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New Federal Plan Presents Revolutionary Redesign of Government Efforts to Improve Americans' Health and Well-Being

Plan for Equitable Long-term Recovery and Resilience Built on "Vital Conditions" Framework That Bridges All Sectors to Address Housing, Food, Employment, Transportation, Climate Sustainability, and All Conditions Essential for Communities to Thrive

Becky Payne, former Plan Lead and current Executive Vice President / incoming President and CEO of The Rippel Foundation, issues statement

November 16, 2022 (Morristown, NJ) – In response to the federal government's release today of its [interagency plan for Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience](#), Becky Payne, former Lead, Long-term Recovery and Resilience at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and current Executive Vice President of The Rippel Foundation, who will become Rippel's President and CEO in January 2023, issued the following statement:

"This plan represents a sea change for how federal agencies work collaboratively together and in partnership with civil society to truly serve communities, prioritize health equity, and finally begin to change the systems that have perpetuated long-standing disparities. It proposes a revolutionary redesign of government's approach to reflect the contributions all agencies make to social, behavioral, and community health."

"The plan orients federal action and funding around seven interrelated [vital conditions](#) that are essential for community health and well-being—a framework borne of Rippel's [ReThink Health](#) initiative in partnership with thousands of contributors: basic needs for health and safety, humane housing, a thriving natural world, meaningful work and wealth, opportunities for lifelong learning, reliable transportation, and, at the center of it all, a sense of belonging and civic muscle. Adopting this framework is a major step in reflecting the reality of people's lives, as well as the interdependence of government agency missions to make real and lasting improvements in population health. Every agency across the federal government and every changemaker across the country has an interdependent role to play in our quest to thrive together."

“Career staff from across more than 35 federal government agencies identified solutions to work collectively and align their strategies in service of a shared mission to center community voices for equitable well-being, instead of working in agency silos. Sustaining the Plan’s success will require federal, regional, state, community partner, and cross-sector collaboration among all those who share the vision of thriving together, including Rippel and the more than 100 fellow contributors who developed companion recommendations released in the [Thriving Together Springboard](#) in the summer of 2020.”

“This is a much-needed recognition by the federal government that it has the power and means to change the ‘business as usual’ approach that has failed too many Americans—and it starts with working together as a unified government with shared interests. Remaining in silos has produced an inexcusable cost to society that was laid bare during the pandemic. Unless these recommendations are moved to implementation, the cost will continue to escalate with ongoing climate crises, new emerging diseases, and economic struggles.”

“‘Treating’ the consequences of these crises and relying on narrowly focused programs won’t transform longstanding inequities. If we’ve learned anything from the last few years, it’s that we need to invest in the vital conditions now to be more resilient when the next crisis hits. To be well, sustain good health, and ultimately rely less on emergency services, people need access to quality, affordable medical care and basic health services and supports, but they also need stable housing, food security, a healthy environment, and economic opportunity and security.”

“I am proud to have played a leading role in the development of this plan during my time in government, and I applaud my former colleagues for elevating solutions that focus on working differently rather than only investing more money. I congratulate the leadership within HHS for taking up the call to move the work forward, and I look forward to supporting their progress.”

“The enthusiasm for this work and the hope for a better future across dozens of agencies was palpable. I know there is a commitment from colleagues across all agencies to work together to do better, to reduce the number of Americans struggling and suffering, and to achieve well-being for Americans across the country.”

ABOUT THE RIPPEL FOUNDATION AND RETHINK HEALTH

Rippel is a nonprofit operating foundation dedicated to fostering equitable health and well-being for all. Together with partners and co-investors, Rippel works with health care organizations, foundations, corporations, government institutions, and change agents throughout the United States to guide thinking and action that inspire innovative system transformation and to promote shared stewardship as a rising norm. Rippel’s flagship initiative, ReThink Health, continually explores how to achieve equitable system change in real-world settings.