

# Community Action & Public Policy: Evolving Issues, Transition Priorities & Advocacy Opportunities



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# Agenda

- Regulatory Actions
- Executive Orders
- Statutes and Legislation
- Community Action Priorities
- What's Next?

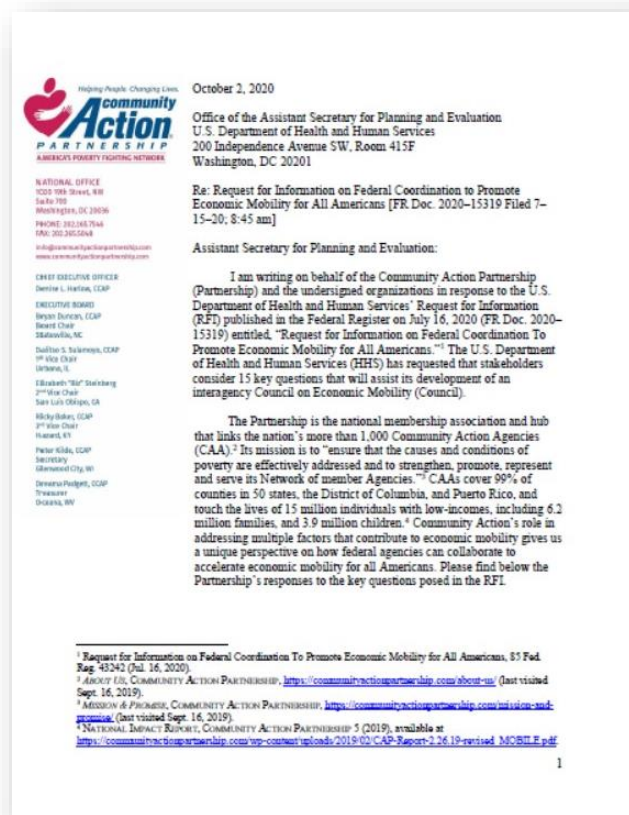


# Regulatory Actions

# Agency Rules

Proposed Rule	Status
<a href="#">SNAP Categorical Eligibility</a>	Not Finalized
SNAP Work Requirements	<a href="#">Finalized</a> ; <a href="#">Vacated</a>
<a href="#">SNAP Standard Utility Allowance</a>	Not Finalized
Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing	<a href="#">Finalized</a> ; <a href="#">Under Review</a>
Disparate Impact in Housing Discrimination	<a href="#">Finalized</a> ; <a href="#">Under Review</a>
<a href="#">Gender and Sexual Orientation in Housing Discrimination</a>	Not Finalized
Public Charge	<a href="#">Finalized</a> ; Stays; <a href="#">Under Review</a>
SUNSET Rule (HHS)	<a href="#">Finalized</a>
Community Reinvestment Act	<a href="#">Finalized</a>

# Interagency Council on Economic Mobility RFI



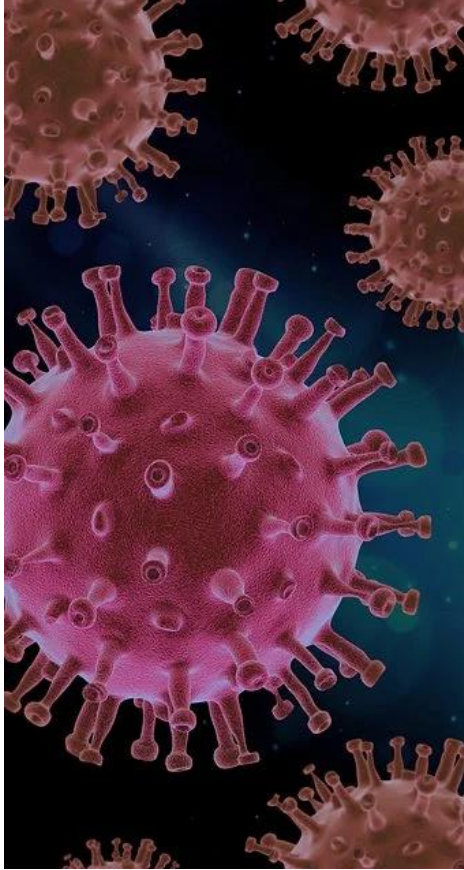
- HHS published a Request for Information (RFI) for strategies and priorities for the Interagency Council on Economic Mobility
- The wide array of programs and services offered by the Network make us well-situated to provide a unique perspective on collaboration of federal programs tasked with fostering economic mobility.
- The Partnership solicited feedback from the Network and submitted **[comprehensive comments](#)** to HHS in October, 2020.



