



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Navigating Unprecedented Change: Understanding the Federal Policy Landscape

Wendy Naus, Executive Director
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

Society for Research in Child Development
July 14, 2026



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Research Centers & Institutes

American Academy of Political and
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American Institutes for Research
Center for Advanced Study in the
Behavioral Sciences
Child Trends
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

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing



LAW & SOCIETY
ASSOCIATION



Today

1. State of Science Funding
2. Federal Agency Actions
3. Regulatory Update

What you can do!



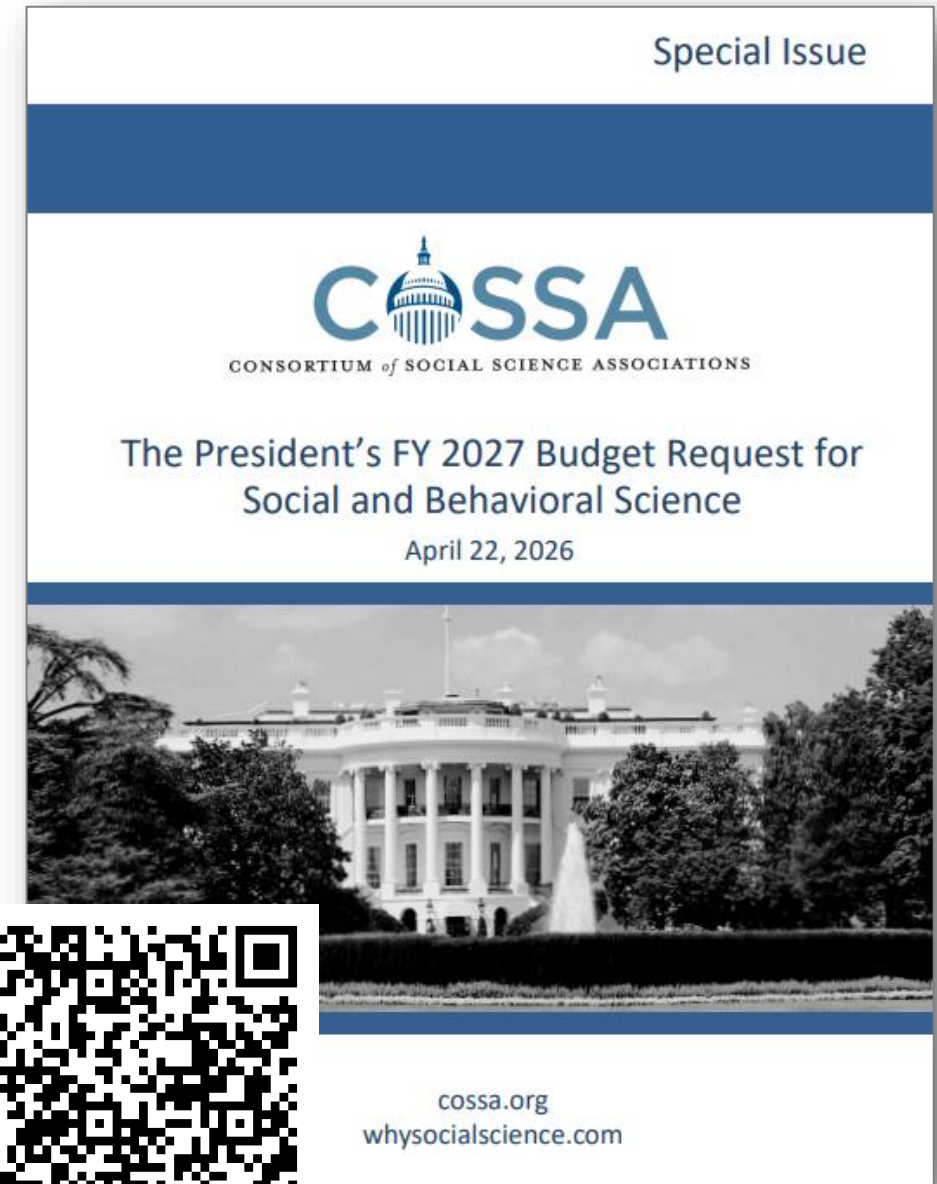
1. State of Science Funding

FY 2026 Science Funding

	(in millions)	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 President's Request	FY 2026 Final	FY 2026 vs. FY 2025
National Science Foundation		9060.0	3903.2	8750.0	-3.4%
National Institutes of Health		46801.0	28350.0	47216.0	0.9%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention		9222.1	4321.0	9203.0	-0.2%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality		369.0	240.0	345.4	-6.4%
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration		7376.0	6200.0	7439.6	0.9%
Institute of Education Sciences		793.1	261.3	789.6	-0.4%
International Education & Foreign Language Studies		85.6	0	80.7	-5.8%
Bureau of the Census		1382.5	1676.5	1490.3	7.8%
Bureau of Economic Analysis		117.3	110.7	110.3	-6.0%
Bureau of Labor Statistics		704.0	648.0	708.5	0.6%
Bureau of Justice Statistics		35.0	33.0	33.0	-5.7%
National Institute of Justice		30.0	22.0	22.0	-26.7%

FY 2027 Science Funding

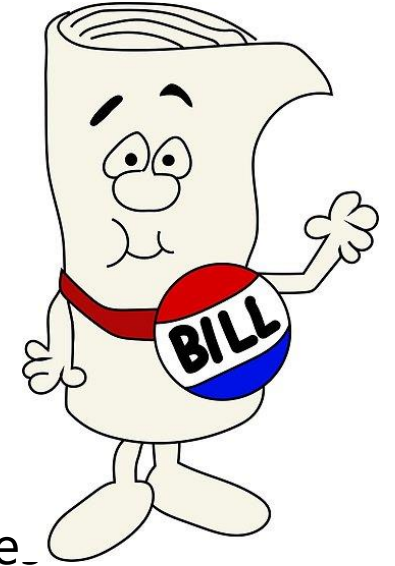
- White House released budget request for next year on April 3.
- Includes funding *proposals* for all federal agencies/departments.
- Still proposes cuts to science agencies, but not as extreme.
- Science priorities: AI, quantum computing, biotech



Snapshot of the President's FY 2027 Budget Request

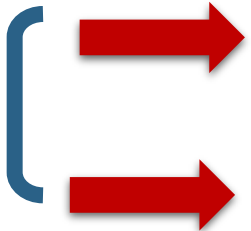
<i>(in millions)</i>	FY 2027 Request	% Change
National Institutes of Health	41,429.0	-11.8%
National Science Foundation	3,963.2	-54.7%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	5,485.0	-40.4%
Census Bureau	2,011.5	35.0%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	668.0	-5.7%
Institute of Education Sciences	261.3	-66.9%
