

Top 100 National Policy Issues for people with disabilities, covering a broad spectrum of challenges and areas where reforms are needed to promote inclusivity, accessibility, and equity.

A. Healthcare and Health Insurance (1-20)

1. **Inadequate Healthcare Coverage:** Many people with disabilities face high out-of-pocket costs and insurance denials for essential services.
2. **Claims Denials for Necessary Medical Equipment:** Durable medical equipment (e.g., wheelchairs, prosthetics) is often denied by insurers.
3. **Limited Access to Rehabilitation Services:** Physical, occupational, and speech therapy services are often limited or denied by insurance.
4. **Mental Health Services Accessibility:** People with disabilities, especially psychiatric disabilities, often face barriers in accessing mental health care.
5. **Healthcare Provider Training on Disability:** Lack of provider knowledge about treating people with disabilities results in lower quality care.
6. **Inaccessibility of Medical Facilities:** Many healthcare facilities remain physically inaccessible to people with disabilities.
7. **Health Insurance Pre-authorization Delays:** Delays in getting insurance approvals for treatments harm people with disabilities.
8. **Inadequate Coverage for Preventive Care:** Insurance policies often fail to cover preventive services for people with disabilities.
9. **Limited Home Health Aide Services:** Insurance may not cover the amount of home health aide services needed by people with disabilities.
10. **Prescription Drug Affordability:** High costs of medications affect many people with disabilities, especially those with chronic illnesses.
11. **Access to Specialist Care:** Many individuals with disabilities face difficulties accessing specialist doctors who understand their unique needs.
12. **Access to Palliative Care:** People with severe disabilities or chronic conditions often struggle to access appropriate palliative care.
13. **Telemedicine Accessibility:** Telehealth platforms are often inaccessible to people with sensory, cognitive, or motor disabilities.
14. **Dental Care Access:** Dental services are often not covered by Medicaid or Medicare, leaving many without proper oral healthcare.
15. **Sexual and Reproductive Health Services:** Barriers exist to accessing these services for people with disabilities, especially those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
16. **Inclusive Public Health Campaigns:** Health campaigns frequently do not consider the unique needs and barriers of people with disabilities.
17. **Health Research Inclusion:** People with disabilities are underrepresented in medical research, leading to gaps in knowledge.
18. **Equitable Vaccination Access:** Ensuring that people with disabilities have priority access to vaccinations, especially during pandemics.



19. **Health Equity Data:** Inadequate data collection on health disparities among people with disabilities hampers policymaking.
20. **Access to Affordable and Comprehensive Health Insurance:** Many people with disabilities remain uninsured or underinsured.

B. Social Security, Income Support, and Employment (21-40)

21. **Inadequate SSDI and SSI Benefit Levels:** Benefits are often too low to cover basic living expenses.
22. **Lengthy Application Processes for SSDI/SSI:** It can take months or even years to get approved for disability benefits.
23. **Strict Eligibility Criteria for SSDI:** Many people with disabilities who can work part-time are excluded from SSDI.
24. **Benefit Cliffs:** People with disabilities lose benefits if they earn above a certain amount, discouraging workforce participation.
25. **SSI Resource Limits:** Strict resource limits prevent recipients from saving or accumulating assets.
26. **Lack of Interim Financial Support During SSDI Processing:** Applicants often face severe financial hardship while waiting for SSDI approval.
27. **Infrequent Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA):** Current COLA rates do not keep pace with inflation.
28. **Overpayment Penalties in SSDI/SSI:** Recipients are often penalized for unintentional overpayments.
29. **Lack of SSDI/SSI Parity for Children with Disabilities:** Benefits for children are often insufficient to cover the costs of caregiving.
30. **Disincentives for Employment in Disability Benefits Programs:** Earning above certain thresholds can result in loss of benefits.
31. **Limited Access to Job Training and Vocational Rehabilitation:** Programs aimed at helping people with disabilities enter the workforce are underfunded and inaccessible.
32. **Discrimination in Hiring Practices:** People with disabilities face bias and discrimination during job recruitment.
33. **Inadequate Workplace Accommodations:** Many employers fail to provide reasonable accommodations required by the ADA.
34. **Unemployment Insurance Discrimination:** People with disabilities face challenges accessing unemployment benefits.
35. **Lack of Disability-Owned Business Support:** Few resources exist for people with disabilities who want to start their own businesses.
36. **Inadequate Support for Transitioning Veterans with Disabilities:** Veterans with disabilities face gaps in services when transitioning to civilian life.
37. **Inaccessible Job Search Platforms:** Many online job portals are not accessible to people with visual or mobility impairments.



