

The Population Association of America (PAA) and the Association of Population Centers (APC) are two affiliated organizations comprising over 3,000 behavioral and social scientists, including demographers, sociologists, and economists, who conduct research on the causes and consequences of population change and more than 40 federally funded population research centers nationwide. Their diverse research interests include aging, adolescent health, fertility, immigration and migration, health disparities, labor force dynamics, mortality, and population forecasting.

## **PAA/APC's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Priorities**

### **Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee**

**National Institutes of Health (NIH) » Support Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research recommendation, \$50.924 billion.** This amount, which is a **\$3.465 billion increase over the agency's comparable FY 2023 program level**, would allow for the NIH base budget to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and provide meaningful growth above the 5% annual minimal rate of increase that the NIH stakeholder community supports. Strong growth above BRDPI for the NIH provides critical, sustained funding for additional research. NIH (especially the National Institute on Aging and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) is the primary source of discretionary competitive funding for grants, surveys, training awards, centers, and networks essential to supporting the population sciences.

**National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) » Support Friends of NCHS recommendation, \$215 million.** This request reflects a \$28 million increase to NCHS over its FY 2023 enacted level. Since 2010, NCHS has lost 13% of its purchasing power. A funding increase in FY 2024 will not only maintain the agency's mission as the nation's principal health statistics agency, but also enable NCHS to devise new technologies and methodologies to address declining survey response rates, improve data quality, granularity, and timeliness, expand the National Health Interview Survey and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and enhance vital statistics, particularly mortality data. Population scientists use NCHS data to analyze trends in fertility, mortality, and health outcomes and to advance understanding of social determinants of health.

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) » Support Friends of AHRQ recommendation, \$500 million.** This request, endorsed by PAA and APC as members of the Friends of AHRQ, is \$126.5 million above AHRQ's FY 2023 enacted level. AHRQ funds research that focuses on the delivery of effective and efficient medical care, including prevention of dangerous and deadly medical errors. AHRQ is attracting attention as an increasingly important scholarly setting and potential source of grant support for population scientists. In addition, population scientists use data from the agency's health services research surveys and electronic health records to inform their own studies and research training activities.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) » Support Friends of BLS recommendation, \$868.5 million.** This request is \$170.1 million over the agency's FY 2023 enacted level. PAA and APC urge Congress to sustain increased support for the agency so they can continue to rebuild from years of decreased funding and initiate further efforts to modernize surveys and enhance secure public access to BLS datasets. Additional funds would enable BLS to sustain its plans for expanding a new, long overdue cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. This new cohort is necessary given the survey can no longer provide information about

people under the age of 25 and the original cohort is entering retirement age. Population scientists use BLS data to understand how work, unemployment, and retirement influence health and well-being across the lifespan.

**Institute of Education Science (IES) » Support Friends of IES recommendation, \$900 million.** This request is \$92.4 million above the agency's FY 2023 enacted level. A component of the U.S. Department of Education, IES supports seminal research on myriad aspects of education, teaching and learning. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of IES, collects data and compiles statistics that inform research, instruction, evaluation, and planning decisions—all data used by population scientists working in applied and academic research sectors. Due to limited funding and staff resources over the past decade, NCES has been constrained in its ability to meet the real-time data needs of researchers.

### **Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee**

**Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and National Institute of Justice (NIJ) » Support Friends of Justice BJS and NIJ funding recommendations, \$60 million and \$50 million, respectively.** The coalition's recommendations would provide BJS with a \$18 million increase and NIJ with a \$15 million increase over the agencies' FY 2023 enacted levels. Both agencies are important sources of data and funding for population scientists conducting research on topics such as prisoner reentry, the social and environmental dynamics of health and crime, and the effects of incarceration across the lifespan.

**Census Bureau » Support The Census Project recommendation, \$2 billion.** Robust funding in FY 2024 will enable the Bureau to strengthen and enhance research and preparations for the 2030 Census and to pursue other long overdue efforts to modernize, consolidate, and integrate legacy survey frames, and expand and enhance the American Community Survey, which provides vital information on a yearly basis about the nation's population. Funding will also support the Bureau's ongoing efforts to revise federal race and ethnicity data collection standards. Population scientists rely on decennial census data and other census surveys to understand changes in the nation's demographic and socioeconomic characteristics and to inform their research and evaluation activities.

**National Science Foundation (NSF) » Support Coalition for National Science Funding recommendation, \$11.9 billion.** This amount, which is approximately \$2.4 billion above the agency's FY 2023 enacted level, aligns with the authorization level mandated in the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-167). PAA and APC are particularly interested in ensuring that the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Directorate receives sufficient funding to sustain its support of competitively awards individual research projects and large data infrastructure projects important to the demographic research community, including the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the General Social Survey, and the Census Bureau Research Data Centers. Although the SBE Directorate represents only between 4-5% of NSF's total research budget, its awards are 60% of all federal research dollars for the social sciences.

### **State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee**

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID) » Increase funding for bilateral and multilateral family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) account.** PAA and APC urge support for funding that is sufficient to support the agency's research activities, especially the Demographic and Health Surveys program, which collects and disseminates accurate and representative data on population, maternal and child health, HIV, preventative care, and nutrition through more than 400 surveys conducted in over 90 countries.