**Executive Order XXXX: Improving Outcomes for Children At Home and Abroad**

The children of the United States and the world are facing enormous challenges today that threaten their futures. A deadly pandemic, an increase of natural disasters, long-term impacts to health and communities caused by climate change, and violent and prolonged conflicts have created the need for urgent action.

We must act together, and we must act now.

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Policy.**

* 1. Purpose. This order builds upon and reaffirms actions both my own and previous Administrations have already taken to advance child well-being across multiple sectors, including the 2021 EO 14008, [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/); efforts to cut child poverty in half through the American Rescue Plan; the Action Plan for Children in Adversity; the Youth in Development policy within the U.S. Agency for International Development; and the [executive order to advance equal rights and opportunities for women and girls](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council) in domestic and foreign policy. It also builds upon the success of previous policy efforts to protect children, such as the 1997 EO 13045, [Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks](https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-executive-order-13045-protection-children-environmental-health-risks-and) and the [Global Child Thrive Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4864/related-bills). U.S. government policies and programs will advance child well-being at home and abroad through policy that promotes their safety, healthy development, and family unity. It is incumbent upon the United States government to increase its focus on the holistic well-being of children, mitigating the unique risks and vulnerabilities they face, and ensuring their best interests are at the core of U.S. policies and programs.
	2. The “best interests of the child” is a principle of child protection and rights that has been applied internationally, in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. The “best interests of the child” term generally includes particular factors that contribute to children’s safety, health, and well-being. Through application of this principle, countries around the world have improved government policy to advance positive outcomes for children, their families, and the rest of their citizens. However, U.S. policy often fails to advance progress in key indicators of child well-being, including those related to child health, poverty, protection, exposure to violence, access to healthy food, and access to justice. Without a clear mandate, there will continue to be gaps in policy decisions that impact children’s lives and well-being. Therefore, to the extent permitted by law and as appropriate, and consistent with each agency’s mission, each federal agency:
1. Shall assess the best interests of the child as a primary consideration for each policy that will affect them,
2. Shall ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and adjudications consider the best interests of the child, including those impacting individual children and groups of children, where applicable, and
3. In accordance with best practices, shall meaningfully engage with key stakeholders, including but not limited to experts on child development, civil society, parents and caregivers, and children themselves.

1.3 Each independent regulatory agency is encouraged to participate in the implementation of this order and comply with its provisions.

**Section 2. Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply to this order:

* 1. “Children” means all individuals up to the age of 18 years.
	2. "Federal agency" means any authority of the United States that is an agency under 44 U.S.C. 3502(1) other than those considered to be independent regulatory agencies under 44 U.S.C. 3502(5). For purposes of this order, "military departments," as defined in 5 U.S.C. 102, are covered under the auspices of the Department of Defense.
	3. "Covered regulatory action" means any substantive action in a rulemaking, initiated after the date of this order or for which a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is published 1 year after the date of this order, that is likely to result in a rule that may be "economically significant" under Executive Order 12866 (a rulemaking that has an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more or would adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities).
	4. “Best interests of the child” includes but is not limited to a child’s safety; mental, emotional and physical health; relationship and attachments with a parent, legal guardian, sibling, or other extended family or tribe or community member; holistic well-being (including economic security, quality education, and healthy development); protection from violence (including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse); liberty; ability; and identity (including race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and immigration status).

**Section 3. Inter-Agency Task Force on Children**

* 1. There is hereby established a Task Force on Children (“the Task Force”).

3.2 The Task Force shall report to the president in consultation with the Domestic Policy Council, the National Security Council, and the Office on Management and Budget (OMB). The Task Force shall also meaningfully engage and consult with stakeholders, including but not limited to child advocates, experts on child development, civil society, parents and caregivers, and other diverse groups of children.

3.3 Membership—the Task Force shall be composed of:

1. A White House Coordinator, who will lead the Task Force
2. The Secretary of State
3. The Secretary of Treasury
4. The Secretary of Defense
5. The Attorney General
6. The Secretary of the Interior
7. The Secretary of Agriculture
8. The Secretary of Commerce
9. The Secretary of Labor
10. The Secretary of Health and Human Services
11. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
12. The Secretary of Transportation
13. The Secretary of Education
14. The Secretary of Homeland Security
15. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
16. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget
17. The United States Trade Representative;
18. The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations
19. The Director of the Council of Economic Advisors
20. The Administrator of USAID,
21. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs;
22. The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
23. The Assistant to the President on COVID-19 Response;
24. The Chief of Staff to the Vice President;
25. and such other Officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

Members of the Task Force may delegate their responsibilities under this order to subordinates if those designees are imbued with budgetary and decision-making authority for the purposes of this Task Force.

