



# AEA Committee on Government Relations' ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*The Committee on Government Relations is a subcommittee of the American Economic Association charged with representing the interests of the economics profession in Washington DC and other locations around the country without taking a position on questions of economic policy or on any partisan matter.*

## Economic Research and the Federal Budget Request for FY2013

The President's FY2013 [budget request](#) would increase or leave unchanged the major sources of funding for economic research and economic statistics. It would increase the National Science Foundation's budget by 4.8% to \$7.373 billion, but leave the National Institutes of Health's budget unchanged at \$30.987 billion. It would increase the budgets of U.S. Census Bureau by 3% to \$970.4 million, the Bureau of Economic Analysis by 4.3% to \$96.5 million, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics by 2% to \$618.2 million over FY 2012. Of course, if the budget process is the same as last year, the actual appropriations for FY2013 will be different and probably substantially lower than these requests. And as part of the Budget Control Act appropriations could be reduced by across-the-board cuts starting in January 2013 if deficit reduction targets are not met. For information on the proposed FY2013 budget requests for social and behavioral science go to <http://www.cossa.org/volume31/FY2013budgetupdate.pdf>.

## The Future of the National Longitudinal Survey (NLS) is at Risk

Despite the proposed increase in its budget, BLS announced sharp cuts not only in the budget for NLS in FY2013 but an 80% cut in the remaining FY2012 NLS budget. Due to an outcry from the research community, BLS has restored FY2012 funding for NLS. But BLS has not yet announced its guidelines for spending in FY2012 and it has not clarified its plans for funding for NLS in FY2013. According to the [NLS Technical Review Committee](#) and the NLS investigators, the plans for FY2013 put the future of NLS at risk.

## New Interdisciplinary Initiatives at NSF but NSF's Economics Program Budget Could be Cut

In FY2013 the Economics Program could have a cumulative reduction in its base budget in the 10% to 15% relative to FY2010. The budget decrease is part of "a general reduction for core programs to provide resources for enhancement and implementation of other programs related to directorate priorities."

These other programs will offer research opportunities for economists interested in interdisciplinary research, training, and integration opportunities on four cross-cutting topics: (1) migration, aging and their impact on job creation; (2) disparities – health, civic engagement, income and wealth; (3) communication, language, brain, behavior; and (4) new technology, social media, and social networks. The programs also

	<p>include international partnerships, cyber research related initiatives (Cyber Economic Incentives, Science of Cybersecurity, Virtual Organizations) and initiatives in the science of environmental and energy sustainability. See <a href="http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2013/pdf/10-SBE_fy2013.pdf">http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2013/pdf/10-SBE_fy2013.pdf</a>.</p> <p>NSF staff and the AEA Committee on Government Relations (CGR) will call these opportunities to your attention through this newsletter, announcements on the AEA Bulletin Board and links to a special page on the CGR website with advice from NSF staff for economists on the different initiatives.</p>
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