

# Population Association of America Association of Population Centers

## Office of Government and Public Affairs

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## President Trump's FY 2018 Budget Alarms PAA and APC

The Population Association of America (PAA) and Association Population Centers (APC) responded to the Trump Administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget today, expressing grave concern about cuts it proposes to federal agencies essential to the population sciences, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Census Bureau, and other federal statistical agencies.

"The population research community stands with other academic and scientific research organizations to oppose cuts proposed in the president's fiscal year 2018 budget," said PAA President Dr. Amy Tsui. "The Administration's proposed funding cuts to the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Census Bureau, in particular, would stall scientific research and undermine the quality and availability of statistical data needed to inform evidence based policy."

Among the most egregious cuts is the Administration's proposal to reduce funding for the NIH from \$34 billion in FY 2017 to \$26.9 billion in FY 2018—a \$7.2 billion, or 21%, funding reduction. Further, the budget reiterates the Administration's objective to eliminate the NIH Fogarty International Center, reorganize the NIH to focus on the agency's "core" mission, and "rebalance" federal contributions to research funding. With respect to the NSF, the Administration proposes reducing the agency's research budget by \$551 million or 9% overall, while cutting \$28 million from the NSF Social, Behavioral, and Economics Directorate.

"Although the president's budget doesn't target any of the social or behavioral sciences specifically, cuts to the NSF and NIH threaten the productivity of all scientific disciplines," said APC President Dr. Steve Ruggles.

The president's budget also provides the Census Bureau with a less than 4 percent funding increase in FY 2018—an insufficient amount compared to funding increases needed at this point in previous decades. FY 2018 is a critical year in which the Bureau will be testing nationwide technical innovations developed to reduce the costs of Census 2020 and improve its accuracy.