# Executive Orders

(Published Biden EOs)

# COVID-19 & Economic Relief



- The President has signed orders to reorganize the federal response to the pandemic, create a **Health Equity Task Force**, expand **mask-wearing** requirements, increase **data collection**, and expand **access to PPE, testing, and treatments**.
- A new order also directs the Departments of Education and Health & Human Services to create guidance for the safe **reopening and continuing operation of schools and early childhood education providers**, including directing the FCC to increase **connectivity for students** lacking reliable home broadband access.
- An economic relief EO directs executive departments and agencies to promptly identify actions they can take to address the economic crisis by **improving access to, reduce unnecessary barriers to, and improve coordination among federal programs**.
- Extension of CDC [eviction moratorium](#) through 3/31/21.



# Equity & Anti-Discrimination



- EO directed executive offices to engage with members of underserved communities to conduct equity assessments, **allocate federal resources to advance fairness**, and establish an **Equitable Data Working Group**.
- Revocation of EO restricting the use of **racial and sex bias training** by federal agencies and contractors.
- EO directing all agencies to review and enforce all anti-discrimination rules as well as consider additional actions to prevent discrimination in their programs.
- Revocation of the EO banning **transgender individuals** from serving in the military.
- Memorandum reinstating **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing** rules and prior **disparate impact** standard for discriminatory housing practices.
- Memorandum condemning and combating racism, xenophobia, and **intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**.



# Climate Crisis



- Comprehensive EO establishing a **government-wide approach to the climate crisis**, including rejoining the Paris agreement, and actions on green jobs and environmental justice.
- **Review of all agency actions taken since 2017** that have or could exacerbate climate change.
- Revocation of the permit for the **Keystone XL pipeline**.
- Restoration of **National Monuments** (including the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument).
- Moratorium on drilling in the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)**.
- Creation of an interagency working group to study the **social effects of greenhouse gas emissions**.
- Establishment of the **President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology**.

# Immigration

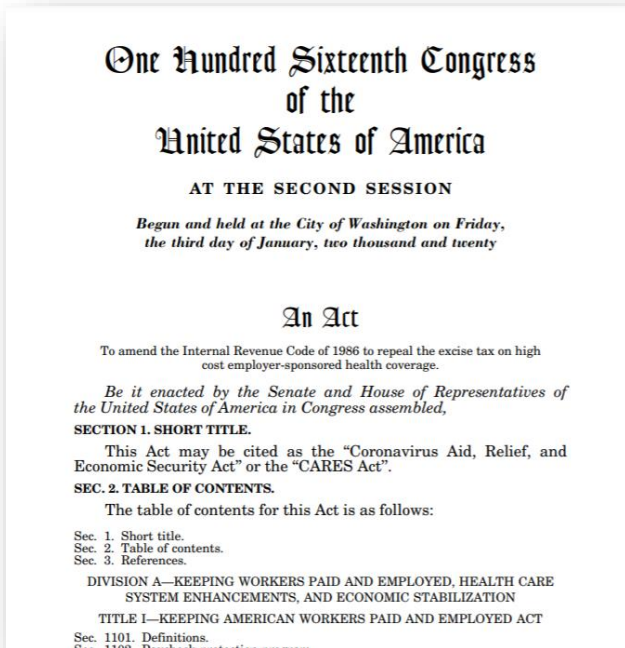


- Revocation of EOs **prioritizing removal** of all undocumented individuals and punishing so-called “**sanctuary**” **jurisdictions**.
- Memorandum **reinstating and fortifying DACA**.
- Revocation of EO **banning travel from Muslim-majority countries**.
- EO **rescinding Public Charge** rule, establishing a **Task Force on New Americans**, and proposing regulations that support refugees and legal immigrants.
- EO **addressing the causes of migration** throughout North and Central America and revoking the EO requiring asylum seekers to “**remain in Mexico**.”
- EO establishing **Interagency Task Force on the Unification of Families** to reunify families separated by the previous administration.



# Statutes & Legislation

# Families First & the CARES Act



- \$1 billion in supplemental CSBG funding with option to increase eligibility to 200% FPL.
- Funding for LIHEAP, Head Start, SNAP, and WIC.
- Economic Impact Payment stimulus checks.
- Expanded unemployment insurance payments, eligibility, and compensation period.
- Funding for Emergency Solutions Grants and additional housing vouchers.
- Emergency paid sick time and family/medical leave.
- Emergency SBA loans including Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.
- Employee retention tax credit, employer payroll tax deferral, and expansion of nonprofit UI provisions.
- Delayed tax filing deadline.
- Funding for election protection and vote-by-mail initiatives.

## NCAP Summaries

- [Community Services](#)
- [Nonprofit Employers](#)

# Consolidated Approps/Auth, 2021



- \$745 million for CSBG; maximum allotment (small state) CARES Act fix
- \$3.8 billion for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- \$10.7 billion for Head Start
- \$114 billion for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- \$6 billion for WIC
- \$5.9 billion for the Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- \$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- \$3.5 billion for CDBG
- \$30 million for VITA and allows EITC 2019 “lookback”
- \$25.8 billion for Tenant-based Rental Assistance
- \$638 million for a Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program
- Extends employee retention tax credit through 7/1/21
- Reestablishes \$300 above-the-line charitable deduction for 2021.



