in the waning days of the Trump Administration as a potential roadmap for research security policy. NSPM-33 lists several

recommendations to coordinate federal agencies, academic institutions, and researchers in vetting foreign scientists traveling to the U.S. to perform research by collecting harmonized biographical data between agencies. This data would then be managed chiefly by the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security to identify potential security threats. NSPM-33 can be read in full on the [Trump White House archive](#).

Biden Administration Executive Actions: Census

Among the executive orders President Biden signed on his first day in office was an [affirmation](#) that Census population counts would reflect the total number of residents in each state—regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. It has been the government's longstanding practice for Census figures to be based on the "whole number of persons in each state" (as described in the 14th Amendment). However, former President Trump had attempted to change this policy via executive actions to [use administrative records to produce citizenship data](#) and to [exclude undocumented immigrants from apportionment counts produced by the 2020 Census](#). President Biden's executive order formally revokes these actions. As a result, the Census Bureau has announced that it indefinitely suspended its work to produce [more detailed citizenship estimates](#) and will not include information on citizenship or immigration status in its [redistricting data](#). As [previously reported](#), Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham resigned immediately before President Biden took office amid reports that he had been pressuring staff to release citizenship estimates in spite of concerns over the data quality.

The Census Bureau also [announced](#) that it is not planning to release apportionment data (which is used to allocate states' seats in the House of Representatives and Electoral College votes) until April 30. The Trump Administration had been pressuring the Census Bureau to release this information by the end of 2020, in spite of the operational delays caused by the pandemic and resulting concerns about irregularities in the data that could be exacerbated by rushed processing. [Census stakeholders](#) had been advocating since the conclusion of the enumeration operation that the Bureau be given additional time to perform essential quality control activities. The Census Bureau will also delay the release of redistricting data, which states use to redraw district boundaries based on population, by several months, although an estimate of when they will be published has not yet been made public.

New from COSSA

"Why Social Science?" Focuses on COVID-19 Vaccination



The latest Why Social Science? post comes from the authors of the recent National Institutes of Health (NIH) report "[COVID-19 Vaccination Communication: Applying Behavioral and Social Science to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Foster Vaccine Confidence](#)," who write about the evidence-informed best practices communities should use when sharing information about the vaccination process for COVID-19. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

FROM THE ARCHIVES: 100th Congress Convened: Democrats Take Charge; Deficit Still Looms (January 23, 1987)

In celebration of COSSA's 40th anniversary, we are diving into the decades of [Washington Update archives](#) to share articles from years past that resonate with today's news.

The 100th Congress was sworn in January 6, 1987. Since then the Senate has organized and begun a series of hearings that make clear the impact of the switch to Democratic control. The House has moved much more slowly to organize and to resume its work. Details of the FY 1988 budget not included in the brief version released on January 5 will be unveiled the week of January 26. The President, burdened by the Iran-Contra revelations and by health problems, will deliver his State of the Union address on January 27. Once these events are out of the way, the season of hearings, markups, and compromises will begin in earnest. So will the maneuvering between the White House and Capitol Hill to produce a budget agreement.

[Read more from this issue.](#)

Congressional News

House Appropriations Leadership Finalized

The House Appropriations Committee recently announced its membership for the 117th Congress, including the naming of Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) as full committee chair and Rep.

Matt Cartwright (D-PA) as chair of the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee (see below for details). Congressional committees in the House and Senate have been slowly taking shape in recent weeks; however, many committee rosters have yet to be finalized, especially in the Senate where the majority has recently shifted from Republicans to Democrats. We will continue to report on notable new assignments as they are announced.

House Appropriations Committee

See [majority press release](#) and [minority press release](#)

Full Appropriations Committee

- Chair: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) ***NEW***
- Ranking Member: Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)

Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee

Funding jurisdiction over the National Science Foundation, Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice and other agencies

- Chair: Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA) ***NEW***
- Ranking Member: Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee

Funding jurisdiction over the National Institutes of Health, Department of Education and other agencies

- Chair: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
- Ranking Member: Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)

COSSA Member Spotlight

AERA and Spencer Foundation Release Report on COVID-19 Impacts on Doctoral Students and Early Career Scholars

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), a COSSA governing member, and the Spencer Foundation have released a report, [Voices from the Field: The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Career Scholars and Doctoral Students](#), as part of an ongoing effort to assess and address pressing needs facing scholars and doctoral students during the pandemic. The report's findings are drawn from a series of focus groups conducted in spring 2020 and are organized into seven themes: (1) Research Impact: Disruptions, Delays, and Adaptations; (2) Impact on Teaching: The Need to Be Inventive, Inclusive, and Intentional; (3) Balancing Acts: Negotiating Family, Home, Community, and Professional Life; (4) The Emergence of a Dual Pandemic and Confronting Racism; (5) Employment Trajectories, Uncertainties, and Deferrals; (6) Institutional (In)Capacity to Respond and Support; and (7) Emerging and Lost Connections, Communities, and Communication. The full report is available on the [AERA website](#). AERA and the Spencer Foundation plan to release a second report later in 2021 that focuses on findings from a major national survey on the experiences and concerns of early career scholars and doctoral students in education research.

