

Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers

Office of Government and Public Affairs

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The **Population Association of America** and **Association of Population Centers** are two affiliated organizations that represent over 3,000 population scientists—including demographers, economists, sociologists and statisticians—and more than 40 federally-funded population research centers nationwide. Population scientists conduct scientific research on population trends and the individual, societal and environmental implications of population change. Their research expertise covers a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to: adolescent health and development, aging, health disparities, immigration and migration, marriage and divorce, education, social networks, housing, retirement, and labor.

PAA/APC's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Priorities

Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee

National Institutes of Health (NIH) » Support the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research recommendation](#), \$44.7 billion. This request, which is \$3 billion over the agency's FY 2020 program level spending, represents real growth above the rate of biomedical inflation and would fund targeted initiatives authorized by the 21st Century Cures Act. This funding level would continue a trajectory of \$2+ billion increases the NIH has received in recent years helping to restore its footing after years of flat funding and expand NIH's capacity to support promising science across all disciplines. NIH (especially the National Institute on Aging and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) is the primary source of discretionary competitive funding for population scientists, supporting grants, surveys, databases, and research centers that are relied on to conduct research and research training activities.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) » Support the [Friends of NCHS recommendation](#), \$189 million. This request reflects an increase to NCHS's base budget of \$14.6 million from its FY 2020 appropriation, as well as the formalization of an ongoing \$14 million transfer from Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Informatics as proposed in the President's FY 2021 Budget Request. We urge the Subcommittee to reject the Administration's proposed \$5.4 million cut to the agency, which would have a devastating impact on NCHS's ability to continue to provide timely, unbiased, and accurate data on Americans' health. Population scientists use NCHS data to analyze trends in fertility, mortality, and health outcomes.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) » Support no less than the Administration's request, \$658.3 million. Our organizations are grateful that BLS received a \$40 million increase in 2020. It was the first meaningful increase that the agency has received since 2009. Years of stagnant funding have compelled the agency to reduce staff, eliminate programs, and now threaten data quality. Congress should continue to invest in the agency so that they can rebuild from years of decreased funding and begin investing in efforts to modernize surveys, such as the National Longitudinal Surveys program and American Time Use Survey, and to enhance secure public access to BLS datasets. Population scientists use BLS data to understand how work, unemployment, and retirement influence health and well-being outcomes across the lifespan.

Institute of Education Science (IES) » Support the [Friends of IES recommendation](#), \$670 million. This request represents an increase of \$46.5 million over the agency's FY 2020 funding level. Located within the Department of Education, IES supports seminal research on myriad aspects of education, teaching and learning. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) collects data and compiles statistics that inform research, instruction, evaluation, and planning decisions. Staffing reductions and attrition at NCES threaten the continuation of several important surveys and programs.

Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee

Census Bureau » Support the Census Project recommendation, \$1.68 billion. This recommendation is nearly \$6 billion lower than the FY 2020 level, reflecting the shift toward wrapping up the 2020 Decennial Census. This level of funding is necessary to ensure the successful conclusion of the 2020 Census, including submitting accurate and timely State population totals and congressional apportionment to the President by December 31 as required by law. This coming year is also the first year of planning for the 2030 Census, however, and adequate funding will enable the Bureau to lay the preliminary groundwork for the next enumeration. The funding recommendation, which is approximately \$9 million above the Administration’s request, would restore proposed funding cuts to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), an important resource population scientists use to understand how income and income transfer programs affect the well-being of individuals and households. Population scientists rely on decennial census data and other census surveys to understand changes in the nation’s demographic, housing, and socioeconomic characteristics and inform all research and research training activities conducted by population scientists.

National Science Foundation (NSF) » Support the Coalition for National Science Funding recommendation, \$9 billion, a \$722 million increase above the FY 2020 funding level. Funding at this amount would reflect a nearly 9% increase for FY 2021. NSF’s funding over the last decade has been relatively stagnant and not kept pace with major economic competitors, such as China, which have sharply increased their investment in basic research. The request includes an investment to support fundamental science funded by the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Directorate, which has stagnated at level funding for several years. Although the SBE Directorate represents only between 4-5 percent of NSF’s total research budget, the grants awarded through this program account for over 60% of all federal research dollars for the social sciences.

State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) » Restore funding for bilateral and multilateral family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) account. The Administration has proposed slashing funding for these activities in each of its past three budget requests. PAA and APC urge support for funding that is sufficient to support the agency’s research activities, especially the Demographic and Health Surveys program, which collects and disseminates accurate and representative data on population, health, HIV, and nutrition through more than 400 surveys in over 90 countries. The FP/RH account has been level funded for three years.

| Agency | FY 2020 Final | PAA/APC FY 2021 Request | President’s Budget Request |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Labor-HHS-Education | | | |
| NIH | \$41.7 billion | \$44.7 billion | \$38 billion |
| NCHS | \$160 million | \$189 million | \$155 million |
| Bureau of Labor Statistics | \$655 million | \$658.3 million | \$658.3 million |
| Commerce-Justice-Science | | | |
| Census Bureau | \$7.5 billion | \$1.68 billion | \$1.599 billion |
| National Science Foundation | \$8.28 billion | \$9 billion | \$7.74 billion |
| State-Foreign Operations | | | |
| US AID: Global Health Accounts | \$524 million | Not less than \$524 million | \$237 million |