3.4 Functions. Within 200 days from the submission of agency reports, the Task Force shall recommend to the President federal strategies that support the health, safety, and well-being of children, to include the following elements:

1. Statements of principles, general policy, and targeted annual priorities to guide the federal approach to achieve the goals of this order;
2. A coordinated Children’s agenda for the federal government;
3. Recommendations for appropriate partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, international governments and organizations, and the private, academic, and nonprofit sectors;
4. Proposals to enhance public outreach and education on child well-being, as well as outreach to and consultation with children directly;
5. Recommendations on interagency coordinating or other mechanisms to leverage individual agency capacities and interests for greater outcomes for children;
6. An identification of high-priority initiatives that the federal government has undertaken or will undertake in advancing the best interest of the child and holistic outcomes for all children at home and abroad, including attention to prevention of violence and other forms of harm and engagement of frequently marginalized populations; and
7. A statement regarding the desirability of new legislation or funding to fulfill or promote the purposes of this order.

3.5 The Task Force shall prepare at least one public report on research, data, or other information that would enhance our ability to understand, analyze and respond to the needs and best interests of children. For the purposes of this report, cabinet agencies and other agencies identified by the Task Force shall identify and specifically describe for the Task Force key data related to children that has arisen in the course of the agency’s programs and activities, including spending targeting improved outcomes for children. The Task Force shall incorporate agency submissions into its report and ensure this report is publicly available and widely disseminated.

3.6 The Task Force shall ensure that all recommendations, including reports, indicators, and strategies, take into account the unique experiences and needs of the diverse population of children domestically and globally. In implementing this approach, the Task Force shall ensure alignment with policies set forth in Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government), Executive Order 14020 of March 8, 2021 (Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council), and the Action Plan for Children in Adversity.

**Section 4. Research Coordination and Integration.**

4.1 The Task Force shall develop shared indicators across federal policies and programs on the best interests of the child and ensure their agency collects and provides relevant sources of data to be used for each indicator. The Task Force shall provide an ongoing review of federal collection and dissemination of data on children and shall make recommendations to improve the coverage and coordination of data collection and to reduce duplication and overlap.

4.2 Within 6 months of the date of this order, the Task Force shall develop or direct to be developed a review of existing and planned data resources and a proposed plan for ensuring agencies, researchers, and federal research agencies have access to information on all research conducted or funded by the federal government that is related to children.

4.3 The plan shall promote the sharing of information on academic and private research. It shall include recommendations to encourage that such data, to the extent permitted by law and as is appropriate for children’s safety and privacy, is available to the public, the scientific and academic communities, and all federal agencies.

**Section 5. Agency Responsibilities and Regulations**

5.1 For each covered regulation submitted to OMB’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for review pursuant to Executive Order 12866, the issuing agency shall provide to OIRA the following information developed as part of the agency’s decision-making process, unless prohibited by law:

1. An evaluation of the impact of the rule on the best interests of the child, including but not limited to the factors included in section 2.4.
2. Where the regulation is not in the best interests of the child, an explanation of why the planned regulation is preferable despite being contrary to the best interests of the child.

Agency Responsibilities. Within 90 days, each member of the Task Force will submit to the Task Force coordinator and make public a report reflecting findings on:

1. Current agency approaches to improving outcomes for children
2. Analysis of barriers to integrating holistic approaches to children’s wellbeing
3. Analysis of what policies, recommendations, or guidance would be necessary to advance outcomes for children.
4. The operational status and level of institutional resources available to offices or divisions within the agency that are responsible for advancing improved outcomes for children and whose mandates specifically include serving children.
5. Current agency efforts to meaningfully engage with experts on child development, civil society, parents and caregivers, and children themselves.

Current spending, by account, with improved outcomes for children as a specific focus.

5.2 In emergency situations, or when an agency is obligated by law to act more quickly than normal review procedure would allow, the agency shall comply with the provisions of this section to the extent practicable. For those covered regulatory actions that are governed by a court-imposed or statutory deadline, the agency shall, to the extent practicable, schedule any rulemaking proceedings so as to permit sufficient time for completing the analysis required by this section.

5.3 The analysis required by this section may be included as part of any other required analysis and shall be made part of the administrative record for the covered regulatory action or otherwise made available to the public, to the extent permitted by law.

**Section 6. Investments in Children.**

6.1 The OMB shall track and analyze federal funding streams that are in the best interests of children. OMB shall seek to quantify information related to investments in children across the entire federal budget. OMB shall provide this information to the Task Force on Children and ensure that it is publicly available and widely disseminated.

6.2. The Task Force on Children shall evaluate OMB information to provide a recommendation to the Office of the President on a budget that serves the best interests of children in a coordinated and efficient manner, as well as recommendations on how to more effectively utilize federal spending to more fully serve the best interests of children, including recommendations for if and where funding should be increased.

PART III — GENERAL PROVISIONS

 Sec. 301. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

 (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

 (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.