National Center for Health Statistics	175.0	-6.6%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	111.7	1.3%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	33.0	0%
National Institute of Justice	22.0	0%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies (Dept. of Education)	0	-100%

Annual Appropriations Process



Regular Order:

- FEB – President's Budget Request released
- APR – Congress adopts budget resolution
- MAY – Appropriations Committees set allocations for 12 subcommittee.
- MAY-JUN – Subcommittees write and "mark up" bills
- JUN – Full Appropriations Committee considers/amends bills
- JUL – House Floor debate/vote on each bill individually
- SEP – Differences negotiated (conference committee), each chamber votes on compromise
- BY SEP 30 – To the President to sign/veto
- OCT 1 – New fiscal year begins



Congress Starting Work on FY 2027 Bills

(in millions)	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027			
		President's Request	House Bill	House v. 2026	House v. Request
National Institutes of Health	47216.0	42023.0	47316.0	-11.3%	48.8%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	9203.0	5485.0	8164.4	-11.3%	48.8%
National Science Foundation	8750.0	3963.2	7000.0	-20%	77%
Bureau of the Census	1490.3	2011.5	1490.3	--	-26%
Institute of Education Sciences	789.6	261.3	493.5	-37.5%	88.8%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	708.5	668.0	716.5	1.1%	7.3%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	345.4	240.0	0	-100%	-100%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	110.3	111.7	119.5	9.2%	7%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	80.7	0	0	-100%	-100%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	35.0	33.0	33.0	--	--
National Institute of Justice	30.0	22.0	22.0	--	--

Political Context around Science Funding

- Funding for science has mostly been a non- or even bipartisan issue in Congress – especially basic research agencies (NSF/NIH).
- However, long-time support for science does not always translate into budget increases.
 - Competing priorities means that sometimes flat-funding for science agencies is considered a “win.”
 - Congress needs to be reminded every year why federal funding for science is important.
- Today – Extreme partisanship in Congress means that nothing is safe from cuts and we must work even harder to be heard.
- Lots of issues are distracting Congress from focusing on appropriations – war, immigration, midterm elections.