# COVID-19 Relief, 2021



- New EIPs up to \$600 per individual and child; removes mixed documentation household restrictions
- \$25 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance
- 15% increase in monthly SNAP benefit through 6/30/21; \$614 million to territories for nutrition assistance; P-EBT for children under 6 in households receiving SNAP
- \$25.4 billion for testing and contact tracing
- \$10 billion for CCDBG; \$250 million for Head Start
- \$165 billion for school reopening and continuing operations
- Extension of refundable payroll tax credits for paid sick and family leave (FFCRA) through 3/31/21
- Restores pandemic unemployment at \$300/week through 3/14/21; extends eligibility expansion through 3/14/21
- UI self-insurance 50% match extended to 3/14/21.
- \$284 billion for PPP, \$20 billion for EIDL

# Current WH Pandemic Relief Proposal

\$1.9T

- Eviction moratorium through 9/30/21
- \$30 billion rental/utility assistance
- Additional \$1,400 EIP checks
- \$20 billion in a national vaccination program
- Extension of pandemic unemployment provisions through 09/30/21
- 100,000 new public health workers
- Authorize OSHA to issue a broad COVID-19 Protection Standard
- Reauthorization and expansion of paid leave provisions from the CARES Act
- Extend 15% SNAP increase with additional \$1B for territories
- \$15 federal minimum wage
- \$1B for TANF
- Expansion of CTC and EITC





# Community Action Priorities

# Priorities for the New Administration & the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress



Transition Brief: Early Identification of CSBG Related Issues  
National Community Action Partnership  
November 2020

## COVID-19 & Community Action Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Action Network (Network), funded by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), is leveraging its trusted position in communities to provide critical services and infrastructure to buttress local pandemic response and economic recovery efforts. As first responders, the Network quickly transitioned to virtual service-delivery for expanded food assistance programs, housing and utility supports, and education and counseling programs to safely continue serving individuals, whole families, and seniors. State governments recognized the benefits of the Network's existing infrastructure and tapped Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to implement statewide rental assistance and other COVID-19 resource coordination programs. CAAs that offer health services were some of the first to provide public no-cost coronavirus testing.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act included \$1 billion in CSBG funding to support the network of over 3,000 local CAAs as they address the pandemic in their communities. CSBG has functioned as a critical lever for the federal government to drive funds to localities to meet specific local needs and to fuel response, recovery, and resiliency efforts. We strongly urge President-elect Biden's administration to prioritize the following two CARES Act implementation issues:

- **Resolve the CSBG CARES Act maximum allotment issue impacting 12 small states.** [Section 675B\(b\)\(3\) of the CSBG Act](#) restricts states from receiving more than 140% of the aggregate amount of funds allotted in the previous fiscal year. As a result, smaller states were not awarded their full CARES Act allotment in FY2020. A legislative solution has been proposed in Congress, but is currently stalled. We believe the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is in a position to take steps now, in FY 2021 to ensure that the "small states" receive their full CSBG CARES funding quickly.
- **Review HHS's CSBG CARES Act reporting plans, consult with the Network, and work in collaboration to achieve successful CARES Act data collection and reporting.** It is critical that CARES reporting be aligned with Network capabilities. The data protocol should be developed in conjunction with key stakeholders to ensure clarity and reduce administrative burdens on states and CAAs. On November 19, 2020 OCS requested an expedited review of an information collection request from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for CSBG CARES reporting without stakeholder input. An expedited review allows HHS to streamline the review process and deploy the information collection more quickly. The Network will be preparing an analysis of the impact and feasibility of OCS's planned CARES reporting approach and submitting comments during the 60-day comment period.

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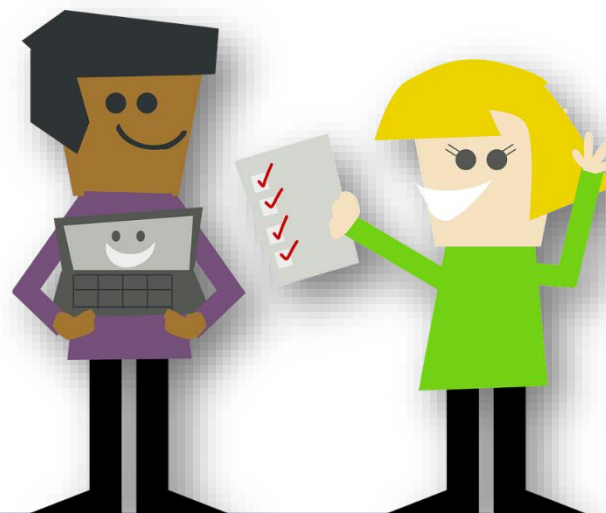
- Timely appointments for Administration for Children & Families (ACF) and Office of Head Start (OHS).
- Reinforcing knowledge of the Network's existing infrastructure and the role of Community Action as trusted entities in their communities.
- Continued focus on public policy changes and advocacy opportunities to advance effective and equitable measures to eradicate poverty for all community members.



