



**POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
**ASSOCIATION OF POPULATION CENTERS**

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 2022 Budget Priorities**

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

**National Institutes of Health (NIH) » Support the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research recommendation, \$46.1 billion.** This request, which is a \$3.177 billion increase over the comparable FY 2021 funding level for the NIH, would allow for the agency's base budget to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and allow meaningful growth of 5%. Strong growth above BRDPI for the NIH provides critical, sustained support for additional research across the agency's diverse areas of study, conducted nationwide and through the NIH's 27 individual Institutes and Centers. 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 population scientists, supporting grants, surveys, databases, and research centers used to conduct research and research training activities.

**National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) » Support the Friends of NCHS recommendation, \$200 million.** This request reflects an increase to NCHS's base budget of \$28 million from its FY 2021 appropriation. Since 2009, NCHS has lost 14% of its purchasing power. A funding increase in FY 2022 will not only maintain the agency's mission, but also expand it into important areas such as increasing the sample size of the National Health Interview Survey and improving the quality of vital statistics. Population scientists use NCHS data to analyze trends in fertility, mortality, and health outcomes.

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) » Support the recommendation of the Friends of AHRQ, \$500 million.** This request, which is \$162 million more than the agency received in FY 2021, reflects an inflation adjustment from FY 2010 and the demonstrated needs of the ongoing pandemic. 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 no less than the FY 2021 actual funding level of \$655 million.** Years of stagnant funding have compelled the agency to reduce staff, eliminate programs, and threaten data quality. Congress should continue to invest in the agency so that they can rebuild from years of decreased funding and begin investing in efforts to modernize surveys and to enhance secure public access to BLS datasets. Further, additional funds would enable BLS to expand a new,



long overdue, cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. 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 the **Friends of IES recommendation, \$700 million**. This request represents an increase of \$57.5 million over the agency's FY 2021 funding level. Located within the 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. Staffing reductions and attrition at NCES threaten the continuation of several important surveys and programs.

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

**Census Bureau** » Support the **Census Project recommendation of \$2 billion**. This proposed increase over FY 2021 funding for the Census Bureau is necessary to ensure the successful conclusion of the 2020 Census that has been extended due to Covid-19, including submitting accurate and timely state population totals and redistricting data as well as producing reliable 2020 Census data products. Adequate funding in FY 2022 will enable the Bureau to strengthen and enhance the groundwork 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 has not occurred since 2011. Population scientists rely on decennial census data and other census surveys to understand changes in the nation's demographic, housing, and socioeconomic characteristics and to inform their research and evaluation activities.

**National Science Foundation (NSF)** » Support the **Coalition for National Science Funding recommendation, \$10 billion**, which is approximately \$1.5 million above the FY 2021 funding level. Funding at this amount would reflect a nearly 15% increase for FY 2022. NSF's funding over the last decade has been relatively stagnant and not kept pace with major economic competitors, such as China, which have sharply increased their investment in basic research. The request includes an investment to support fundamental science funded by the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Directorate, which has stagnated at level funding for several years. Although the SBE Directorate represents only between 4-5 percent of NSF's total research budget, the grants awarded through this program account for over 60% of all federal research dollars for the social sciences.

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

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** » Restore and increase funding for bilateral and multilateral family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) account. The previous Administration had proposed slashing funding for these activities. 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 in over 90 countries. The FP/RH account has been level funded for 11 years.