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Presidential Actions – January 20-22, 2021

January 20-22nd, since President Biden's inauguration, he has issued a series of [executive orders and presidential actions](#) aimed at pandemic recovery, the economy, and other important issues. Below is APHSA's summary of the main executive orders impacting human services:

Modernizing Regulatory Review

The President's memorandum directs the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with executive departments and agencies, to produce a set of recommendations for improving and modernizing regulatory review, including concrete suggestions on how the regulatory review process can promote public health and safety, economic growth, social welfare, racial justice, environmental stewardship, human dignity, equity, and the interests of future generations.

[Read Modernizing Regulatory Review](#)

Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Regulation

This Executive Order revokes Executive Orders 13771, 13777, 13875, 13891, 13893 and 13893 related to regulatory reform and accountability. Revocation of these executive orders is for the purpose of providing greater flexibility to executive departments and agencies to “confront the urgent challenges facing the Nation, including the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, economic recovery, racial justice, and climate change.”

[Read Executive Order on Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Regulation](#)

Regulatory Freeze Pending Review

The President's memorandum directs federal agencies to propose or issue no rule in any manner until a department or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2021, reviews and approves the rule, including those rules that have been sent to the Office of the Federal Register (OFR), but have not been published yet. The rule also lays out provision for delaying implementation and review of rules which have been published by OFR, but have not taken effect, and provisions for those rules which are required for statutory or judicial deadlines or other executive orders.

[Read Regulatory Freeze Pending Review](#)

Proclamation on Ending Discriminatory Bans on Entry to The United States

This Proclamation included the revocation of Executive Order 13780 and the revocation of Proclamations 9645, 9723, and 9983 which prohibited entry into the U.S. by visitors and immigrants from more than a dozen primarily Muslim and African countries. This proclamation directs embassies and consulates to resume visa processing consistent with the revocation of these orders and to provide reports on the harm caused by the denial of visas under the previous administration.

American Public Human Services Association advances the well-being of all people by influencing modern approaches to sound policy, building the capacity of public agencies to enable healthy families and communities, and connecting leaders to accelerate learning and generate practical solutions together.

INFLUENCE BUILD CONNECT

[Read Executive Order Proclamation on Ending Discriminatory Bans on Entry to The United States](#)

Executive Order on Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security

This Executive Order creates the new position of COVID-19 Response Coordinator in the Executive Office. This position will report directly to the president and coordinate a Government-wide effort to reduce disparities in treatment and outcome from COVID-19, coordinate the Federal Government's vaccine efforts and testing, support the safe reopening of schools and other child care and Head Start programs, and coordinate with State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities. The Order also calls for a convening of global public health experts to understand and make recommendations for preparedness for future biological and pandemic threats.

[Read Executive Order on Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security](#)

Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government

In this Executive Order, President Biden states that “diversity is one of our country’s greatest strengths” and says that his Administration will pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity and tasks each Federal Agency to perform an assessment of the systemic barriers for people of color to their policies and programs. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will work in partnership with agency heads to study methods to perform these assessments. Within one year the head of each agency shall consult with the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy (APDP) and the Director of OMB to produce a plan to address barriers to full and equal participation in programs. The Order also states that agencies shall consult with historically underrepresented communities and gather equitable, disaggregated data to support the programs.

[Read Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government](#)

Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation

In this Executive Order, building on the Supreme Court decision on Bostock v. Clayton County Georgia, President Biden has ordered all federal agencies to review all existing regulations, orders, guidance, policies, and other agency actions related to gender or sexual orientation discrimination, including the agency’s own compliance. As part of the review, agencies will be required to develop a plan to either revise, suspend, or rescind or make new action that is necessary to fully implement policies and practices that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual identity.

[Read Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation](#)

Executive Order Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In this Executive Order, President Biden has directed the Department of Homeland Security and the Attorney General to enforce the 2012 program directive from the Obama-Biden Administration, called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The program created a path to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants brought to the US as children and who are enrolled in school or military service. President Biden also ordered The Department of Homeland Security to take all appropriate actions under the program to, and with applicable law, preserve and strengthen the DACA program.

[Read Executive Order Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#)

Executive Orders on COVID Economic Relief to be Signed Jan 22

The President is expected to sign Executive Orders on Friday, January 22 that would support families and communities facing hunger and economic hardship during the pandemic. The Orders are expected to include an extension of the 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, a 15% increase to Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits, consider using new guidance to issue Emergency Allotments to those who were not eligible because they were already receiving the maximum SNAP allotment for their household size, and reevaluate the Thrifty Food Plan as the basis for SNAP benefits to ensure that food assistance reflect the true cost of a basic healthy diet. The Executive Orders will also include mechanisms for all eligible individuals and households to receive the full \$2,000 stimulus check.

[Read: Fact Sheet: President Biden's New Executive Actions Deliver Economic Relief for American Families and Businesses Amid COVID-19 Crises](#)