What you can do: **FY 2027 Science Funding**

Urge Congress to Prioritize Robust Science Funding!

The Trump Administration's budget request for FY 2027 represents a surrender of U.S. leadership in global research and development. The President's proposal would slash funding for U.S. science agencies—including a 55% cut to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a 13% cut to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—at a time when other countries are doubling down on their investments in scientific discovery. Taken together with recent attacks on the scientific research enterprise—including devastating reports of the Administration's plan to shutter NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) this year—it is essential that our community fights for federal science funding and the scientific workforce.

Now is the time to write to your Members of Congress to urge that they prioritize funding in FY 2027 for research and statistics by supporting increased appropriations for the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Institute of Education Sciences, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census Bureau, International Education and Foreign Language Programs, and the federal statistical system.

We encourage you to personalize our template message to highlight the points that matter most to you. When you're done, share this alert with others and spread the word on social media using #WhySocialScience. Thank you for taking action!

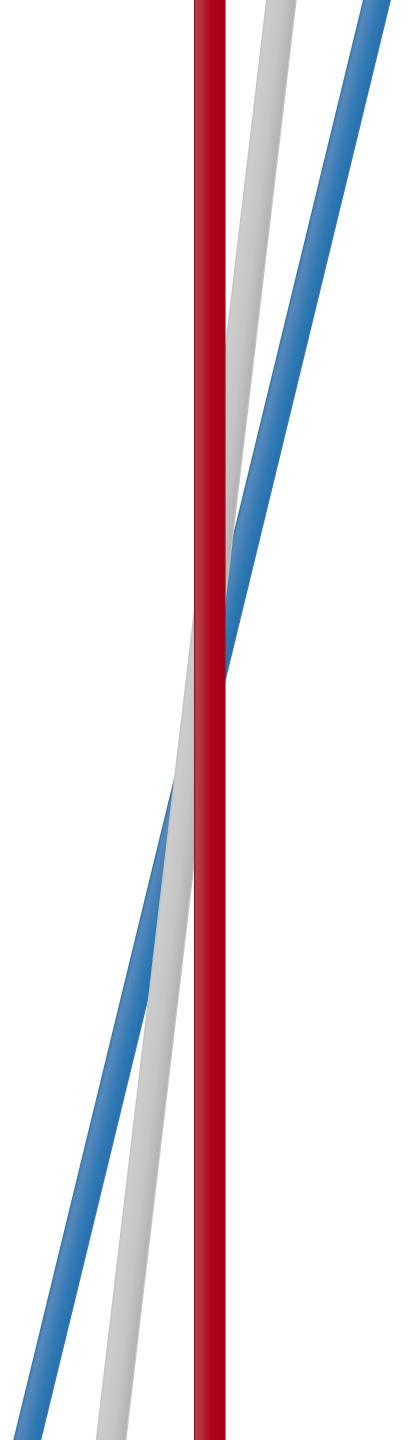
TAKE ACTION



2. Federal Agency Actions

National Science Foundation

- SBE Directorate & FY 2027 Budget
- National Science Board
- NSF Director
- Reorganization



SBE Directorate & FY 2027 Budget

- President's budget proposes eliminating Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) in FY 2027 (starts Oct. 1).
- Concerns that NSF is starting now to ramp down SBE – pre-complying with FY 2027 plans without Congressional approval



Evidence

1. SBE funding in FY 2026 significantly reduced, in violation of Congressional direction

Spend Plan Amounts unless noted	FY2024		FY 2025		FY 2026	
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (Total)	290.3	1.6%	224.0	-22.8%	94.0	-58.0%
<i>NCSES</i>	74.1	31.1%	74.0	-0.1%	44	-40.5%
SBE - Research Only	216.2	-5.7%	150.0	-30.6%	50.0	-66.7%

**rumored*

FY 2026 report language:

“In developing the spending plan and allocating funds, the agreement directs NSF to equitably distribute funding to support all basic research directorates within R&RA, as well as the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate. No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level.”

