


# Recommendations

This document contains recommendations (cross-cutting and for all vital conditions) for the Federal Plan for Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience for Social, Behavioral, and Community Health.

78 Proposed Recommendations		
10 Cross-Cutting Recommendations for actions that transcend the vital conditions	Vital Conditions	Recommendations <i>specific to that vital condition</i>
	Belonging & Civic Muscle	8
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## Multi-Solver Recommendations

 Multi-solvers are recommendations in which a change grounded in one vital condition strengthens five or more vital conditions. Thus, these recommendations may suggest areas to prioritize due to the potential to impact multiple vital conditions through one action. The Plan’s 12 multi-solver recommendations are presented below, denoted with a distinguishing icon. Vital condition symbols indicate the recommendation strengthens that vital condition.

## Cross-Cutting Recommendations

### A. Increase Use of the Vital Conditions Framework in Federal Resources

Employ the *Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being Framework* to advance strategic planning, regulation advancements, and initiative development across the federal government

### B. Adopt Coordinated Language in Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Announcements

Develop and implement standardized language across departments and within agencies for funding announcements that facilitate cross-agency collaboration in support of advancing equitable well-being and resilience through the application of federal grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts

### C. Demonstrate Continuous Community-Led Planning and Design

Integrate requirements for inclusive constituent- and/or community-owned planning (e.g., master plans, capital improvement, needs assessment), co-design, and performance monitoring that prioritize locally defined needs and goals in all federal resource provision

### D. Allow Federal Funds to Facilitate Multi-Sector Collaboration

Expand the allowed use and flexibility of federal funds to support locally determined activities and infrastructure to manage multi-sector collaboration and planning processes, prioritizing co-leadership by communities that have been marginalized

**E. Establish Infrastructure to Enable Meaningful Interagency Collaboration**

Create and formalize, through adequate resources and authority, federal infrastructures including interagency action labs, training and capacity at all staff levels, consistent collaboration tools, and leadership review that prioritizes continual strategic collective and coordinated action across federal agencies on programs, policies, and initiatives impacting the vital conditions

**F. Facilitate Regional Knowledge Exchange and Collaborative Action**

Build regional office partnerships to facilitate the integration of the *Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being Framework* across federal partners and offices, incentivize continued action and leadership to advance opportunities through the Framework, identify pilot opportunities, and expand local partnership networks

**G. Incentivize Co-Location and Coordinated Access Points for Complementary Federally Funded and Administered Services in Naturally Occurring and Community-Driven Settings**

Conduct a cross-agency assessment to identify barriers and advance coordinated opportunities to facilitate greater integration/collaboration among place-based access points for federally funded service and program locations to improve local administration

**H. Redesign Interagency Technical Assistance to Increase Equitable Access to Federal Resources**

Establish a federal interagency Technical Assistance Center to facilitate greater federal resource braiding in the service of improving vital conditions, prioritizing communities with lower resources that have historically been underserved

**I. Strengthen Measurement Practices to Increase Collection of Data Measuring Equity and Well-Being**

Advance new and existing efforts to assess collection of demographic data across federal agencies to accurately understand disparities and measure progress toward equity

**J. Integrate Arts and Cultural Programs into Core Resilience Resources Across Agencies**

Incentivize the integration of arts and cultural resources across agency programs for all vital conditions



## **BELONGING & CIVIC MUSCLE**

### *Sense of belonging and power to shape a common world*

Civic agency; civic association; collective efficacy; equitable access to information; freedom from stigma, discrimination, oppression; many opportunities for civic engagement (voting, volunteerism, public work); social support; support for civil rights, human rights; vibrant arts, culture, and spiritual life


### **Civic Agency**

- A.** Enhance cross-agency collaboration to increase inclusion of civics topics in Pre-K and K-12 education, higher education, community education, museums, libraries, and arts programs

### **Civic Association**

- B.** Expand federal agency partnerships with federal civic engagement programs, including Citizens Corps and AmeriCorps, to support locally driven community development and resilience programs

### **Collective Efficacy**

- C.** Establish a Center of Excellence in Cultivating Community Well-Being to provide technical assistance and training focused on increasing connections between federal agencies and communities working to improve the vital conditions for health and well-being, prioritizing supports for groups that have been economically and socially marginalized and under-resourced communities<sup>1</sup> 
- D.** Expand cross-agency collaboration in the development of social cohesion, personal growth, and career exploration among youth by supporting strategic partnerships with community, career development, and educational institutions using positive youth development approaches that align with community workforce needs and engagement goals
- E.** Expand the use of cross-agency federal funds to build and sustain effective local networks that include organizations vital to community development (e.g., non-profit organizations, associations, volunteer organizations, foundations) in proactive planning and collaboration on community-based actions for recovery and resilience

