



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.

Comments Invited on NICHD Research Agendas

Comments are invited on the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) "vision" workshop reports. They will help determine what research NICHD will support in the future. Most of the workshops did not include economists, so comments from economists could make a difference. The reports and the opportunity to comment are at <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/vision/comments/>. The deadline is June 10, 2011.

FY2011 Budget Passed

In mid-April the House by a 259 to 169 vote and the Senate by a 81 to 19 vote passed and the President signed a bill (H.R. 1473) to fund the Federal government for the rest of FY2011. The text of the bill is available [here](#).

Most agencies, including the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) receive the same amount in FY2011 as in FY2010 less a .2 percent across-the-board cut. This means that BEA and BLS will probably postpone plans to improve Federal statistics. The National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Census Bureau took cuts larger than the across-the-board cut, but cuts that were not as large as those in H.R. 1, the continuing resolution for FY2011 that passed the House earlier but was rejected by the Senate.

The cuts in the Census Budget will probably affect plans to increase the American Community Survey's sample size and derail the 2002 authorization for the America COMPETES Act to double NSF's budget.

The NSF budget is \$6.806 billion, a \$65.75 million (1.0 percent) cut from FY 2010-enacted levels. This includes \$5.510 billion for Research and Related Activities, a \$53.13 million (0.8 percent) decrease from FY 2010.

The NIH gets \$30.7 billion, a \$320 million (1.0 percent) decrease from FY 2010, including \$210 million in cuts from a pro-rata reduction of all institute, center, and the Office of the Director's budgets, and \$50 million from the intramural buildings and facilities account.

The Census Bureau receives \$893.3 million for the Periodic Census and Programs, \$93 million less than the FY2011 request. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) budget is \$186,000 less than its \$93.4 million FY2010 budget. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) gets \$1.2 million less than its \$611.4 million FY2010 budget.

For more information on the FY2011 budget, see April 18th [COSSA UPDATE](#).