From: White House Intergovernmental Affairs
To: Goins, Anthony
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December 17, 2022

Lower Inflation Shows President Biden's Economic Plan is Working

This week, we received welcome economic news—inflation is coming down. This is a reason for optimism for the holiday season and the year ahead.

- Annual inflation has fallen for the last five months, with gas prices falling and food price increases slowing.
    - Core inflation—a key measure for economists—has also slowed.

President Biden's economic plan is showing results:

- Inflation is lower as we see a much-needed slowdown ahead of the holidays
- Gas prices are down—at an average of $3.25, they are cheaper than they were a year ago, before Putin's war
- GDP is up—the economy grew at 2.9% last quarter
- Jobs are up—more than 260,000 were created last month for 10.5 million total jobs since President Biden took office
- Manufacturing is booming—750,000 manufacturing jobs have been created under President Biden
- Unemployment is down—near a 50-year low

- Wages are up—rising 0.5% last month
- We're making real progress on the President's top economic priority—tackling inflation while we transition to a period of stable, steady economic growth.
- The President's plan to build an economy from the bottom up and middle out is working.

Biden Administration Announces COVID-19 Winter Preparedness Plan

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This week, the Biden Administration announced a plan to stay ahead of an increase in COVID-19 cases this winter. While COVID-19 is not the disruptive force it once was, the virus continues to evolve, and cases are on the rise again as families are spending more time indoors and gathering for the holidays. Throughout the COVID-19 response, this Administration has been prepared for whatever the virus throws our way – and this

moment is no different. The Administration's COVID-19 Winter Preparedness Plan includes:

Expanding easy access to free COVID-19 testing options in the winter.

- Making free at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests available through COVIDTests.gov. For more information, people can visit **www.COVIDTests.gov**.
- Distributing more free tests to Americans at trusted locations.

Making vaccinations and treatments readily available to all Americans as cases rise.

- Offering resources and assistance to increase vaccinations and respond to a possible surge.
- Collaborating with communities to open pop-up and/or mobile vaccination sites.
- Getting additional resources to community health centers and aging and disability networks to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Focusing on protecting the highest-risk Americans.

- Releasing a winter playbook for nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Expanding the pool of providers that may administer COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Reaching out to governors on nursing home vaccinations.
- Encouraging hospitals to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to patients before discharge.

Full Fact Sheet here

Biden-Harris Administration Releases Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook for Clean Energy and Climate Programs

This week, the White House **released** the first edition of a new resource titled *Building a Clean Energy Economy: A Guidebook to the Inflation Reduction Act's Investments in Clean Energy and Climate Action,* which provides clear descriptions of the law's tax incentives and funding programs to build a clean energy economy, lower energy costs, tackle climate change, and reduce harmful pollution.

The Guidebook will help state, local, territorial, and Tribal leaders, the private sector, non-profit organizations, homeowners, and communities better understand how they can benefit from these investments and unlock the full potential of the law. The Guidebook walks through the law program-by-program and provides background on each program's purpose, eligibility requirements, period of availability, and other key details.

Since President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act four months ago, his administration has been working quickly to design, develop, and implement its programs. This Guidebook provides information on current and prospective clean energy and climate programs. In the coming weeks and months, new developments will be published on **www.CleanEnergy.gov** to keep stakeholders and potential beneficiaries up to date on

the latest deadlines and details.

In a letter at the beginning of the Guidebook, John Podesta, President Biden's Senior Advisor for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, said:

"When President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law in August 2022, he said the new law 'is not just about today, it's about tomorrow. It's about delivering progress and prosperity to American families.' The Inflation Reduction Act makes a historic commitment to build a new clean energy economy, powered by American innovators, American workers, and American manufacturers, that will create good-paying, union jobs and cut the pollution that is fueling the climate crisis and driving environmental injustice."