### **Opportunities for Civic Engagement**

- F.** Increase federal program approaches to meaningfully engage youth who have been marginalized to identify local issues, prioritize needs, and design, implement, and monitor strategies to strengthen the vital conditions
- G.** Allow states to leverage federal funds to support initiatives that meaningfully engage individuals, families, and communities in the design and oversight of service delivery systems

### **Vibrant Arts, Culture, & Spiritual Life**

- H.** Facilitate cross-agency collaboration to increase investments and partnerships that will improve inclusive access to the arts, culture, and civic engagement programs and initiatives

### ***Freedom from Stigma, Discrimination, & Oppression\****

#### ***Social Support\****

#### ***Support for Civil Rights & Human Rights\****

<sup>1</sup> This recommendation also aligns to the **Equitable Access to Information** sub-category

\* *Currently no federal recommendations*




## THRIVING NATURAL WORLD

### *Sustainable resources, contact with nature, freedom from hazards*

Accessible natural spaces; clean air, water, soil; freedom from extreme heat, flooding, wind, radiation, earthquakes, pathogens; healthy ecosystems able to sustainably provide necessary resources


### Accessible Natural Spaces

- A. Increase coordination of federal investments among agencies to prioritize the existence and creation of safe, healthy, and accessible community open green and blue spaces that increase connection of communities to nature while preserving proximal affordable housing 
- B. Require cross-agency identification of federal programs and resources and incentivize collaborative opportunities to facilitate access to green, open spaces that foster community cohesion and health
- C. Increase the use of federal funds for personal development, learning, and engagement – with other people and with aspects of the natural world – in communities nationwide

### Clean Air, Water, & Soil

- D. Increase access to safe drinking water systems and recreational waters through community-driven efforts
- E. Expand cross-agency research and technical assistance to improve infrastructure and water investment resources
- F. Invest in best practices and tools for the safe location of community assets to eliminate or minimize the risk of environmental exposures, especially for community infrastructure used or frequented by children
- G. Maximize cross-agency collaboration to raise awareness of local resources to prevent exposure to household contaminants, including radon, asbestos, mold, and lead, with equitable access to trusted and responsive testing and remediation resources at the community level

### Freedom from Extreme Environments & Pathogens

- H. Require regional, state, local, tribal, and territorial planning efforts using or applying for federal funds, as allowed pursuant to applicable law, to be multi-sector and to assess and address the environmental stressors and human health, economic, and social effects related to climate change with specific consideration of equity, social justice, and respect for cultural norms 
- I. Include human health, economic, and social effects and respect for cultural norms in whole-of-government approaches to climate change and environmental justice
- J. Require that training and technical assistance on climate change and environmental justice issues be permanently incorporated into federally funded emergency management grantee programs to help identify local approaches that support the long-term health, economic, and social equity of communities that are disproportionately affected by extreme environments and climate change

### *Healthy, Sustainable Ecosystems\**

\* Currently no federal recommendations



## BASIC NEEDS FOR HEALTH & SAFETY


### *Basic requirements for health and safety*

Freedom from trauma, violence, addiction and crime; fresh air; nutritious food, safe drinking water; routine care for physical and mental health; routine physical activity; safe, satisfying sexuality and reproduction; sufficient sleep


### Freedom from Trauma, Violence, & Addiction

- A. Increase cross-agency coordination of complementary federal resources to support community-led prevention, reduction, and elimination of individual and collective victimization and trauma for groups placed at increased risk of victimization and exposure to trauma
- B. Leverage cross-agency federal support (e.g., policies, waivers, funds) to permit the use of funds for and increase the availability of qualified and/or credentialed peer support professionals integrated with prevention, treatment, and recovery services
- C. Allow use of federal funds to increase utilization and integration of culturally responsive, competent, whole-person creative and arts-based individual- and household-level interventions, prioritizing groups that have been economically and socially marginalized and under-resourced communities
- D. Invest in the development of collaborative networks extending from education settings (e.g., Head Start, child care, and schools) to respond to social, emotional, and physical needs of children and their families
- E. Expand use of federal funds to collaborate with artists, creative arts therapists, arts and cultural organizations, museums, and libraries as a core dimension of designing and implementing community-based programs building community resilience