Evidence

1. SBE funding in FY 2026 significantly reduced, in violation of Congressional direction
2. Number of awards made by SBE so far in 2026:

Directorate	FY 2026 (Oct-July)	FY 26 v. FY 25	FY 26 v. FY 24	FY 2025 (Oct-July)	FY 2024 (Oct-July)
BIO	425	13.6%	-20.6%	374	535
CISE	615	-26.0%	-24.4%	831	814
EDU	85	-57.1%	-73.8%	198	324
ENG	568	-19.8%	-26.6%	708	774
GEO	302	-38.6%	-40.8%	492	510
MPS	717	-10.4%	-38.6%	800	1167
SBE	86	-63.2%	-60.6%	234	218
TIP	138	-56.9%	-22.9%	320	179

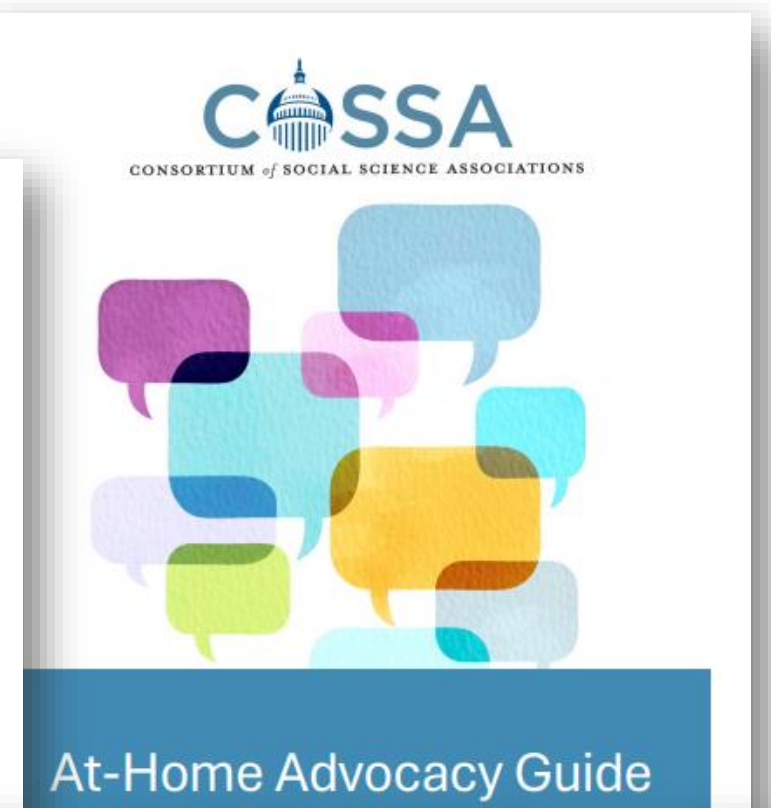
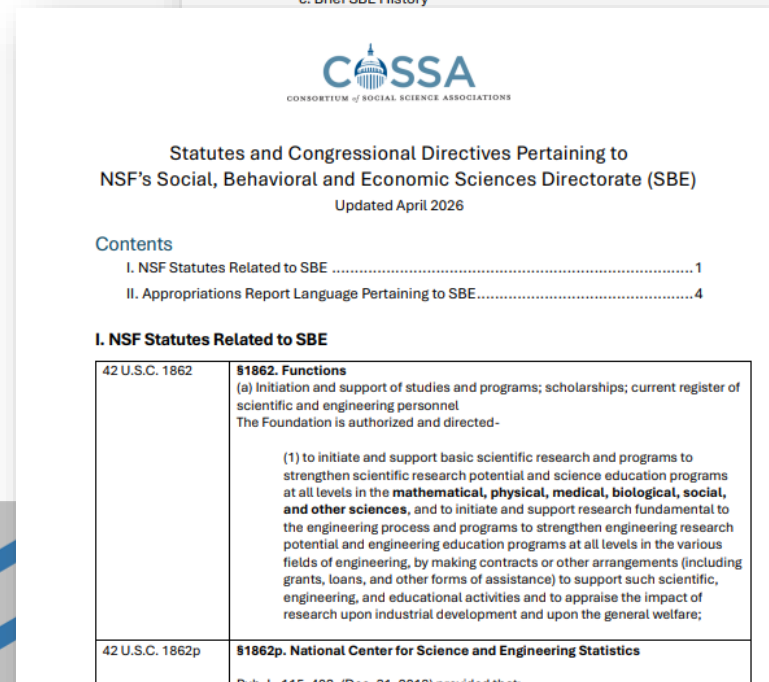
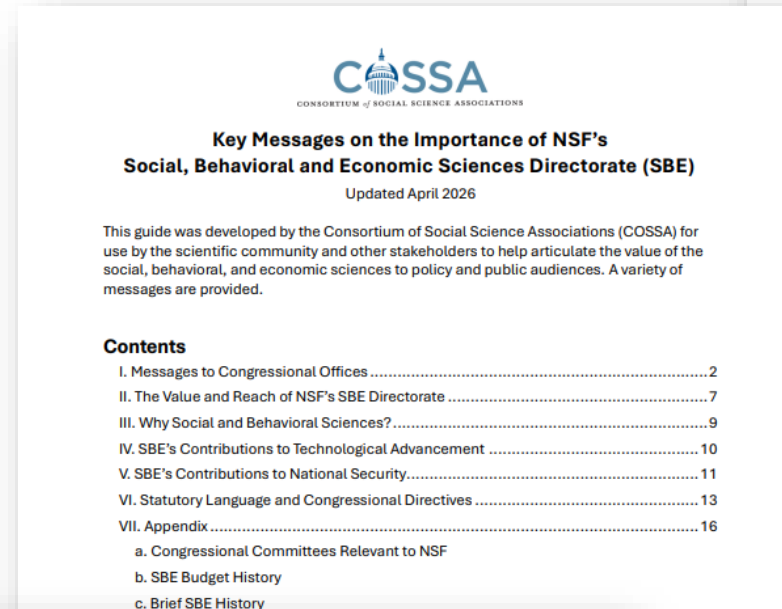
Action Plan

