

Children's HealthWatch, a pediatric research and policy network on the frontlines of pediatric care, applauds recent actions from the Biden-Harris Administration. With over 20 years of research investigating the health impact of economic conditions and inequities, we anticipate that these measures will improve the health and well-being of children and their families, in particular among Black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), immigrant, and low-income communities. The Administration's enactment of executive actions that undo harmful policies, promote economic stability, and address racial inequities are critical for responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic and economic crises and advancing health equity. Namely, Children's HealthWatch applauds the following critical executive actions:

- Extending the nationwide eviction moratorium through March 31st, 2021 so that families are able to remain [stably housed](#), which is necessary for not only [reducing the spread of the virus](#) but also for supporting child and family health over the long-term.
- Taking steps to address harmful immigration policies and regulations that [threaten the health of children and families](#), including, among others, directing agencies to review the [changes made to the public charge rule](#), reduce the chilling effect this discriminatory and racially motivated policy has had [on children and families](#), and consider rescinding [other regulatory changes](#) that threaten the health and well-being of immigrant families.
- Expanding nutrition assistance programs and addressing [nutrition benefit inadequacy](#) that are critical steps toward reducing food insecurity and promoting health equity.
- Committing to equity and dismantling of policies that uphold systemic racism, including directing HUD to fully restore and enforce the Fair Housing Act by re-implementing the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule that was recently [suspended and consequently terminated](#).

We are encouraged by these first steps, which stand in stark contrast to past harmful policies that have targeted, further oppressed, and jeopardized the health of BIPOC, immigrant, and low-income communities. These overdue actions begin to address economic hardships that Children's HealthWatch research has consistently demonstrated is linked to poor health and development among infants and toddlers and send the strong and clear message that equity, health, and prosperity are a top priority for the Administration. Looking forward, we urge the Administration and Congressional leaders to permanently rescind [policies that harm children and their families](#) – particularly BIPOC and immigrant families – and enact policies that promote health equity.

In addition to the early executive actions that will have a direct and immediate effect, the Biden-Harris Administration has signaled a strong commitment to addressing inequities and providing economic relief – particularly geared to stabilize BIPOC, immigrant, and low-income families with children hit hardest by the pandemic – through the proposed American Rescue Plan. This plan builds on the down payment that Congress provided in March and December 2020, and includes strong provisions that align with the many of the [recommendations](#) that Children's HealthWatch has been advocating for since the start of the pandemic.

Children's HealthWatch looks forward to working with the Biden-Harris Administration and members of Congress to improve the health and development of young children through evidence-based, bold policies and practices that advance equity and address and alleviate economic hardship. Through a

combination of administrative and legislative actions, we have the opportunity to establish a pathway to stability for families with children that have long struggled to access opportunities, afford basic needs, and achieve economic mobility. These challenges to opportunity, basic needs, and economic mobility have only been exacerbated by the pandemic and economic crises. We applaud the swift executive orders and plan for economic recovery and urge the Administration to continue to quickly act to promote and protect the health and well-being of children across our nation.