### Nutritious Food & Safe Water


- F. Incentivize the use of federal funds to catalyze the development of responsible urban agriculture, community and school gardens, and creation and expansion of local farmers' markets 
- G. Facilitate cross-agency collaboration within authority (i.e., funding, incentives, policy requirements, and technical assistance) to strengthen relationships between local and regional food systems with local provider networks providing eligible individuals and households with accessible, affordable, and nutritious food that fairly compensates producers
- H. Maximize cross-agency actions to align programs resulting in optimization of eligible households' ability to consistently access adequate affordability nutritious food in dignified and technology-enabled ways
- I. Incentivize purchase of food with high nutritional quality in federal food and assistance programs
- J. Allow the use of federal funds to support community-wide drinking water testing and remediation to protect and improve water quality

### Physical & Mental Health

- K. Extend flexibilities for federally funded resources to expand availability and affordability of broadband services and affordable hardware for communities with limited access to quality broadband internet services, prioritizing groups that have been economically and socially marginalized and rural communities 
- L. Increase access for Tribes, territories, and freely associated states (FAS) to federal programming and grant funding opportunities focused on the elimination of healthcare provider shortages
- M. Enhance policies and programs that increase availability and integration of patient- and family-centered primary care and behavioral health services
- N. Expand the use of federal funding for trained in-home care and support services for older adults and for children, youth, and adults with disabilities within the community
- O. Expand family-centered and multi-generational approaches across federal agency programs and resources (e.g., policy, funding, programs, technical assistance, and research) to foster the healthy development and wellness of children, youth, and families as a whole

- P. Increase federal cross-agency coordination to integrate community-based behavioral health services within broader healthcare, public health, and human service systems

### **Routine Physical Activity**

- Q. Increase access to physical activity that is safe and convenient, through expansion of and funding for places such as parks and town squares, walking and biking paths, active and public transportation infrastructure, and supportive programming (e.g., safe routes to schools and parks, school physical education, physical activity groups and classes, programming in dance and creative movement) 

**Fresh Air\***

**Sexuality & Reproductive Health\***

**Sufficient Sleep\***

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\* Currently no federal recommendations



## HUMANE HOUSING


### *Humane, consistent housing*

Adequate space per person; affordable costs; close to work, school, food, recreation, and nature; diverse neighborhoods (without gentrification, segregation, concentrated poverty); safe structures

### Affordable Costs

- A. Increase access to mortgage assistance, down payment support, and post-purchase supports, and expand affordable market mechanisms, including the utilization of community land trusts and collaboration with development institutions (e.g., Community Development Financial Institutions [CDFIs], local public and private investment funds) to create and sustain homeownership among populations that historically have been marginalized
- B. Identify ways to better align federal rental assistance programs with adjacent federal benefits programs that increase economic mobility (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF], SNAP, child care subsidy, income) to preserve housing stability for people at risk for eviction or experiencing homelessness
- C. Incentivize greater braided coordination and joint application of federal resources for community planning, zoning, regulation, public-private partnership, and investment decisions that increase production and preservation of accessible and safe, disaster-resilient affordable housing with transit access
- D. Increase adoption of best practices and innovative solutions associated with federal programs that improve housing stability for people and families at risk of experiencing homelessness
- E. Expand uptake and integration of cross-agency resources that facilitate choice in household utility relief to convert to green energy use (e.g., solar power), reducing household utility costs and supporting environmental sustainability
- F. Conduct a systematic review of federal agency, department-wide, and community-based housing resources that address instability and homelessness to identify service gaps and opportunities for expanding or improving existing programs

### Close to Necessities

- G. Coordinate affordable housing development with proximity to comprehensive services for economic participation, socialization, physical activity, and federal and local support services such as food, behavioral health, healthcare, and child care 

### Safe Structures

- H. Assess and revise minimum housing standards for federally funded development to reflect the risk of future disruptions and crises by geography
- I. Identify and implement innovative approaches to expanding public awareness of and informed engagement in early-stage planning conversations related to housing development and environmental hazards