1. Fight against the SBE cut in the FY 2027 appropriations bill.
2. Mitigate damage to SBE in the meantime.



Member Resources

- Save SBE website
- Town Hall Meetings
- Messaging Guide
- Share your Story form
- Statutes and Congressional Directives
- Advocacy guides



Share Your Story: Impact of Federal Funding Cuts and Executive Actions on Social and Behavioral Science Research

The scientific community continues to face unprecedented challenges as the Trump Administration attempts to fundamentally change the way research is supported and conducted in the U.S. The [latest threat](#)—to eliminate the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)—which the agency has reportedly already initiated without Congressional approval or stakeholder engagement, requires a whole-of-science response. See COSSA's [Save SBE Toolkit](#) for more information.

COSSA is continuing to collect stories from the social and behavioral science community on how recent Executive Actions are affecting or have the potential to affect research and the scientific workforce. These stories may be specific to the SBE issue OR other Executive Actions taken since January 2025. Your contributions will help the COSSA team as we share real-world, timely information with policymakers (e.g., Congress and federal agencies) about the impact these actions are having across the country.

Messages

1. FY 2027 NSF Budget request includes 55% cut to NSF.
2. Budget proposes SBE elimination, with no notice, rationale, or plan.
3. NSF may be acting now to pre-comply with the SBE closure.
 - FY 2026 spending plan
4. Ask Congressional offices to:
 - a. Object to the FY 2027 proposal
 - b. Put pressure on NSF and OMB to reverse course



Other Agency Updates: NIH

- Money is slow getting out the door
- Multi-year funding (frontloading)
- Lack of IC leadership



AAMC NIH Funding Tracker



Other Agency Updates: Dept. of Education

- Institute of Education Sciences (Dept. of Ed)
 - Cancelled 2025 contracts and RIFs
 - “Reimaging IES” report
 - Need to apportion and allocate 2025 & 2026 funding
 - Interagency agreements



Other Agency Updates

- Census Bureau
 - Leadership gap; loss of outside expert advisory committees
 - 15-20% loss of staff; hiring
 - Ramping up to 2030 Census; cancelled 2026 Census tests
- Key vacancies
 - NSF Director
 - NIH IC Directors
 - Census Bureau Director
 - CDC Director
 - IES Director
 - NIJ Director
 - BJS Director

What you can do: **SBE Issue**

1. Keep talking about SBE



Key messages

- The elimination of SBE is a “whole of science” issue.
- Elimination threatens departments and programs at universities across the country.
- SBE represents only 3-4% of the NSF budget by funds **two-thirds** of social and behavioral science research at U.S. universities.



