



Advancing Equity: The Biden-Harris Focus on Black Communities

The Biden-Harris administration, with Vice President Kamala Harris at the forefront, has championed numerous initiatives specifically designed to support and uplift the Black community. This fact sheet outlines the administration's efforts across key areas such as economic empowerment, infrastructure, equity, education, health, civil rights, and voting. These initiatives aim to address longstanding disparities, create opportunities, and build a more equitable society for Black Americans.

Economic Empowerment and Infrastructure

Advancing Equity and Opportunity

- Powered a historic economic recovery that created 2.6 million jobs for Black workers and achieved both the lowest Black unemployment rate on record and the lowest gap between Black and White unemployment on record.
- Helped Black working families build wealth, increasing Black wealth by 60% relative to pre-pandemic levels, the largest increase on record.
- Cut in half the number of Black children living in poverty in 2021 through the American Rescue Plan's Child Tax Credit expansion, providing relief to over 9 million Black children.
- Began reversing decades of infrastructure disinvestment, including allocating \$4 billion to reconnect communities previously cut off from economic opportunities by building needed transportation infrastructure in underserved communities, including Black communities.
- Through the Affordable Connectivity Program, connected an estimated 5.5 million Black households to affordable high-speed internet, closing the digital divide for millions of Black families.

Helping Black-Owned Businesses Grow and Thrive

- Achieved the fastest creation rate of Black-owned businesses in more than 30 years and more than doubled the share of Black business owners from 2019 to 2022.
- Improved the SBA's flagship loan guarantee programs, doubling the number and dollar value of SBA-backed loans to Black-owned businesses since 2020.
- Launched a whole-of-government effort to expand access to federal contracts for small businesses, awarding a record \$69.9 billion to small disadvantaged businesses in 2022.
- Invested \$10 billion through Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative to expand access to capital and invest in early-stage businesses in all 50 states, including \$2.5 billion dedicated to underserved businesses.
- Supported small and disadvantaged businesses through CHIPS Act funding by requiring funding applicants to develop a workforce plan to create equitable pathways for economically disadvantaged individuals and support procurement from minority-owned businesses.



Advancing Equity: The Biden-Harris Focus on Black Communities

Increasing Access to Housing and Rooting Out Discrimination

- Set up the first-ever national infrastructure to stop evictions, scaling up the ARP-funded Emergency Rental Assistance program in over 400 communities, helping 8 million renters stay in their homes, with over 40% of renters helped being Black.
- Published a proposed “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing” rule through HUD to overcome patterns of segregation and ensure equitable access to affordable housing opportunities.
- Created the Interagency Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity (PAVE) to root out bias in the home appraisal process, advance equity, and remove racial and ethnic bias in home valuations.
- Supported wealth-generation activities for prospective and current homeowners by expanding access to credit and incorporating positive rental payment history into the mortgage underwriting process, enabling an additional 5,000 borrowers per year to qualify for FHA-insured loans.
- Established programs to provide relief for distressed borrowers with at-risk agricultural operations, including over \$2 billion in assistance through the IRA, helping over 37,000 farmers and ranchers, including Black farmers and ranchers.

Whole-of-Government Equity Agenda

- Signed two Executive Orders directing the Federal Government to advance an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda.
- Nominated the first Black woman, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, to serve on the Supreme Court and more Black women to federal circuit courts than all previous Presidents combined.
- Countered hateful attempts to rewrite history, including signing the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday, and designating the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument.
- Created the Justice40 Initiative, delivering 40% of the benefits of certain Federal investments in clean energy, affordable housing, clean water, and other programs to disadvantaged communities.
- Launched the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and secured funding for community violence intervention programs, reducing violence by up to 60% in some areas.



Advancing Equity: The Biden-Harris Focus on Black Communities

Education and Health

Ensuring Equitable Educational Opportunity for Black Students

- Approved more than \$168.5 billion in debt cancellation for 4.76 million borrowers and launched the SAVE plan to help students and families cut total lifetime payments.
- Championed the largest increase in Pell Grants in the last decade, benefiting over 60% of Black undergraduates.
- Delivered a historic investment of over \$16 billion to support HBCUs.
- Reestablished the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for HBCUs and Black Americans.
- Secured a 30% increase in childcare assistance funding in 2023, benefiting 38% of Black families. Increased the funding for Head Start by an extra \$1 billion, impacting over 28% of Black children.

Improving Health Outcomes

- Increased Black enrollment in health care coverage through the ACA by 49% from 2020 to 2022.
- Locked in lower monthly premiums for health insurance, capped the cost of insulin at \$35 for Medicare beneficiaries, and improved prescription drug coverage through the IRA.
- Expanded Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months in 43 states and Washington, D.C., covering 700,000 more women in the year after childbirth. Medicaid covers approximately 65% of births for Black mothers.
- Financed projects to replace hundreds of thousands of lead pipes, protecting against lead poisoning in Black communities.
- Provided \$1 billion in grants to increase the supply of school-based mental health professionals in high-poverty communities.

Civil Rights and Voting

Protecting the Sacred Right to Vote for Black Families

- Signed an Executive Order to provide nonpartisan information about the election process and increase access to voter registration.
- Repeatedly called on Congress to pass essential voting rights legislation, including the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.
- Increased funding for the DOJ's Civil Rights Division, doubling the number of voting rights enforcement attorneys and creating the Election Threats Task Force.
- Signed into law the bipartisan Electoral Reform Count Act to protect against attempts to overturn elections.
- Created the Justice40 Initiative to deliver the benefits of federal investments to disadvantaged communities and launched the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.



Advancing Equity: The Biden-Harris Focus on Black Communities

Public Trust and Strengthening Public Safety for Black Communities

- Signed a historic Executive Order to improve federal policing standards, including banning chokeholds, restricting no-knock warrants, mandating body-worn cameras, and more.
- Directed the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice to review the scheduling of marijuana under federal law and issued pardons for simple possession offenses.
- Announced a White House Alternatives, Rehabilitation, and Reentry Strategic Plan with over 100 policy actions to reduce unnecessary criminal justice system interactions.
- Provided \$264 million in grants to increase the supply of school-based mental health professionals in high-poverty communities.
- Signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, enhancing background checks and providing law enforcement with tools to crack down on gun trafficking.