



# Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) at the National Science Foundation (NSF)

## Current and Recent Congressional Appropriations with SBE-Specific Language

Activity, Program or Organization	Description	Legislative Information
R&RA	The agreement includes \$7, 176,500,000 for Research and Related Activities (R&RA). In developing the spending plan and allocating funds, the agreement directs NSF to equitably distribute funding to support all basic research directorates within R&RA, as well as the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate. No directorate shall receive more than a 5 percent reduction relative to the fiscal year 2024 enacted level.	<a href="#">FY26 CJS Joint Explanatory Statement</a>
Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences	<b>Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].</b> —The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The Committee provides not less than the fiscal year 2024 enacted level for the SBE Directorate. The SBE Directorate funds more than half of our Nation’s university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate’s unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs. NSF is encouraged to support broad-based research in the SBE Directorate to develop and publish recommendations, including from researchers in the social sciences and ethics and technical subject matter experts, on concrete and practical guidelines for how organizations will and should deploy AI systems and identify limitations and concerns about specific deployment of AI systems in settings.	<a href="#">FY26 Senate CJS Report</a>
Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences	<b>Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].</b> —The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The SBE Directorate funds more than half of our Nation’s university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate’s unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs. NSF is encouraged to support broad-based research in the SBE Directorate to develop and publish recommendations, including from researchers in the social sciences and ethics and technical subject matter experts, on concrete and practical guidelines for how organizations will and should deploy AI systems and identify limitations and concerns about specific deployment of AI systems in settings.	<a href="#">FY25 Consolidated Appropriations Act</a>

As of March 2026



<p>NCSES</p>	<p><b>National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.</b>—The Committee supports the work of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), and encourages it to identify, compile, and analyze existing nationwide data and conduct survey research to better understand the national cyber workforce. Noting the already low ratio of personnel-to-budget at NCSES relative to other Federal statistical agencies, the Committee supports expenditure of appropriated funds to support additional personnel, which may include statisticians, economists, research scientists, and other statistical and support staff as needed, to ensure adequate staffing for this research.</p> <p><b>National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES).</b>—The agreement supports the work of the NCSES, and encourages the NCSES to identify, compile, and analyze existing nationwide data and conduct survey research to better understand the national cyber workforce and to support additional NC SES personnel to ensure adequate staffing for this research.</p>	<p>FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act (<a href="#">Explanatory Statement for H.R. 5893</a>) (The joint explanatory statement accompanying P.L. 118-47)</p>
<p>Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences</p>	<p><b>Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].</b>—The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The SBE Directorate funds more than half of our Nation’s university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate’s unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p>	<p><a href="#">FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act</a> (S. Rept. 118-162 accompanying P.L. 118-47)</p>
<p>Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences</p>	<p><b>Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.</b>—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The Committee encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p>	<p><a href="#">FY2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act</a> (H. Rept. 117-395 accompanying P.L. 117-328)</p>
<p>Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences</p>	<p><b>Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.</b>—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The Committee encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.</p>	<p><a href="#">FY2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act</a> (H. Rept. 117-97 accompanying P.L. 117-103)</p>
<p>Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences</p>	<p><b>Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE).</b>—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains one of the smallest NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The committee believes SBE-supported research makes the US unique among other nations and recommends no less than the fiscal year 2020 levels for SBE activities.</p>	<p><a href="#">FY2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act</a> (H. Rept. 116-453 accompanying P.L. 116-260)</p>



# Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences

<p>Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences</p>	<p><b>Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences</b>.—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds over half of our nation’s university-based social and behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2019 level for SBE.</p>	<p><a href="#">FY2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act</a> (Defense, CJS, FSGG, Homeland Security) (H. Rept. 116-101 accompanying P.L. 116-93)</p>
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