Federal Data Budgets in an Age of Austerity

Howard J. Silver, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

Association of Public Data Users
Annual Meeting
September 21, 2011
COSSA GOVERNING MEMBERS

- American Association for Public Opinion Research
- American Economic Association
- American Educational Research Association
- American Historical Association
- American Political Science Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Society of Criminology
- American Sociological Association
- American Statistical Association
- Association of American Geographers
- Association of American Law Schools
- Law and Society Association
- Linguistic Society of America
- Midwest Political Science Association
- National Communication Association
- Population Association of America
- Rural Sociological Society
- Society for Research in Child Development

- Also 24 Member Organizations, 57 Universities, 13 Centers and Institutes
COSSA HISTORY

30 Years of Advocacy for the Social and Behavioral Sciences

• 1981 Reagan Budget Cuts Social Science Research, COSSA formed.
• 1982 COSSA Moves beyond NSF and beyond budgets
• COSSA ensures Social Sciences at the Table in U.S. Science Policy
  – Separate Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF)
  – Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research at the National Institutes of Health

• Responding to Attacks on Social Science
  – Eliminate the NSF Directorate 1995-96
  – Attempts to Defund Sexual Behavior Research –latest 2009
  – Attacks on Social/Behavioral Science at NSF– eliminate political science program 2009
President Obama: 2011 State of the Union

• “We will win the future”

• Out Innovate – NSF Increases, Energy including Behavior, ARPA-E

• Out Educate – RTT, IES Increases, ESEA Reauthorization, First in the World, STEM Teachers

• Out Build – New Highway Bill, National Infrastructure Bank, Wireless Broadband
SHORT TERM GOOD NEWS
OBAMA FY 2012 BUDGET

NSF INCREASED – NCSES
ERS and NASS INCREASED
BEA INCREASED; CENSUS IN YEAR 2
NCES INCREASED; CONTINUED BUILD-UP OF STATEWIDE DATA SYSTEMS
NCHS INCREASED
BUDGET CONTROL ACT
DISCRETIONARY CAPS

FY 2012 -- $1.043 TRILLION
$7 BILLION BELOW FY 2011
$24 BILLION ABOVE HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION
DIVIDED AMONG 12 APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES
SUPERCOMMITTEE

12 MEMBERS – 6 HOUSE, 6 SENATE, 6 DEMS, 6 REPS
CO-CHAIRS: SEN. PATTY MURRAY (D-WA), REP. JEB HENSARLING (R-TX)
GOAL: REDUCE THE DEFICIT BY AN ADDITIONAL $1.2 TRILLION OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS
MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS
DEFENSE AND NON-DEFENSE
RAISE REVENUES
REPORT BY NOVEMBER 23
HOLDING HEARINGS
SEQUESTRATION

NO AGREEMENT OR CONGRESSIONAL REJECTION

AUTOMATIC ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUTS

CUTS GO INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY 2013

SOME PROGRAMS FOR POOR EXEMPT – MEDICAID, SOCIAL SECURITY, SNAP, PELL GRANT

ESTIMATES ARE 9 PERCENT REDUCTIONS FOR NON-EXEMPT PROGRAMS
IN THE MEANIME: FY 2012 APPROPRIATIONS

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COPING

Data and Information Keys to Economic and Other Policies – “Evidence-Based”

No Sense of Urgency Except for Cost Cutting

Hard to Sell as part of Science Policy Agenda – NAS Colloquium

Alternatives to Surveys; Administrative Data

Privacy and Confidentiality; New Human Subjects Rules

Partnerships – Interagency Sharing, States and Local Governments, Universities, Business, Foundations
THANK YOU!

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