Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Priorities

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

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

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides most of the discretionary, competitive federal funding for population research. The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development are two other important sources of federal support. Researchers also rely on accessible data produced by, for example, the Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

NIH—Support, at a minimum, Administration’s request of $31.8 billion, an increase of approximately $1.1 billion (3.4%) over the FY 2010 funding level. Sustained growth in the NIH budget is imperative to support ongoing behavioral, social, and biomedical research at over 3,000 research institutions nationwide that will improve and save lives and train the next generation of U.S. scientists.

Census Bureau—Support Administration’s request of $1 billion for the U.S. Census Bureau, an amount approximately $3 million below last year’s level, but sufficient to continue agency’s work on proposed initiatives related to the American Community Survey, Master Address File, and supplemental poverty measure.

NCHS—Support Administration’s request of $162 million, a 17% increase over the agency’s FY 2010 funding level. NCHS needs this funding to sustain its surveys, such as the National Health Interview Survey, and to collect 12 months of vital statistics data from the states and standardize electronic birth and death certificate data nationwide.

NSF—Support Administration’s request of $7.8 billion, 13% above the 2010 funding level. The proposal will enhance funding for initiatives supported through the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate as well as a key collaboration, the National Science Foundation/Census Research Network.

BLS—Support Administration’s request for $647 million, a $35.6 million increase over the FY 2010 funding level, which includes funding to add the Contingent Work Supplement to the Current Population Survey, making more data available on changing workplace arrangements.

BEA—Support Administration’s request for $108.8 million, a $13.2 million increase over the FY 2010 funding level, allowing BEA to continue four major initiatives to improve timeliness, relevance, and accuracy of the national economic accounts.