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Update on Proposed Dissolution of SBE Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF)

On Friday, April 3, 2026, it was [reported](#) that interim leadership at the National Science Foundation announced during an internal all-staff meeting that they would preemptively start making moves to dissolve the SBE Directorate in alignment with language included in the recent budget request.

This meeting coincided with the day that the Trump Administration released the President's [budget request](#) for fiscal year (FY) 2027. The President's budget request is a routine part of the Appropriations process, which typically consists of largely symbolic requests the President uses to signal priorities in the coming fiscal year. In the FY 2027 budget request, NSF was proposed to suffer a 54 percent cut for NSF. Furthermore, it also calls for the SBE Directorate to be dissolved and have its funding zeroed out in the next fiscal year.

The dissolution of the SBE Directorate would cause catastrophic harm to political science researchers and students, as well as our peers in other social science disciplines. Within the federal government, NSF's SBE Directorate funds [63 percent](#) of all academic research in the social sciences and psychological sciences in the United States, and serves as the primary source of basic research funding for political science. The two programs at NSF that primarily fund political science research, the Accountable Institutions and Behavior (AIB) Program and the Security and Preparedness (SAP) Program are housed within the SBE Directorate.

APSA is working with partner organizations to identify strategies to advocate against the dissolution and defunding of SBE. Members of APSA who are willing and able to help advocate for social science funding at NSF may utilize or participate in any of the resources listed below.

▸ [Opportunities and Resources for APSA Members](#)

APSA Advocacy

APSA Statement on the Proposed Dissolution of SBE

APSA issued a [statement](#) condemning the Trump Administration's decision to zero out and dissolve the SBE Directorate within NSF. [Read more](#)

Calls to Action

Tell Congress to Save NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate

Political Scientists are urged to write to their Members of Congress to support funding in FY 2027 appropriations! Urge Congress to intervene and protect the SBE Directorate from the Administration's devastating plan. Write to your House Representative and Senators [TODAY](#) to share your concerns and urge them to intervene. [Take Action](#)

COSSA's Town Hall Meetings

APSA members are encouraged to attend a Town Hall by the [Consortium of Social Science Associations \(COSSA\)](#). During this meeting, topics on how to protect social and behavioral science programs and communities from the President's budget request will be discussed. Strategies on how to advocate to your members of Congress, spread information, and the sharing of ideas will also be discussed.

COSSA Alerts and APSA's Advocacy Newsletter

Stay informed through [COSSA's Washington Update](#) and [APSA's Advocacy Newsletter](#). At a time of rapid change, COSSA and APSA provide up-to-date news on Congressional actions affecting Political and Social Sciences, grant/funding opportunities, and agency updates.

Write to Members of Congress Using Toolkit

Without widespread advocacy, federal science and statistical agencies are facing further budget cuts, grant delays, and mass layoffs. Find this useful [toolkit](#) from COSSA's Action Alerts, which provides a template with language, information on your member of Congress, and resources to stay informed.

Available Resources

COSSA Advocacy Guide

APSA members interested in maximizing their advocacy are encouraged to consult [COSSA's Advocacy Guide](#). Outlined are communication strategies, resource guides, and policy making basics. Information on relevant government committees, guides on finding committee action and legislation and government acronyms and abbreviations are included in the guide.

APSA's Media Guide

Ready to use your voice? Learn the basics of formatting, pitching and drafting op-eds, blogs and articles on [APSA's Media Guide](#). This media guide includes resources for starting out with building relationships with the med for larger audiences through publishing and sharing your perspective, and resources for submitting your work for publication.

Utilize COSSA's Resources for Social Science

Professors, students, and academics are encouraged use to COSSA's Social Science resources including their [State fact sheets](#) and [institution rankings](#) page. Whether keeping track of funding opportunities or researching institution rankings, this resource is essential for staying informed. Provided are clear, concise, and easy to use charts, graphs, and illustrations with valuable data.

Contact APSA

Have you been funded by an NSF grant? Do you want to take action to protect political science research at NSF?

Contact the American Political Science Association (APSA) to share your experience and learn more about possible options to be an advocate for yourself and for the discipline of political science. For inquiries or questions about participating in advocacy, please reach out to advocacy@apsanet.org.

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