Key Messages on the Importance of NSF's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)

Updated April 2026

This guide was developed by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) for use by the scientific community and other stakeholders to help articulate the value of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences to policy and public audiences. A variety of messages are provided.

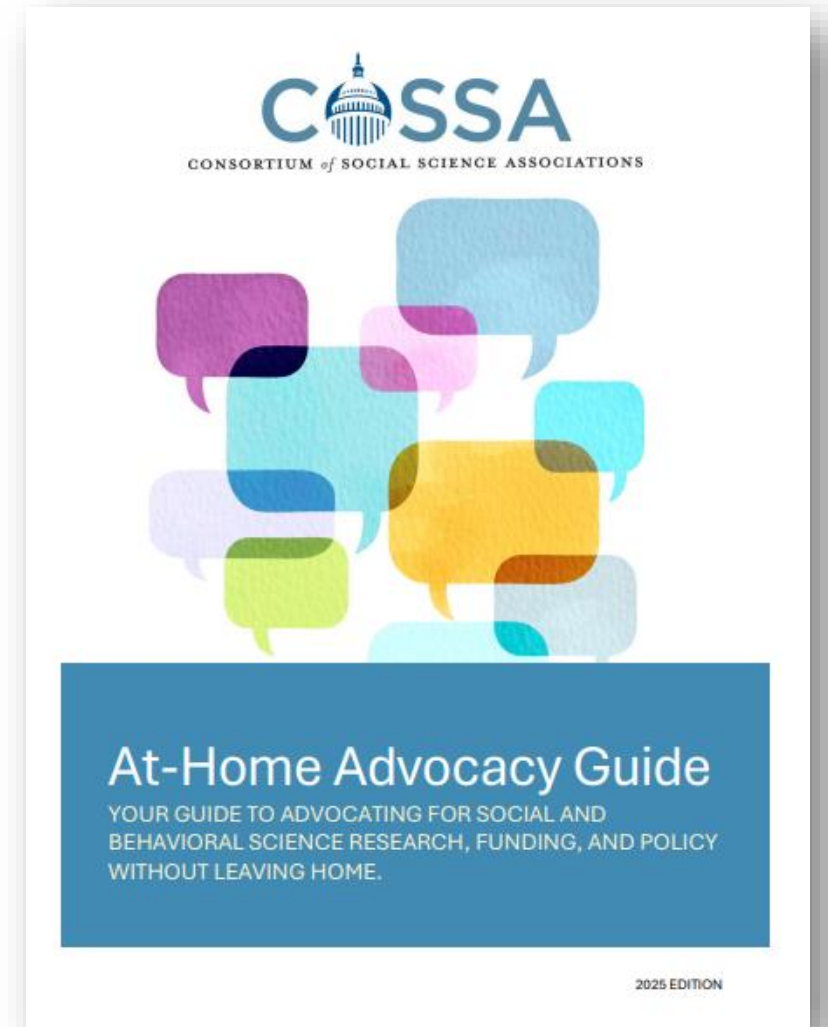
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For additional resources, visit cossa.org/action-center/save-sbe

What you can do: **SBE Issue**

1. Keep talking about SBE
2. Take action!
 - Respond to COSSA Action Alerts
 - Organize action to take when Members of Congress are back in the state this summer:
 - Attend Town Hall meetings
 - Meet locally
 - Invite lawmakers to campus/lab



3. Regulatory Update

OMB Proposed Rule: Federal Financial Assistance

- Public Comment deadline was July 13
- 341,699 comments received



"Goals"