Full Release here

Full Guidebook here

Remarks by President Biden and Vice President Harris at Signing of H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act

Today is a good day. A day America takes a vital step toward equality, toward liberty and justice, not just for some, but for everyone — everyone. Toward creating a nation where decency, dignity, and love are recognized, honored, and protected.

Today, I sign the Respect for Marriage Act into the law.

Deciding whether to marry, who to marry is one of the most profound decisions a person can make. And as I've said before, and some of you might remember, on a certain TV show 10 years ago — I got in trouble. Marriage — I mean this with all my heart — marriage is a simple proposition: Who do you love, and will you be loyal with that person you love? It's not more complicated than that.

For most of our nation's history, we denied interracial couples and same-sex couples from these protections. We failed. We failed to treat them with an equal dignity and respect.

And now, the law requires that interracial marriages and same-sex marriage must be

recognized as legal in every state in the nation.

I want to thank all of you for being here today, for being part of this important movement.

And today we celebrate our progress: From Hawaii, the first state to declare that denying marriage of same-sex couples was unconstitutional; to Massachusetts, the first state to legalize marriage equality for couples like Gina and Heidi, who just — you just heard from; to all the advocates who worked to block or overturn state bans.

Full Remarks here

U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit: Strengthening Partnerships to Meet Shared Priorities

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The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit highlighted the U.S. commitment to expanding and deepening our partnership with African countries, institutions, and people. Our world is quickly changing, and U.S. engagement in Africa must evolve accordingly. African leadership and contributions are essential to addressing today's pressing challenges and achieving shared priorities. The Biden-Harris Administration is deepening longstanding areas of cooperation while revitalizing and expanding our partnership to better meet the shared challenges and opportunities of our era.

On December 15, the U.S. and African Union delegations released a **Vision Statement** outlining the contours of this strengthened partnership.

The Biden-Harris Administration plans to invest at least $55 billion in Africa over the next three years, working closely with Congress.
We are dedicated to following through on these commitments and are establishing a new Special Presidential Representative for U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit Implementation to coordinate these efforts. President Biden announced his intent to name for this role Ambassador Johnnie Carson, former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and Ambassador to Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Full Release here

Biden-Harris Administration Announces $1.5 Billion Available through the 2023 RAISE Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for $1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2023. The popular program helps communities around the country carry out projects with significant local or regional impact.

RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the State and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors to obtain funding for projects that are harder to support through other U.S. DOT grant programs.

Full Press Release here

The NOFO is available **here**. The deadline for applications is 11:59 PM EST on February 28, 2023 and selections will be announced no later than June 28, 2023.

Biden Urges Vets to Apply for PACT Act

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or "presume") are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their **survivors**—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

Equity in Infrastructure Pledge

A key focus for the Administration to date has been to leverage federal spending, including through procurement, to build wealth in underserved communities. In June 2021, on the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the President announced a new goal to increase the share of federal contract spend by 50 percent—by 2025, and since then the Administration has rolled out a series of new policies and management practices to help us

get there.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law offers a massive opportunity to accelerate our efforts. In July, as part of a set of announcements focused on equitable contracting under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Biden-Harris Administration called upon BIL grantees to sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP) "Pledge."

Under the Pledge, signatories commit to increase prime contracting opportunities for underserved businesses, streamline processes for obtaining necessary DBE certifications, improve payment times, and expand access to financing to help underserved businesses meet infrastructure contracts.

Full Pledge here

Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity and Related Pilot Programs

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The FCC has taken several significant steps recently to promote and facilitate affordable broadband service for the nation's consumers via the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a $14.2 billion program that helps ensure that qualifying low-income households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more. On November 10, 2022, the FCC released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the ACP Outreach Grant Program. This ACP Outreach Grant Program NOFO provides up to $60 million for the National Competitive Outreach Program (NCOP) and a minimum of $10 million for the Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP). The goal of the ACP Outreach Grant Program is to facilitate the promotion of the ACP and increase awareness of and participation in the ACP among eligible households.

