On February 1, 2010, President Obama released his proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget. Despite recommending a “freeze” on domestic non-defense discretionary spending, agencies important to the Population Association of America (PAA)/Association of Population Centers (APC) fared well. Of course, the president’s budget request marks only the beginning of the FY 2011 appropriations deliberations. Next, Congress considers the president’s proposed budget request. Between now and July, committees in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate will hold hearings, review the proposal, and make their own recommendations regarding funding for all federal agencies. Ideally, both chambers will vote and pass reconciled versions of all 12 appropriations bills before FY 2011 begins on October 1, 2010.

As the FY 2011 appropriations bills proceed through the legislative process, the PAA Office of Government and Public Affairs will issue action alerts when key votes occur.

**FY 2011 Budget Request: PAA/APC Agencies of Interest**

**National Center for Health Statistics**
The president proposes a significant $23 million (16.5 percent) increase for NCHS. The president proposes that this funding be used to support and enhance seminal surveys and data collections systems, improve data access and dissemination, and strengthen data collection methodologies.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the NCHS parent agency, this $23 million increase would fully fund all surveys and sample sizes at expanded levels, including the purchase of data currently collected by vital statistics jurisdictions, for a full 12 months within the calendar year. Specifically, the funding would allow NCHS to:

- **Expand the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)** from 35,000 households to 43,000 households to allow for state and community estimates for approximately 30 of the largest states and the large metropolitan areas using $8 million of the proposed increase.

- **Collect at least a full 12 months of core birth and death data from vital records** jurisdictions through the National Vital Statistics System. In addition, the president requests $8 million to support states and territories in adopting the 2003 standard birth certificate and/or implementing Web-based electronic birth records. The budget request also includes $3 million to help “gradually phase in” electronic death records (EDRs) using a 50-50 cost sharing mechanism.

- **Continue to conduct the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)** on a nationally representative sample of 5,000 individuals from 15 U.S. cities.
Census Bureau
The Administration requests approximately $1.3 billion for the U.S. Census Bureau in FY2011. Although this funding is $6 billion less than the agency received in FY 2010, it is consistent given the cyclical nature of the Census Bureau’s budget. The agency’s budget fluctuates as it prepares for the next decennial census.

In FY 2011, the Census Bureau will be concluding its work on Census 2010. Specifically, the agency will be processing and tabulating Census 2010 data, publishing state population totals for congressional apportionment, conducting post-census evaluation activities, and closing Local Census Offices and Regional Census Centers. Census 2010 is not completed until these operations have been fully conducted.

Other initiatives proposed under the president’s budget include:

- **$26 million initiative to continuously update the Master Address File and TIGER digital mapping system**—The Administration believes ongoing updates of the address list and maps could support a "targeted address canvassing operation (as opposed to a 100 percent operation)" for the 2020 census and result in significant cost savings.

- **$44 million to increase ACS sample size**—The budget proposes using this additional funding to begin the process of increasing the ACS sample size from its current 2.9 million housing units to 3.5 million housing units; if fully implemented, the ACS would survey 2.5 percent of the population each year.

- **$113 million for the Economic Census**—2011 is the second year of the five-year cycle for the Economic Census. The Economic Census must be done accurately to acquire good data about U.S. manufacturing, mining, retail and wholesale trade service, construction, and transportation industries.

- **$5 million to improve poverty measure**—The request includes $5 million for an initiative to "improve an important measure of poverty" by expanding research and production capacities to "supplement the official poverty measures with annual, alternative measures of poverty from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics’] Current Population Survey." The budget also proposes a $9 million initiative to expand the Census Bureau's administrative records infrastructure, in an effort to make greater use of these records across various statistical programs.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
The President's FY11 budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides a $1 billion, 3.2 percent, increase over FY10.

According to NIH, the request would allow the agency to:

- **Support 9,052 new Research Project Grants (RPGs)**, a reduction of 199 RPGs from the FY10 estimate of 9,251.

- **Increase the total number of RPGs** from 35,030 in FY 10 to 35,202 in FY11.
• Provide an inflationary increase of two percent for non-competing continuations; the average cost of new grants also will rise by two percent above FY10.
• Provide $194 million to the National Children’s Study.
• Increase the NIH Common Fund by $17.5 million.
• Increase funding for the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)—The budget proposes $38.166 million for OBSSR, a $10.765 million or 39.3 percent increase from the FY 2010 estimate.

National Science Foundation

The president requested $7.4 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), an 8 percent increase, over FY 2010. The Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences directorate goes to $268.8 million, up 5.3 percent.

Program priorities in the agency’s budget include:

• $64 million for the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program, which supports new and enhanced two-year college programs that educate technicians for the high-technology workforce.
• $158 million for the Graduate Research Fellowship program and $209 million for the Faculty Career Development program.
• $10 million for Climate Change Education, which addresses learning at all levels, and is another initiative designed to develop future scientists and engineers.

United States Agency for International Development

The total budget request of bilateral and multilateral funding for Family Planning and Reproductive Health from all accounts has not yet been confirmed. Once a total is available, it will be reported in the next issue of PAA Affairs. In the interim, PAA members may be interested to know that the President proposes $590 million bilateral funding in the Global Health and Child Survival account, a 12 percent increase over the FY 2010 amount of $525 million.