

Federal Plan for Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience

FEDERAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT—Overview

03/12/22

Overview

Context

In spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly revealed the effects of unchecked health disparities and fragile systems. Immediately, overlapping economic, educational, behavioral health, and substance use crises shifted communities and individuals into deeper struggling and suffering. The resulting inequitable impact and steep declines in mental health and well-being made clear that returning to pre-pandemic “normal” would be unacceptable.

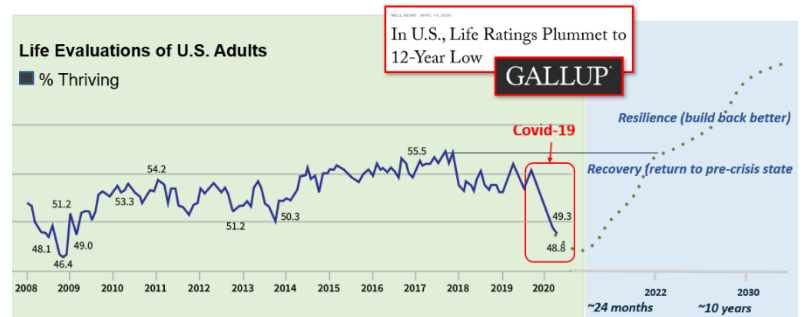


Figure 1 Source: Gallup <http://news.gallup.com/poll/308276/life-ratings-plummet-year-low.aspx>

In response, an objective was added to the COVID-19 Federal Incident Response Plan to “Develop a federal plan for the long-term recovery and resilience of social, behavioral, and community health systems”. Currently, over 130 senior career staff from 31 departments/agencies participate in the Interagency Workgroup leading the work.

This overview shares framing and presents the overarching approach emerging to date. It aligns with at least a dozen recent Executive Orders¹ and the momentum of this effort can be leveraged in service of bold collective action to pursue the elimination of disparities and increase equitable resilience.

Approach

Framework

The [vital conditions for health and well-being](#) serve as the framework for the Plan. They identify the properties we all depend on to reach our full potential, organized into seven domains. The vital conditions present an actionable approach to improving the social determinants of health and addressing inequities. The framework effectively expands the table of partners and systems that see their work as central to the framework and change being sought.

Importantly, this framework is oriented around community-driven action. It is not organized by federal government structures, and it aligns with the focus on well-being found in Healthy People 2030 and other federal and non-governmental initiatives. It centers belonging and civic muscle as critical to building capacity for communities to design self-driven, tailored solutions to local needs, and to foster an equitable, thriving future.

Joint Effort

From the outset, we recognized the need for synchronous action from stakeholders outside federal government to improve social, behavioral, and community health. A complementary effort resulted in an [NGO Springboard](#) resource, with contributions from hundreds of diverse community organizations, leaders, and voices². Released in

¹At least 12 Executive Orders and Memorandums, including: [Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#), EO 13985, January 20, 2021; [Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery](#), EO 13995, January 21, 2021; [Redressing Our Nation's and the Federal Government's History of Discriminatory Housing Practices and Policies](#), Memorandum, January 26, 2021; [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), EO 14008, January 27, 2021; [Executive Order on Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust in Government](#), EO 13571, December 13, 2021.

²Funded by CDC Foundation, facilitated by Well Being Trust, Community Initiatives, and ReThink Health.

July 2020, the Springboard serves as an informal landscape analysis and companion vision for the federal Plan; its reach as a guiding vision continues to grow as communities adopt it as their coalition planning framework.

Federal Plan

Currently, more than 31 federal agencies actively participate in the Interagency Workgroup developing the LTRR plan. The purpose of the Plan is to **align federal actions**, outlining **strategies to improve vital conditions**,

support community and individual recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, and **positively impact health and well-being** over the next ten years and beyond. The strategies aim to identify interdependencies, increase coordination, and remove barriers to foster long-term contributions toward community resilience. Recommendations identify specific actions to inform the strategies.



Figure 2: The Interagency Workgroup model for achieving thriving and well-being for all people in all places.

Recommendations

To date, planning efforts have identified 78 pre-decisional recommendations. Over one hundred Interagency Workgroup members from 31 agencies reviewed and contributed. Recommendations will be further refined based on leadership feedback.

The recommendations align with three principles related to reducing obstacles to community-driven efforts:

1. **Empower** communities to engage in equitable, self-driven discussions of needs and solutions;
2. **Connect** communities to access federal support and identify collaborative opportunities using trauma-informed approaches and healing processes;
3. **Refine** existing and develop new activities to address gaps and redesign to maximize outcomes ensuring federal support promotes thriving for all;
4. **Sustain** cross-agency and cross-department collaborations and advancements that facilitate continuous investment and measuring change.

Cross-cutting recommendations reflect actions that transcend the vital conditions and have the potential to transform alignment of federal assets to equitably foster well-being. Some of these actions can begin immediately within current agency authority and flexibility³.

The majority of recommendations identify specific actions to strengthen vital conditions. A small group of 12 recommendations—referred to as “multi-solvers”—has the potential to positively impact more than five vital conditions. These multi-solvers may represent areas to prioritize coordinated implementation.

Building Momentum

By completing and implementing a whole-of-government federal Plan for long-term recovery and resilience, **we grasp this opportunity to fundamentally change how the federal government responds to the needs of communities and individuals—especially those historically left behind.** It will require decisive leadership to shift to better coordination across agencies in service of policies and programs that strengthen what works well and re-engineer what no longer serves.

The infrastructure and momentum of this planning effort are poised to support the aim of an equitable future. With leadership support, we can align federal investments to foster community resilience, revise systemic barriers to well-being, and provide **a vision of hope for a future with all people and places thriving, no exceptions.**

³ It is acknowledged that current authority and flexibility may vary by agency.