



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.

FY2012 U.S. Economic Census at Risk

In July, 2011 the House Appropriations Committee voted to reduce the FY2012 Census Bureau budget by \$294 million (25%) from its FY2011 levels. According to the Census reducing its budget by this amount "would require preparations for data collection for the 2012 Economic Census to be cancelled. These cancellations would be irrecoverable and would force the complete abandonment of the economic census for the 2012 cycle."

Cancelling the FY2012 Economic Census would adversely impact in a major way the annual, quarterly and monthly surveys of business and financial activity for the next several years given that the Economic Census is used as a critical component of the sample frame for virtually all business surveys by Census. Census would be drawing a frame for 2013-2017+ based on what was learned from the 2007 Economic Census rather than the 2012 Census. Coverage of industries, regions and the like would be adversely impacted. So we would get worse data not only for one year but for five years at least.

New Funding Opportunities at NSF, NIH, DOL and the Kauffman Foundation

Proposals are being solicited by

- the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for International Research and Education ([PIRE](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11564/nsf11564.htm)) (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11564/nsf11564.htm>)
- the National Institutes of Health's Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Opportunity Network (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-12-204.html>)
- the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration ([ETA](http://www.doleta.gov/etainfo/opder/2011_employment_and_training_announcement.pdf)) (http://www.doleta.gov/etainfo/opder/2011_employment_and_training_announcement.pdf) for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers
- the Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship Program (<http://www.kauffman.org/kdfp>)