ACP Outreach Grant Program
Complete applications must be received electronically through **https://www.grants.gov** no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on January 9, 2023. The FCC anticipates making funding announcement by March 2023 following the application submission deadline of January 9, 2023.

Pilot Program Grants
The FCC seeks Pilot Programs applications from a broad range of eligible entities and diverse geographic regions. To be considered for the Pilot Programs, applicants must timely and properly submit an application in compliance with the application procedures and Pilot Program rules and requirements.

The Pilot Programs application can be accessed through the USAC portal located at: **https://forms.universalservice.org/portal/login**. To complete an application, applicants will first need to register for the Affordable Connectivity Pilot Programs Application Portal at https://forms.universalservice.org/acppilotprograms/register. Detailed information on the registration process and other Pilot Programs application instructions can be found at **https://www.fcc.gov/acp-pilots**.

All applications must be received electronically by 9:00 PM EST on January 9, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted.

For further information regarding the Pilot Programs, please send an email to ACPpilots@fcc.gov. For more information on the Pilot Programs, visit **www.fcc.gov/acp-pilots**. For more information on the Pilot Programs Grants, visit **www.fcc.gov/acp-grants**.

The Federal Communications Commission Publishes Draft Broadband Availability Map

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced the publication of a first draft of the **National Broadband Map** showing fixed and mobile broadband availability data submitted by internet service providers through the Commission's Broadband Data Collection (BDC). The new National Broadband Map displays location-level information and is the most comprehensive, granular, and standardized data the Commission has ever made available on broadband availability. The broadband availability data displayed on the map reflects services available as of June 30, 2022.

Unlike previous FCC broadband availability maps, consumers, state, local, and Tribal governments, service providers, and other entities can now dispute the data submitted by providers and contribute to an ongoing effort to improve the accuracy of the map.

Stakeholders can now file challenges to the fixed and mobile broadband availability data shown. In addition, consumers may begin to submit corrections, in the form of individual challenges, to the location data in the **Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric**, a

dataset that includes all locations in the United States and Territories where fixed broadband internet access service has been or could be installed.

For additional information on the BDC resources including resources to aid bulk challenge submissions to mobile availability data, please see the **Public Notice** on the available bulk challenge process resources. For information about the background and purpose of the BDC, please visit the **Broadband Data Collection Website**.

The 2023-2024 White House Fellowship Application is Open!

The application for the 2023-2024 White House Fellowship is now open. **The application is available as of November 1, 2022, and will remain open until**

January 6, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

This week, Rose Vela, Director of the President's Commission on White House Fellows, announced the opening of the application season for the 2023-2024 White House Fellowship year: "This uniquely non-partisan program has a distinguished legacy that reaches back more than half a century, and we hope that Americans with a passion for leadership and public service will take a look at the website, examine the criteria, and consider applying – or urge others to consider applying."

The 2023-2024 White House Fellowship program year will begin in August 2023, and conclude in August 2024. All applicants must be United States citizens, and must have completed their undergraduate education. With the exception of active duty military personnel, Federal Government employees are not eligible to apply.

For more information, including details about the Fellowships, its history, and the selection process, please visit: **https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/fellows/**. Any questions regarding the White House Fellowship program can be directed to **whitehousefellows@who.eop.gov.**

Application Portal here

Biden-Harris Administration Resources

ReproductiveRights.Gov for the one-stop shop on resources regarding abortion access, insurance coverage, and your reproductive rights.

COVID.gov for the one-stop shop for COVID resources, including vaccines, tests, treatments and masks.

Whitehouse.gov/BIL to learn more about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Whitehouse.gov/ARP to learn more about how the American Rescue Plan is helping the American people.

Cleanenergy.gov to learn how the Inflation Reduction Act will help American families access cost-saving clean energy resources.

Weekly IGA Call

Tune in weekly for Administration updates Thursdays at 4 PM ET.

When: Every Thursday at 4 PM ET
Register here:
https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_22Mkvi6UTkyboEZ0ouerPw

See you next week!

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