



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.

Federal Government Shutdown

On October 1st the federal government shut down partially because Congress failed to pass a budget for fiscal year 2014. During the shutdown:

- The Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of Labor Statistics will remain closed;
- The National Institutes of Health will accept new online grant applications and will continue to allow grantees with existing grants to draw on their funds, but will not take any actions on grant applications or awards;
- The National Science Foundation websites and business applications, including NSF.gov, FastLane, and Research.gov, will be closed and NSF will not be available to respond to emails or phone calls. This means proposal applications cannot be submitted and proposals already submitted cannot be reviewed. NSF grantees can use funds in their existing grants, but NSF will not make new Continuing Grant Increments, obligate additional funds, or give no-cost extensions for the duration of the shutdown.

Science Societies' "Call to Action"

On September 4th, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), and the Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS) held an Inter-Society "Call to Action" meeting for the social and behavioral sciences (SBS). The meeting developed new initiatives to

- Remove Colburn Amendment restrictions on NSF political science research from current law.
- Oppose appropriations amendments that would reduce or eliminate funding for the social, behavioral and economic sciences at NSF.
- Oppose attempts to prohibit the NIH from funding health economics research.

AAU Defends SBS

On September 17, the Executive Committee of the Association of American Universities (AAU) issued a statement of support for the social and behavioral sciences. The AAU is composed of 60 American and two Canadian research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education,

undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. According to the AAU Executive "Even in the context of federal budget constraints, we believe that actions by Congress to defund or stigmatize entire disciplines of research would severely cripple, in principle and practice, the federal government's historically productive commitment to the funding of basic research across all disciplines." [Click here](#) for the full statement.

Golden Goose Award

On September 19th, this year's Golden Goose awards were presented at a ceremony on Capitol Hill. Among the 2013 winners was Stanford economist Alvin Roth. Roth shared the Golden Goose Award with Lloyd Shapley and the late David Gale. Roth and Shapley also shared the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economics. The Golden Goose award is given to research that demonstrates "the human and economic benefits of federally funded research by highlighting examples of seemingly obscure or unusual studies that have led to major breakthroughs and have had a significant impact on society." The bipartisan Golden Goose award was started in 2012 to counter attacks on individual research grants by some members of Congress. For more information on the award to Roth, Shapley and Gale go to <http://www.goldengooseaward.org/portfolio-view/2013-social-science/>.

NSF Solicits Interdisciplinary SBE Research

The National Science Foundation's Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research (IBSS) competition promotes the conduct of interdisciplinary research by teams of investigators in the social and behavioral sciences. There are two types of projects that may be supported by IBSS:

- IBSS Large Interdisciplinary Research Projects (with maximum award sizes of \$1,000,000)
- IBSS Interdisciplinary Team Exploratory Projects (with maximum award sizes of \$250,000)

The next full proposal submission deadline is December 03, 2013. For more information [click here](#).

Call for Nominations for the Alan T. Waterman Award

The Alan T. Waterman award is the highest honor bestowed by NSF. This annual award recognizes an outstanding young (35 years of age or younger) research in any field of science and engineering supported by NSF. The awardee receives a grant of \$1,000,000 over five years for scientific research. Nominations will be accepted from August 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013. See http://www.nsf.gov/od/waterman/nsf_watermanaward_2013callfornominations_120625.pdf

NIH Grants on Violence and Health

NIH plans to fund research projects over the next three years beginning in fiscal year 2014 into the causes and consequences of violence as it relates to the health of individuals and communities. The goal is to identify evidence-based strategies for preventing violence and incorporating them into clinical and community settings. For more information go to ([R01](#)), ([R03](#)), and ([R21](#)).