

## FABBS Responds to NIAMS RFI on Strategic Plan

August 7, 2024

FABBS encourages NIAMS to update the current plan to better align with the NIH and federal government-wide increased incorporation of behavioral and social sciences.

Notably, in July of 2021, the NIH updated the [NIH Wide Strategic Plan \(2021-2025\)](#) expanding Objective 1 'advancing biomedical sciences' to 'advancing biomedical and behavioral sciences'.

In May 2022, the NIH Council of Councils approved the Congressionally mandated report [Integration of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research](#) at NIH, directing all institutes to incorporate the behavioral and social sciences throughout strategic plans and in representation on advisory committees.

More recently, in May 2024, the Office of Science and Technology Policy released [Blueprint for the Use of Social and Behavioral Science to Advance Evidence-based Policymaking](#) calling on all federal agencies to draw upon insights from these disciplines to most effectively serve their missions.

These three examples demonstrate the centrality of these disciplines to health.

Many thanks for your thoughtful and extensive work on this important document to serve the critical mission of NIAMS. FABBS greatly appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback and would be honored to be a resource.