

The Century Foundation's Top Policy Priorities for 2021

The Century Foundation's 2021 policy priorities span five key and interconnected areas. They address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout as well as longstanding institutional discrimination and structural disparities. Each priority shares the same goal: to advance economic, racial, and gender equity. Our recommendations are not intended as a comprehensive list—there are other important areas where progressive policies are needed and being offered. Here, we offer tangible proposals guided by our staff's history of research, advocacy, and policy making.

HEALTH CARE

To expand coverage and achieve equitable access to a universal health care system, our nation must acknowledge and dismantle the structural racism that exists within it. Ridding systemic racism from health care, as from other sectors of our society, is critical to addressing the vast racial disparities seen in burgeoning health concerns, such as maternal mortality, COVID-19, and other health outcomes.

- ✓ Guarantee universal health coverage
- ✓ Eliminate disparities in maternal health
- ✓ Ensure universal access to free COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

The economy reflects the well-being of the American people, not the latest stock market trend, and as such it must be managed to promote the well-being of ordinary Americans, not the wealthiest among us. Policymakers must make choices now to repair the damage wrought by the pandemic-induced recession and invest in workers for long-term and equitable economic growth.

- ✓ Bolster and modernize the safety net for jobless workers
- ✓ Provide universal and effective economic adjustment and retraining assistance
- ✓ Strengthen and expand access to well-paid manufacturing jobs
- ✓ Cut child poverty by half
- ✓ Begin addressing reparations for Black Americans
- ✓ Strengthen the power of America's workers
- ✓ Invest in infrastructure for new jobs and a green recovery

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC JUSTICE

A historic investment in America's care infrastructure combined with new workplace policies will not only help overturn generations of systemic sexism and racism but will accrue benefits to our entire society and economy.

- ✓ Establish universal child care
- ✓ Secure paid leave for all
- ✓ Provide universal long-term services and supports
- ✓ Value the people who provide care
- ✓ Support essential workers and their families
- ✓ Promote workplace conditions for gender justice and building power

PRE-K-12 EDUCATION

America will not achieve racial and economic equality of opportunity without first establishing a solid and level educational learning field for all children by ensuring that their schools are diverse, properly funded, and built for the future.

The full report "The Century Foundation's Top Policy Priorities for 2021" can be found at <https://tcf.org/content/report/century-foundations-top-policy-priorities-2021/>

- ✓ Increase the number of children who attend integrated schools
- ✓ Fully and equitably fund public education
- ✓ Support English learners
- ✓ Modernize America's schools
- ✓ Expand access to and promote integration in early education

HIGHER EDUCATION

All Americans, regardless of background, should be able to attend a high-quality college or job training program without incurring crushing student debt.

- ✓ Promote racial and economic equity
- ✓ Expand high-quality free and debt-free college options
- ✓ Achieve fair tuition pricing
- ✓ Establish a job training guarantee
- ✓ Provide student loan relief during the economic recovery
- ✓ Redesign teacher education to diversify the P-12 teaching force

