Key Support for Population Research

The Association of Population Centers (APC) is an organization of over 40 universities and research groups whose mission is to foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, translate basic population research for policymakers, and provide educational and training opportunities in population studies. » www.popcenters.org

The Population Association of America (PAA) is a professional organization of over 3,000 individual members who conduct research on the implications of population change. PAA members come from a range of disciplines, including demographers, economists, sociologists and statisticians. Their diverse interests include adolescent health, aging, childcare, family formation and dissolution, fertility, immigration and migration, minority health, disability, and mortality. » www.popassoc.org

The research conducted by these two groups is critical in informing policy, advancing science and, ultimately, improving the health and well-being of the U.S. population.

PAA/APC relies on a number of sources for its work. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides most of the discretionary, competitive federal funding for population research. Other federal support comes from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Researchers also rely on the important data produced by the Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

PAA/APC Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Priorities

NIH » Support the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research recommendation of $32 billion. PAA and APC support this request, which is higher than the amount ($31.3 billion) requested by the administration for NIH in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. Sustained growth in the NIH budget is imperative for ongoing behavioral, social, and biomedical research at over 3,000 institutions nationwide—research that will save and improve lives and train the next generation of U.S. scientists. Funding is also critical to sustaining NIH-supported longitudinal surveys, databases, and population research centers.

Census Bureau » Support the administration’s request of $982.5 million, an increase of $154.2 million over the FY 2012 funding level. This funding is necessary to keep essential, cost-saving preparations on schedule for Census 2020, including completing the decennial census research and testing phase as well as implementing the ongoing American Community Survey and completing the 2012 Economic Census.

NCHS » Support the administration’s request of $181.5 million, an increase of $22.4 million above the FY 2012 funding level. This funding increase will allow NCHS to fully implement electronic death records nationwide, develop and execute new sample designs for population-based surveys, and improve and expand data collection methods. Further, the administration’s proposal would provide NCHS with an additional $30 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to fund, for example, full implementation of electronic birth records and enhancements to the National Health Interview Survey.

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NSF » Support the administration’s request of $7.6 billion, an increase of $593 million above the FY 2012 funding level. Increased funding would support a number of important initiatives, including the Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE) program, which will strengthen NSF’s support of interdisciplinary, potentially transformative research. Full funding for NSF is also critical to support the maintenance and development of large-scale data sets.

BLS » Support the administration’s request of $613.8 million, an increase of $4.7 million above the FY 2012 funding level. The president’s budget includes a proposal to add an Annual Current Population Survey Supplement, which would enhance the agency’s capability to collect information about labor force trends, including data on contingent work and alternative work arrangements, and workplace flexibility and work-family balance issues.

BEA » Support the administration’s request for $100 million, an increase of $9.5 million above the FY 2012 funding level. The BEA seeks increased funds to develop a new survey of foreign direct investment in the U.S. and add the collection of state-level data on fixed assets, property, and manufacturing employment.

USAID » Support the administration’s request of $635.4 million for bilateral and multilateral family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH), an increase of $25 million over the FY 2012 funding level. With this additional funding, USAID will be able to provide ongoing support to its research evaluation activities, including the Demographic and Health Surveys program.

PAA and APC urge Congress to work towards a balanced agreement on long-term deficit reduction that does not disproportionately and adversely affect funding for non-defense discretionary programs. Further, PAA and APC urge Congress to “turn off” budget sequestration in Fiscal Year 2014.