### *Adequate Space per Person\**

### *Diverse Neighborhoods\**

\* Currently no federal recommendations



### **Family & Community Wealth**

- A.** Address major drivers of the benefits cliff effect, within and across programs, to create greater state flexibilities using regulation changes, programmatic waivers, cross-agency and adjacent system policy alignment, and other tools 
- B.** Increase access to equitable, high quality, and safe child care to support families to balance family and work responsibilities, prioritizing federal resources to invest in child care businesses and workforce professionalization
- C.** Increase opportunities for people from racial and ethnic minority groups to create and grow small businesses, entrepreneurship skills, and wealth
- D.** Incentivize states and employers to adopt multi-generational family leave policies (e.g., earned paid sick leave)
- E.** Identify means to allow reimbursement with federal funds for in-home dependent care provided by non-medically certified caregivers, including family members

### **Good-Paying & Fulfilling Jobs**

- F.** Improve coordination of federal employment and training programs to connect job seekers, including those who are unemployed or under-employed, to career-path, good-paying jobs such as those in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM)
- G.** Integrate and universally implement standardized language for funding announcements to facilitate cross-agency collaboration requiring that supported full-time jobs provide a living wage aligned with the local market cost of living and prioritize the development of career pathways within high-demand, low-wage professions (not including summer, teen, and internship/paid learning programs)

### **Job (Re)Training**

- H.** Support student parents in completing post-secondary education by identifying and increasing coordinated use of existing benefits programs
- I.** Advance federally funded or supported job training programs by increasing priority for career-oriented programs with integrated barrier reduction support services within and across agencies
- J.** Incentivize state economic development organizations to help communities connect and prioritize career-oriented training with high-demanding and living-wage local employment opportunities, prioritizing under-resourced communities and that historically have been marginalized

### **Savings & Limited Debt**

- K.** Revise financial literacy programs to include a curriculum that develops wealth-building skills, incentivizes applied and experiential learning, and connects to financial system access and use, prioritizing under-resourced communities
- L.** Increase access to banking and financial resources (e.g., loans, debt relief) across federally funded programs for people with lower incomes and people from racial and ethnic minority groups





## LIFELONG LEARNING


### *Continuous learning, education, and literacy*

Career and adult education; continuous development of cognitive, social, emotional abilities; early childhood experiences; elementary, high school, and higher education

#### **Career & Adult Education**

- A.** Increase investments in person- and family-centered transitional skills programs and curricula for people currently in or transitioning from long-term care facilities, state psychiatric systems, or jail or prison

#### **Continuous Development**

- B.** Allow the use of cross-agency federal funds to increase access to enrichment experiences in and outside of schools for under-resourced communities and that historically have been marginalized 
- C.** Incentivize the use of public-private partnerships to maximize and sustain the integration of arts, culture, and humanities in lifelong learning programs and research studies

#### **Early Childhood Experiences**

- D.** Expand the use of federal funds to increase equitable access to high-quality child care and universal early childhood education programs

#### **Elementary, High School, & Higher Education**

- E.** Increase incentives for schools to adopt and integrate whole-system social, emotional, and behavioral approaches and to meet recommended staffing ratios of students to trained school nurses and behavioral health professionals
- F.** Support collaboration with community college systems as on-ramps to career development by expanding inclusion of barrier reduction and wraparound supports that increase enrollment and timely completion of programs



## RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION



### *Reliable, safe, and accessible transportation*

Active transport; close to work, school, food, leisure; efficient energy use; few environmental hazards; safe transport

### Active Transport

- A. Require collaborative cross-agency community well-being needs assessments to increase integration of active transportation investments (e.g., greenways, paths, lanes for walking, biking) with community-defined priorities for civic engagement and well-being


### Close to Necessities

- B. Incentivize local partnerships with community-based service delivery organizations to co-locate high-value services and resources at new and existing transportation centers, prioritizing support for groups that have been economically and socially marginalized 
- C. Increase cross-agency alignment and integration of infrastructure planning and design that leverages new and existing transportation centers as integrated hubs for core federally funded services (e.g., food, behavioral health, healthcare, workforce enrollment) 

### Efficient Energy Use

- D. Expand access to environmentally and energy-friendly modes of transportation in urban and rural communities that are underserved by these transportation modes

### Safe Transport

- E. Maximize cross-agency coordination of funding and flexibilities to facilitate the widespread availability of reliable public transportation that is affordable, frequent, and convenient within and between communities to ensure access to resource across vital conditions, prioritizing geographic communities with less access to safe and convenient transportation 
- F. Incentivize the prioritization of mobility needs of populations that have been economically, socially, or geographically marginalized and/or are underserved by transit and transportation systems in local, metropolitan, state, and regional transportation improvement plans

### *Few Environmental Hazards\**

\* Currently no federal recommendations