OMB's Stated Goals

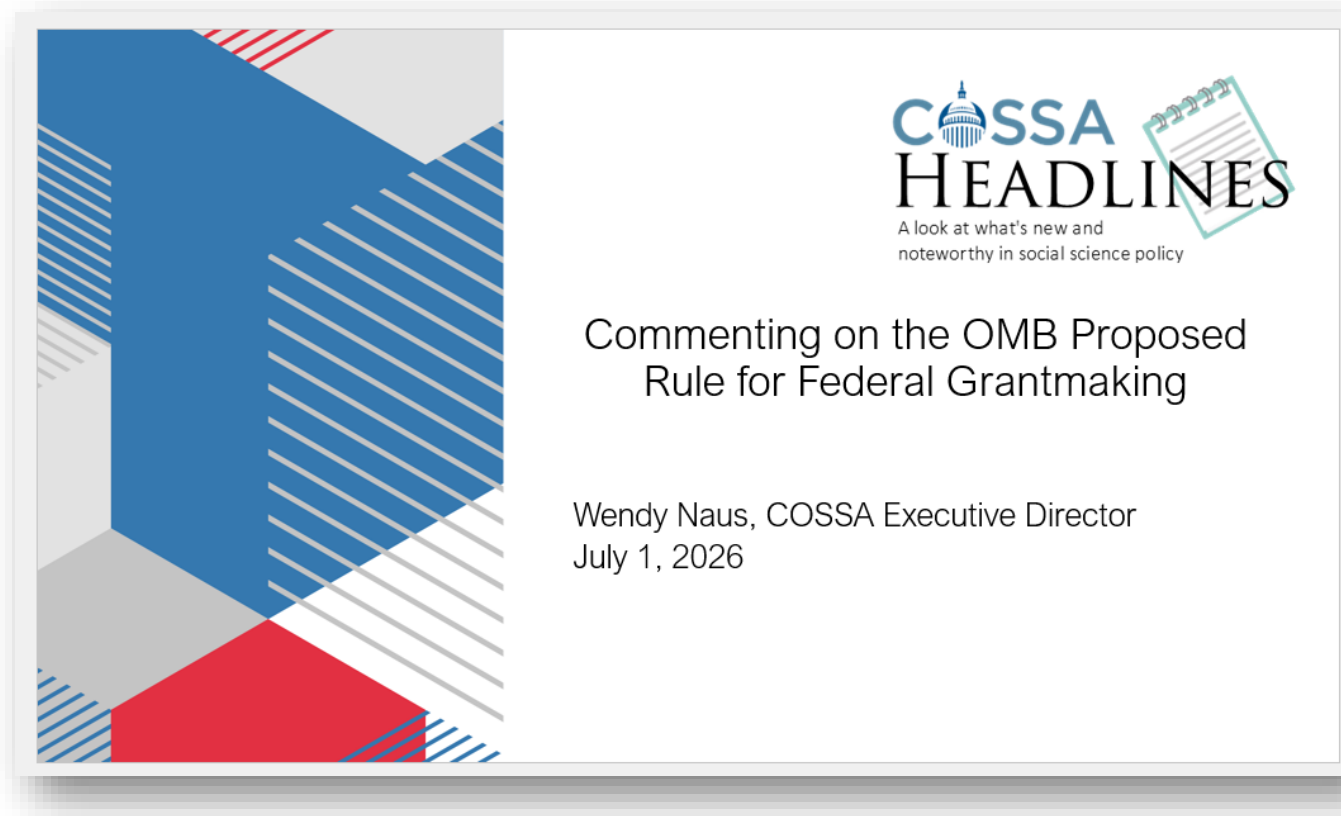
1. Improve transparency, accountability and oversight for the use of federal taxpayer money.
2. Clarify the status of OMB's policies and requirements as **OMB regulation**.
3. Reduce recipient burden.

What It Actually Does

1. Codifies problematic or unclear EOs.
2. Centralizes OMB's authority over grantmaking (i.e., **"guidance" becomes "regulation"**)
3. Policy changes.



OMB Proposed Rule



Building the Record

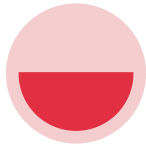
Administrative Procedures Act (1946) – governs how federal agencies create regulations, enforce rules, and make decisions.

---- Rulemaking Process ----



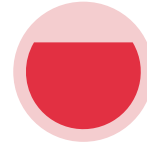
Notice & Comment

The agency publishes a proposed rule and invites the public to submit written arguments, data, or views.



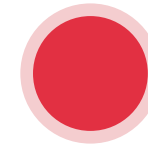
Review & Synthesis

Agency staff read through all submitted public feedback. They do not need to respond to every single form letter or repetitive comment, but they **must address all significant issues**.



The Final Rule

Finalized rule includes **a written "preamble" summarizing the main public concerns** and explains the agency's reasoning for accepting or rejecting the public's suggestions.



