



Executive Order on Opportunity and Economic Mobility

On Monday, President Trump signed the [Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility Executive Order](#). The order calls on the secretaries of eight federal agencies (Treasury, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Education) to review their respective public assistance programs and propose new regulations and policies such as work requirements.

Here is a high-level review of the order:

- Key themes highlighted include:
 - Focus on work, specifically in the area of work requirements with the order calling for the introduction of new work requirements or the strengthening of existing work requirements;
 - Streamlining of services, the consolidation of programs which are similar in scope or in the population served, and the elimination of ineffective programs;
 - Involvement from local entities and the private sector (such as funders, community-based, and faith-based organizations) in the development of solutions to move people from welfare to self-sufficiency;
 - Prevention and reduction of waste, fraud, and abuse;
 - Investment in technology and innovation that can improve program integrity
- It calls on the affected federal agencies to use the following nine “Principles of Economic Mobility” to guide their proposed policy changes:
 - Improve employment outcomes and economic independence (including by strengthening existing work requirements for work-capable people and introducing new work requirements when legally permissible);
 - Promote strong social networks as a way of sustainably escaping poverty (including through work and marriage);
 - Address the challenges of populations that may particularly struggle to find and maintain employment (including single parents, formerly incarcerated individuals, the homeless, substance abusers, individuals with disabilities, and disconnected youth);

- Balance flexibility and accountability both to ensure that state, local, and tribal governments, and other institutions, may tailor their public assistance programs to the unique needs of their communities and to ensure that support services and administering agencies can be held accountable for achieving outcomes (including by designing and tracking measures that assess whether programs help people escape poverty);
 - Reduce the size of bureaucracy and streamline services to promote the effective use of resources;
 - Reserve benefits for people with low incomes and limited assets;
 - Reduce wasteful spending by consolidating or eliminating federal programs that are duplicative or ineffective;
 - Create a system by which the federal government remains updated on state, local, and tribal successes and failures, and facilitates access to that information so that other states and localities can benefit from it; and
 - Empower the private sector, as well as local communities, to develop and apply locally based solutions to poverty
- It also asks the federal agencies to do the following during the review of their respective public assistance programs:
 - Review all regulations and guidance relating to waivers, exemptions, or exceptions for eligibility requirements to determine whether they are consistent with Federal law and the principles outlined in this order;
 - Review public assistance programs that do AND do not have work requirements, and determine whether enforcement of a work requirement would be consistent with Federal law and the principles outlined in this order;
 - Produce a report within 90 days of the date of the order (by July 9, 2018) recommending regulatory and policy changes and other actions to accomplish the principles outlined in this order;
 - And within 90 days of report submission, begin implementation of recommended actions;
 - Also within 90 days of the date of the order (by July 9, 2018), agencies must submit a report outlining how their respective agencies are complying with federal law defining benefit eligibility for “non-qualified aliens,” as well as submit lists of programs that are AND are not restricted for non-qualified immigrants

It is important to note there is no formal process such as with federal rulemaking, so this provides an opportunity for APHSA and its members to be key stakeholders in the discussions around the order and its implementation. APHSA has been setting itself up to be thought leaders in the health and human services space by focusing on many of the issues highlighted in this order (e.g., [The Future of Snap](#) and [TANF at 20](#)). In turn, we are well positioned to be key players in helping the Administration understand the

positive impacts and potential unintended consequences that need to be thought through regarding proposed policies. We will continue to keep our members updated on any actions in this area.