**What's Next?**

# Building an Advocacy Strategy

- ✓ Identify injustices/inequities
- ✓ Identify the solutions, decisionmakers, and processes
- ✓ Importance of coalition building
- ✓ Advocacy in Action
- ✓ Incorporating advocacy into your organization's initiatives



# Advocacy in Action

## Elected Officials

- Letters
- Phone Calls
- Office Visits
- Briefings
- Coalition Meetings
- Site Visits
- Event Invitations

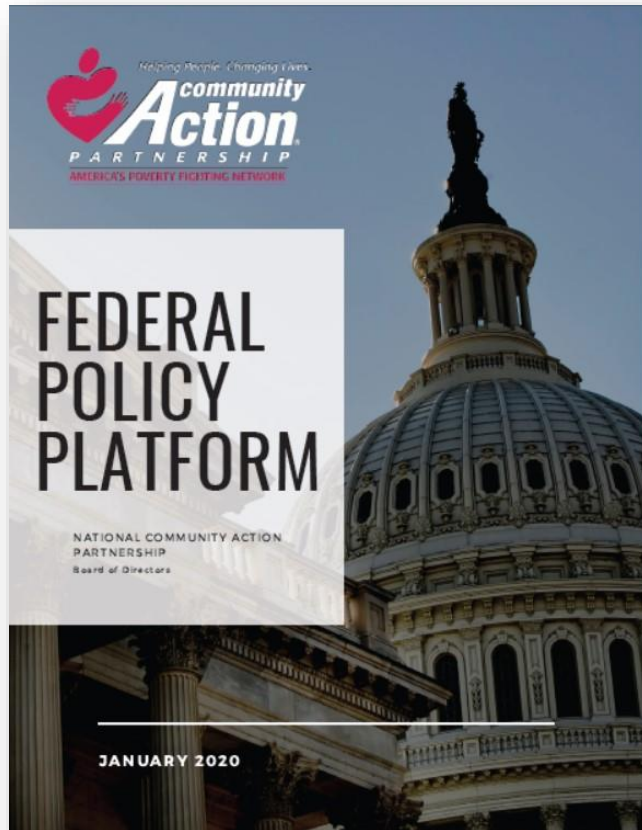


Source: Business 2 Community

## Media

- Letters to the Editor
- Press Conferences
- Social Media
- Coordinated Campaigns
- Earned Media (Rallies, reports, etc.)

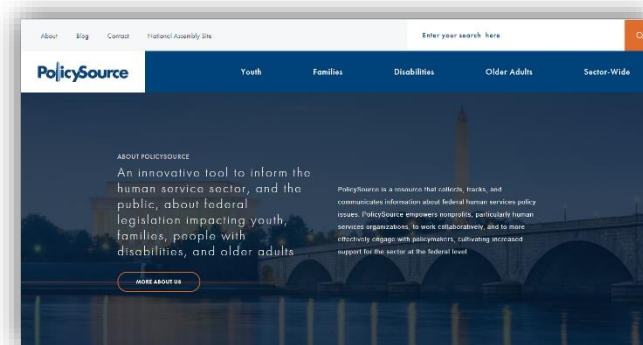
# Partnership Policy Platform



- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Funding & Reauthorization**
- **Creating an Economy that Works** for All with Sufficient Income for Family Well-Being
- Providing Equitable Access to Clean, Affordable **Energy & Infrastructure**
- Expanding Safe & Affordable **Housing**
- Ensuring High Quality **Education & Workforce Readiness** Regardless of Circumstance
- Promoting Universal **Health & Well-Being**
- Establishing Structural **Equity in the Criminal Justice System**
- Protecting **Immigrant** Community Members
- Encouraging **Civic Engagement** that Allows Every Voice to be Heard
- Strengthening **Community Resilience**

# Policy Resources

- [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)
  - Current Legislation
  - Congressional Record
- [Federal Register](https://www.federalregister.gov)
- [Congressional Research Service \(CRS\)](https://www.crs.gov)
- [PolicySource](https://www.policysource.org)
- [National Conference of State Legislatures](https://www.ncsl.org)
- [National Council of Nonprofits](https://www.nationalcouncilonnonprofits.org)
- Follow organizations, coalitions, and hashtags





# Questions?



# Contact Information



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