



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## **FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Efforts to Support Full Participation and Equality for People with Disabilities**

In the first 100 days, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken significant steps to achieve a more inclusive country for people with disabilities. Through quick policy action, this Administration has ensured disabled Americans are receiving resources and were included in key administrative proposals. Specifically, the Administration has:

- **Advanced Equity Across the Federal Government.** President Biden’s Inauguration Day Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government directs the whole of federal government to pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, and explicitly with respect to persons with disabilities. Additionally, the EO establishes an Equitable Data Working Group to assess federal data, including on disability, to advance equity. Public comments can be provided on how to make the government more equitable at the request for information [here](#) by July 6, 2021.
- **Increased Access to Democracy for Voters with Disabilities.** Executive Order 14019 on Voting Access ensures people with disabilities can access key voting resources, requires an assessment of barriers to the right to vote independently and privately, and will help ensure that all Americans, including voters with disabilities, can exercise their right to vote.
- **Raised Wages for Federal Contractors to \$15.** In April, President Biden signed an Executive Order raising the minimum wage for federal contractors, including federal contractors with disabilities.
- **Provided Billions of Dollars to Children and Adults with Disabilities.** President Biden’s American Rescue Plan is the first COVID relief bill to include explicit provisions for people with disabilities.
  - The American Rescue Plan provides states with billions in additional Medicaid funding for home- and community-based services (HCBS) for one year. The additional Medicaid funding will help expand access to home and community-based services for people with disabilities as well as older adults and ensure that caregivers are fairly compensated for their work.
  - The American Rescue Plan also provides direct support to students with disabilities and infants and toddlers with disabilities through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The provision provides \$2.58 billion to elementary and secondary education students with disabilities, \$200 million for preschool

students with disabilities, and \$250 million for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

- **Provided Guidance to Support Workers with Disabilities.** The Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) released a [series of information](#) addressing how to access accommodations during the pandemic and sharing information for people who are newly identifying as having a disability due to COVID-19, including those identified as COVID-19 “long-haulers,” those who experience lingering symptoms after their initial recovery.
- **Increased Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations and Affirmed the Civil Rights of Americans with Disabilities in Vaccine Distribution.** Agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services released funding and resources during the first 100 days to increase access for people with disabilities to the COVID-19 vaccine, provide [guidance on discrimination](#) when distributing the vaccine, and [support best practices](#) in vaccine access. The Administration for Community Living, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control, provided [nearly \\$100 million](#) in grants to help expand access. Additional resources include an overview of [disability rights laws](#) in vaccine distribution from the Office for Civil Rights and information from the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation on [barriers to vaccine access](#) faced by older adults who cannot leave their homes.
- **Prioritized Assembling a Diverse Administration.** The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to making the country accessible and inclusive to all Americans. This includes building an Administration that looks like America to ensure all voices are included in the policymaking process. Of the nearly [1,500 presidential appointees in place in the first 100 days](#), 3 percent identify as disabled or having a disability. The Biden-Harris Administration is the first Presidential administration in history to ask applicants for appointments if they choose to identify as part of the disability community. It is the goal of the Administration to create a culture where everyone can bring their whole selves to work and succeed and thrive in the workplace.

In addition, in the first 100 days, President Biden released two important plans outlining a path toward a more competitive, inclusive, and resilient America. The American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, if enacted, will provide significant investments to children and adults with disabilities to achieve independent living, economic self-sufficiency, equitable educational opportunities, and full participation in the workforce and communities.

They include the following key elements:

- **\$400 Billion Investment in the Caregiving Economy.** The American Jobs Plan proposes to invest an additional \$400 billion to expand access to long-term services and supports for people with disabilities. This investment will also support well-paying caregiving jobs that include benefits and the ability to collectively bargain while also building state infrastructure to improve the quality of services and to support workers.

The funding will take significant steps to help people with disabilities access high-quality care in their homes and communities.

- **\$2 Billion to Support the Phase Out of Subminimum Wages.** The American Jobs Plan proposes a phase out of the subminimum wage provision in section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act. In addition, President Biden proposes an investment of \$2 billion to expand access to competitive, integrated employment opportunities for workers with disabilities.
- **Expansion of Inclusive, Accessible Preschool.** In the American Families Plan, President Biden is calling for a national partnership with states to offer free, high-quality, accessible, and inclusive preschool to all 3- and 4-year-olds—benefitting 5 million children. Children with disabilities benefit from inclusive, accessible pre-school programs with their peers, and all children benefit when we create socio-economically diverse Pre-K classrooms where all students can thrive.
- **\$900 Million to Address Teacher Shortages through the Development of Special Education Teachers.** The American Families Plan will invest \$900 million in personnel preparation funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), funding pathways to additional certifications and strengthening existing teacher preparation programs for special educators.
- **Paid Leave that Supports All Families.** The American Families Plan proposes a national comprehensive paid family and medical leave program. It would guarantee twelve weeks of paid parental, family, and personal illness/safe leave by year 10 of the program, and also ensure workers get three days of bereavement leave per year starting in year one. The program will provide workers up to \$4,000 a month, with a minimum of two-thirds of average weekly wages replaced, rising to 80 percent for the lowest wage workers. The plan has an inclusive definition of family, ensuring workers can care and be cared for by a loved one who is not related by blood, which will greatly benefit many communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals and people with disabilities.

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