



AEA Committee on Government Relations'

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 13, 2013

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

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.

Members of Congress Support SBE Research

Eighty three members of the House of Representatives signed a [letter](#) by Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) to NIH Director Francis Collins urging him "to remain steadfast in your support of social science research." The letter states that the "social sciences, economics in particular, have always been an important pillar of knowledge in our effort to improve national and global health." It notes "recent discussions about the relevance of economics research" to NIH's mission and affirms that "support for these areas of research is consistent with the NIH mission to 'enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.' " For more information about this see the [previous newsletter](#).

Reports Highlight the Value of SBE Research

- The National Science Foundation (NSF) published a [report](#) titled "Bringing People into Focus How Social, Behavioral and Economic Research Addresses National Challenges"
- The American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Commission on Humanities and Social Sciences released its [report](#) "The Heart of the Matter The Humanities and Social Sciences for a Vibrant, Competitive and Secure Nation"

OMB Asks Agencies to Use SBE Findings

In a July 26th [memo](#) providing guidance to government agencies as they prepare their FY 2015 budgets, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) encourages them to use research findings from the social and behavioral sciences to improve their performance in this era of budgetary constraints. OMB also expects the agencies to propose new ideas for developing evidence to improve existing programs. OMB expects to conduct a workshop on this topic later this year.

Behavioral and Social Research Networks

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) issued a funding opportunity announcement, High Priority Behavioral and Social Research Networks ([RFA-AG-14-007](#)), designed to provide infrastructure support for advancing development of specific emerging and high priority interdisciplinary areas of behavioral and social research of relevance to aging. High priority emerging areas include valuing health research, economics and psychology and replicating research results in the behavioral and social sciences of aging.

Letters of intent are due September 22, 2013. Applications are due October 22, 2013.

Assessing Changes in Science Policy

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP) issued a Dear Colleague [letter](#) soliciting proposed research projects or workshops that will gather data on the implementation and impacts of recent science policy changes. These include the Office of Management and Budget announcement of plans to implement a policy of public access to data and scientific publications.

The application deadline is September 9, 2013. Investigators are encouraged to contact the SciSIP program officer, Joshua Rosenbloom, jrosenb@nsf.gov or (703) 292-8854, to discuss prospective topics.