Legal Enforcement

If an **agency ignores a major comment or provides a flawed or illogical response**, a court can strike down the rule as "arbitrary and capricious".

Litigation & Legislative Action

- Real action happens after July 13.
- Effective Date is October 1; final rule must be published before that.
- Lawsuits likely, using public comment as evidence.
- Congress may seek legislative “fixes.”
- Federal agencies will need to make changes to their internal policies to comply (conforming language).



What you can do: **OMB Rule**

- Once you have submitted your comment, send a PDF to your Congressional delegation (House and Senate).
- Include in your cover note any relevant local information:
 - Do you work at the local university?
 - Is grant funding at risk?
 - Will you experience additional administrative burden?
- **Appropriators** and **authorizers** especially need to hear from you.





CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Advocacy Handbook for Social & Behavioral Science Researchers



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House Committees

House Committee on Appropriations

Chair: Tom Cole (R-OK)

Ranking Member: Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

Website: <http://appropriations.house.gov>

Minority Website: <https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/>

The House Appropriations Committee is responsible for crafting the legislation each year that funds the federal government. This legislation is divided into twelve individual funding bills, each of which is assigned to a designated subcommittee. These subcommittees review the President's annual budget request, hear testimony from federal agency officials and outside witnesses, and draft legislation that will fund their respective agencies for the coming fiscal year.

Some of the key appropriations subcommittees for social and behavioral science are:

- Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
- Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H)

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Chair: Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

Ranking Member: Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)

Website: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>

- Environment and the Economy
- Health
- Oversight and Investigations

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Chair: Brian Babin (R-TX)

Ranking Member: Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Website: <http://science.house.gov>

Minority Website: <https://democrats-science.house.gov/>

The House Science Committee has jurisdiction over the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as well as issues including energy research, environmental research, and other scientific research and development areas. This Committee is responsible for passing the legislation that authorizes the National Science Foundation.

The Committee has five subcommittees:

- Energy
- Environment
- Oversight
- Research and Technology
- Space

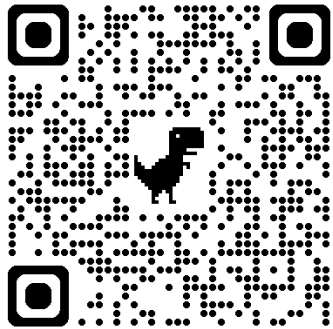
House Committee on Education and Workforce

Chair: Tim Walberg (R-MI)

COSSA Resources

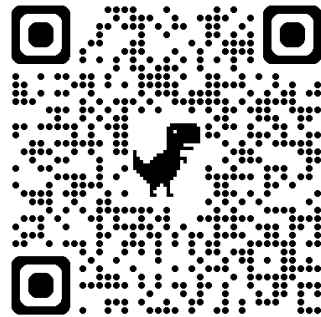
Washington Update

- Biweekly newsletter providing members and the public with coverage of policy developments.



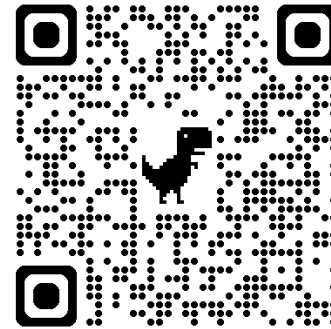
Member Messages

- Timely updates on developments impacting SBS, analysis of pending legislation and policies, action alerts, and access to members-only resources and events.



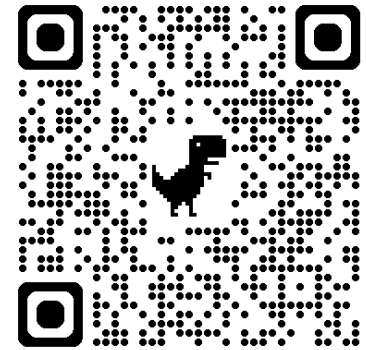
COSSA 101 Series

- A Crash Course on the Federal Government
- Current Courses: *What is a Government Shutdown?* & *What is Appropriations?*



Why Social Science?

- COSSA's monthly blog that aims to share relatable and accessible information about SBS research with the public.



Questions?

Email: wnaus@cosssa.org

Join COSSA: cosssa.org/join

www.cosssa.org

www.whysocialscience.com