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 2/1/2021: [Letter Requesting Funding for a "School Pulse" Survey at the Institute of Education Sciences](#)
- 1/21/2021: [COSSA Statement on the Biden Administration's Appointment of Dr. Alondra Nelson as Office of Science and Technology Policy Deputy Director for Science and Society](#)

Nomination Opportunities

[Committee to Advise the U.S. Global Change Research Program \(USGCRP\)](#)

[Nominations for Membership on the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections](#)

New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- BJS: [NICS Act Record Improvement Program \(NARIP\)](#) (Closes: April 22, 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)
- BJS: [National Criminal History Improvement Program \(NCHIP\)](#) (Closes: April 8, 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)

- NSF: [Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research \(FW-HTF\)](#) (Closes: March 23, 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)
- HHS/HRSA: [P4 Challenge: Innovations in Pediatric Primary Care to Improve Child Health](#) (Closes: March 15, 2021)
- BJS: [State Justice Statistics Program of Statistical Analysis Centers, 2021](#) (Closes: March 11, 2021)
- DOJ/BJS: [FY 2021 Continuation of the Federal Justice Statistics Program](#) (Closes: March 2, 2021)
- DOJ/BJS: [FY 2021 Census of Law Enforcement Training Academies](#) (Closes: March 1, 2021)
- NIH/NEA: [Music and Health: Understanding and Developing Music Medicine \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\) \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: February 16, 2021)
- NSF: [Broadening Participation in STEM Entrepreneurship and Innovation \(BPINNOVATE\)](#) (Closes: February 9, 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/NIMHD: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities](#) (Closes: February 5, 2021)
- NCGVR: [Funding Opportunity for One-Year Gun Research Proposals](#) (Closes: February 5, 2021)
- NSF/SBE: [Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\)](#) (Closes: February 4, 2021)
- NSF: [Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-2 \(Mid-scale RI-2\)](#) (Closes: February 3, 2021)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Interdisciplinary Frontiers of Understanding the Brain](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- DOC: [Request for Comments for the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building](#) (Closes: February 9, 2021)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** AERA/Spencer Foundation: [Voices from the Field: The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Career Scholars and Doctoral Students](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- ED: [Summer Internship Opportunities](#) (Closes: March 31, 2021)
- NIH/OBSSR: [Summer Institute of Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials](#) (Closes: February 15, 2021)
- [Child Intervention, Prevention, and Services \(CHIPS\) Research Training Institute](#) (Closes: February 14, 2021)
- **NEW:** NASEM/DBASSE: [Associate Program Officer - Behavioral/Social Sciences and Communications](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM/DBASSE: [Program Officer - Behavioral/Social Sciences and National Security](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM/SEAN: [Associate Program Officer](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM/SEAN: [Program Officer](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM/CNSTAT: [Deputy Board Director](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM/CLAJ: [Program Officer](#)

Upcoming Events



- **VIRTUAL:** [Applied Demography Conference](#), February 2-4, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [NASEM Webinar: Reporting on COVID-19 Vaccines at the Intersection of Science and Politics](#), February 5, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), February 9-13, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | February](#), February 11, 2021, 2:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [NIH Science of Behavior Change \(SOBC\) Capstone Conference](#), February 22-23, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations Annual Meeting](#), February 25-26, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | March](#), March 11, 2021, 2:00pm

- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Personality Assessment Annual Convention](#), March 17-20, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), April 7-10, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting](#), April 7-11, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | April](#), April 8, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting](#), April 8-10, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), April 9-12, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting](#), April 12-16, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), April 13-17, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), April 15-17, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), April 15-18, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), April 18-21, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting](#), April 22-24, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day, April 27, 2021](#)
- **VIRTUAL:** [Association of Research Libraries Meeting](#), April 27-29, 2021

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@coossa.org.

COSSA 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
 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
 Rural Sociological Society
 Social Science History Association
 Society for Personality Assessment
 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
 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
 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
 Stanford University
 University of Arizona
 University of Arkansas
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Los Angeles
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 University of Chicago
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 University of Georgia
 University of Illinois
 University of Iowa
 University of Maryland
 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Virginia
 University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Virginia Tech
 West Virginia University
 Yale University

Centers and Institutes

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

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing
Wiley

Cornell Institute for Social and Economic
Research
Institute for Social Research, University of
Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

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 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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#WhySocialScience

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