



COPAFS

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN FEDERAL STATISTICS

March 2018 Stakeholder Update

1. COPAFS has moved

COPAFS has moved offices. Please note our new contact information is:

2221 S. Clark St., Ste 1100, Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 703-382-8001

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2. Census Bureau - Citizenship Question Added to the 2020 Census

Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the 2020 Census will include a question on citizenship. The inclusion of this question is the result of a request from the Justice Department in December. Read the announcement [here](#).

John Thompson, speaking as a former Census Bureau Director, made [this statement](#) and gave interviews on [MSNBC](#), [NPR's 1-A](#), Marketplace and the Fox News Rundown, among others. Check the [COPAFS Twitter](#) for the latest.

Some of our members and other stakeholders have issued statements. Here are a few:

[American Statistical Association](#)

[Consortium of Social Science Associations](#)

[Population Association of America](#)

*If your organization has also issued a statement, please feel free to forward them to Corinna.turbes@copafs.org

3. 2020 Census and American Community Survey Questions submitted to Congress.

The Census Bureau submitted the proposed questions for the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey to Congress on March 29, 2018. The submission is available [here](#).

4. COPAFS Outreach & Events

2020 Census: Challenges and Crisis

Georgetown Law's American Constitution Society hosted a panel discussion with John Thompson, former Census Bureau Director, Terri Ann Lowenthal, Joshua Geltzer of Georgetown's Institute for Constitutional Protection and Advocacy, and Indivar Dutta-Gupta of Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality. Watch the discussion on C-SPAN [here](#).

Challenges and Opportunities facing Federal Statistics

John Thompson, executive director of COPAFS, spoke at the [Pennsylvania/New Jersey chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research](#) on the challenges facing the federal statistical system. View presentation slides [here](#).

UPCOMING –*Grave Consequences, Why Some Americans are no longer living longer.*

This briefing hosted by Population Association of America, which COPAFS is co-sponsoring, will take place on Monday, April 9th from 12:00 – 1:15 PM in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2075. Details can be found [here](#).

Please RSVP to mhollis@cd-crd.com

Friends of IES FY 2019 Appropriations letter

COPAFS signed onto the Friends of IES FY 2019 Appropriations letter requesting \$670 million. Read their letter [here](#).

Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis FY 2019 Appropriations letter

COPAFS signed onto FASA's FY 2019 Request for at least \$90 M for ERS and \$180 M for NASS in FY 2019. For more information on FASA, and letters they've sent, visit their website [here](#).

Friends of Bureau of Labor Statistics FY 2019 Appropriation letter

COPAFS signed on to the Friends of BLS FY 2019 Appropriation letter, requesting \$650 million. Letter available [here](#).

5. Budget and Appropriations Update

The FY 2018 Omnibus Budget was passed on March 23rd. The spending levels for the primary Statistical Agencies are available on the COPAFS [home page](#).

Most of the Statistical Agencies continue to be flat funded, with the exception of the Census Bureau. This continues to present challenges where the agencies are required to absorb the increases in salaries, produce key statistical products, and to innovate to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

- The *Bureau of Labor Statistics* budget received only a \$3 million increase of FY 2017 enacted funding, continuing nearly a decade of flat funding.
- The *Economic Research Service* received \$86 million, maintaining current levels of funding, and nearly \$10 million above the administration's request for FY 18. The agency is still facing a potent cut to \$45 million in FY 2019.
- The *National Agriculture Statistics Service* received \$191 million for FY 2018, \$5 million for the request, and \$10 million over FY 17. The FY 2019 request is \$165 million. (FY 2018 funding is larger due to funding for the Census of Agriculture)
- The *National Center for Health Statistics* received \$160 million, the same as the FY 2017 level, which is \$5 million over the administration's request.
- The *Census Bureau* appropriation for FY 2018 is \$2.8 billion, with \$2.5 billion for periodic programs, 1.1 billion above their request. This is a positive indication that there is bipartisan support for providing adequate funding to support a good Census in 2020 and reduces the

concerns regarding a continuing resolution at the start of FY 2019. The Census Bureau will still require substantial funding in FY 2019 and FY 2020.

Secretary Ross testified before the House Appropriations Committee regarding the FY 2019 Department of Commerce budget earlier this month. Watch his testimony [here](#).

- The *Bureau of Economic Analysis* received a \$99 million, a 7.5% cut from FY 2017 levels.
- The *National Center for Education Statistics* received \$284 million, an \$11 million decrease from their FY 2017 enacted levels. The administration requested \$299 million for FY 2019
- The *Bureau of Justice Statistics* received a direct appropriation of \$48 million in appropriations for FY 2018, \$10 million over the request.
- The *Energy Information Administration* received \$125 million, slightly higher than the FY 2017 enacted level.

6. Reorganization Language

The omnibus bill contains language that will affect reorganization initiatives. According to the omnibus, agencies cannot cut or eliminate a specific program or office unless Congress has authorized the move in an appropriations bill, specifying that “None of the funds made available in this or any other appropriations Act may be used to increase, eliminate, or reduce funding for a program, project, or activity as proposed in the president’s budget request for a fiscal year until such proposed change is subsequently enacted in an appropriation act, or unless such change is made pursuant to the reprogramming or transfer provisions of this or any other appropriations act.”

7. President’s Management Agenda

Released on March 20th, the [President’s Management Agenda](#) outlines four key components for federal data strategy: data governance, data access, data use, and data commercialization. These components align with recommendations from the Commission for Evidence-Based Policy, which recognizes the need for better access to government data, IT improvements, and privacy protection.

The Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, White House Office of Management and Budget, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy are listed as joint leaders for developing the federal data strategy, which includes a potential “streamlining federal statistical functions across multiple federal agencies.”

We expect to learn more about the reorganization plans in May.

8. Mark Schneider confirmed as Director of IES.

On March 22nd, the Senate confirmed Mark Schneider to a six year term as Director of IES. Currently, he is a vice president and an Institute Fellow at American Institutes for Research. Dr. Schneider served as Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics from 2005-2008

9. Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting, originally scheduled for March 2nd, has been rescheduled to April 13th. The agenda is [available here](#). Be sure to RSVP to copafs@copafs.org if you have not already.