Appropriations Update
On December 16, 2009, President Obama signed into law H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010. The bill was comprised of six appropriations bills, including the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill, which funds the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Commerce, Science, Justice Appropriations bill, which funds the Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The below chart summarizes funding that federal agencies of primary interest to the Population Association of America (PAA) received in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 compared to Fiscal Year (FY) 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>FY 2009 Final Appropriation</th>
<th>FY 2010 Final Appropriation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>$30.3 billion</td>
<td>$31.0 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIA</td>
<td>$1.1 billion</td>
<td>$1.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NICHD</td>
<td>$1.3 billion</td>
<td>$1.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Bureau</td>
<td>$3.1 billion</td>
<td>$7.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCHS</td>
<td>$124.7 million</td>
<td>$138 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>$6.5 billion</td>
<td>$6.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AID FP/RH</td>
<td>$545 million</td>
<td>$648 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During these challenging budgetary times, it is particularly good news that these agencies fared well.

- The NIH received $691.8 million over its FY 2009 funding level, giving it a 2.3 percent increase over last fiscal year. In addition, the NIH received $193.9 million to continue the National Children's Health Study.

- Because of its $14 million increase over its FY 09 funding level, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) will continue collecting core vital statistics data from the states.

- The Census Bureau received a $4.2 billion increase over its FY 2009 funding level, enabling it to conduct the 2010 Census and hire approximately one million individuals to aid with census data collection.

- The bill includes a total of $648.5 million for bilateral and multilateral family planning/reproductive health programs managed by the Agency for International Development. This funding represents an increase of more than $103 million or 19 percent above the FY 2009 enacted level and $55 million more than the President’s budget request.
Agency News

Change in NICHD Leadership--Again

In the last issue of PAA Affairs, we reported that the long-time Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Dr. Duane Alexander had resigned. His role was going to be filled by Dr. Susan Shurin, Deputy Director, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), while a search for a new permanent director was conducted.

However, on December 1, Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), appointed Dr. Shurin the Acting Director of NHLBI to replace its outgoing director Dr. Elizabeth Nabel. On the same day, he also appointed Dr. Alan Guttmacher the Acting Director of NICHD.

Described in an NIH press release as a “highly regarded pediatrician and medical geneticist.” Since arriving at the NIH in 1999, Dr. Guttmacher has held several leadership positions at the National Human Genome Research Institute.

A press release on Dr. Guttmacher’s appointment is posted at:

NIH Launches OppNet

On November 18, 2009, the NIH launched the Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet), a trans-NIH initiative to expand the agency’s funding of basic behavioral and social sciences research. OppNet was established to harness and integrate existing NIH investments in basic behavioral research and target research challenges that can be supported through initiatives in complementary scientific areas. The first year of OppNet is being supported by funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and will focus on short-term activities to develop existing programs’ capacity for conducting basic behavioral scientific research. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2011, OppNet will be supported by contributions from all of the NIH Institutes and Centers through the NIH Common Fund.

On January 6, NIH posted the first OppNet Funding Opportunity Announcement. Information about this opportunity (RFA-OD-10-003 -- Recovery Act Limited Competition: NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet) Short-term Mentored Career Development Awards in the Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences for Mid-career and Senior Investigators (K18)) is posted at:

PAA in Washington, DC

Congressional Research Service Workshop – On December 9, 2009, PAA sponsored its first workshop for analysts in the Domestic Social Policy Division of the Congressional
Research Service (CRS). Dr. David Weir and Dr. Kandice Kapinos, both PAA members, presented on the Health and Retirement Study. CRS analysts who cover a diverse range of topics, including pensions, health care, taxes, and welfare, attended.

**PAA Welcomes NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins** — On December 2, 2009, PAA joined other medical research organizations, including the Consortium of Social Associations, American Heart Association, and Association of American Medical Colleges, to welcome the new Director of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Francis Collins, at a reception on Capitol Hill.

**APC and PAA praise poverty measure legislation** — On November 9, 2009, PAA sent letters to Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), expressing support for the concept of H.R. 2909, the Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009, and its Senate companion legislation, S. 1625. The legislation would update the current measure of poverty, using the 1995 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) *Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance* recommendations. In its letter, PAA and APC stated we recognize there are a number of competing perspectives and methodological debates on how best to implement the NAS recommendations. As such, we strongly support the bill’s emphasis on implementing a research program to update the poverty measure, relying on input from the Census Bureau, other federal statistical agencies, and the NAS. The bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees for further consideration.

**NHANES 50th anniversary celebration** — On November 4, 2009, PAA cosponsored a reception on Capitol Hill, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Guest speakers included members of Congress and the Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Thomas Frieden.