38. **Incentivizing Disability Employment in Federal Contracts:** Not enough incentives exist for federal contractors to hire people with disabilities.
 39. **Tax Incentives for Disability Employment:** Expanding tax credits for businesses hiring people with disabilities.
 40. **Accessible Work-from-Home Policies:** Expanding telework options for people with disabilities in both public and private sectors.
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C. Education (41-60)

41. **Inadequate Special Education Resources:** Schools often lack the funding and trained staff to provide adequate support for students with disabilities.
 42. **Discrimination in School Discipline:** Students with disabilities, particularly students of color, are disproportionately subject to suspensions and expulsions.
 43. **Insufficient Individualized Education Plans (IEPs):** IEPs often do not meet the needs of students with disabilities due to lack of enforcement or inadequate resources.
 44. **Lack of Inclusive Classrooms:** Many students with disabilities are segregated in special education classrooms.
 45. **Inaccessible Postsecondary Education:** Colleges and universities often fail to provide necessary accommodations for students with disabilities.
 46. **Transition Services for Students with Disabilities:** Schools often fail to provide adequate transition planning for students aging out of the school system.
 47. **Access to Early Childhood Intervention Services:** Limited access to early intervention services for young children with disabilities.
 48. **Teacher Training on Disability Inclusion:** Teachers lack the training to effectively support students with disabilities in the classroom.
 49. **Bullying and Harassment of Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities are often targeted for bullying, and schools do not always respond adequately.
 50. **Access to Assistive Technology in Schools:** Many students with disabilities do not have access to the assistive technology they need.
 51. **Disparities in Funding for Special Education:** Special education funding varies widely by district, leading to inequities in services.
 52. **Standardized Testing Accommodations:** Students with disabilities face barriers in standardized testing due to inadequate accommodations.
 53. **Access to School Transportation:** School transportation is often inaccessible to students with physical disabilities.
 54. **Inclusion of Disability Studies in Curriculum:** Lack of representation of disability history and culture in school curriculums.
 55. **Support for Students with Invisible Disabilities:** Students with learning disabilities or mental health conditions are often underserved by schools.
 56. **Accessible Learning Materials:** Textbooks, online resources, and other educational materials are often inaccessible to students with visual or hearing impairments.
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57. **Inclusive Sports and Extracurricular Activities:** Many schools do not provide opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in sports and extracurricular activities.
 58. **School Nurse Shortages:** Lack of school nurses disproportionately affects students with medical disabilities.
 59. **Vocational Training Opportunities:** Limited access to vocational training programs for students with disabilities.
 60. **Affordability of Special Education Legal Advocacy:** Families often face high costs when seeking legal advocacy for special education rights.
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D. Housing and Transportation (61-80)

61. **Affordable Accessible Housing:** There is a severe shortage of accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities.
 62. **Inaccessible Public Transportation:** Public transit systems in many cities remain inaccessible to people with physical disabilities.
 63. **Housing Discrimination:** People with disabilities face discrimination in renting and buying homes.
 64. **Lack of Accessible Homeless Shelters:** Many homeless shelters are not accessible to people with physical disabilities.
 65. **Failure to Enforce Fair Housing Act:** Weak enforcement of the Fair Housing Act leaves many people with disabilities without appropriate accommodations.
 66. **Accessibility Standards in New Construction:** Many new housing developments do not meet ADA accessibility standards.
 67. **Shortage of Housing Vouchers for People with Disabilities:** Housing voucher programs often have long waiting lists, leaving people with disabilities without options.
 68. **Lack of Home Modification Support:** Few programs provide financial support for home modifications needed by people with disabilities.
 69. **Inaccessible Ride-Sharing Services:** Ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft are often inaccessible to people with mobility impairments.
 70. **Inadequate Paratransit Services:** Paratransit services often have long wait times and unreliable schedules, limiting mobility for people with disabilities.
 71. **Parking Accessibility:** Insufficient accessible parking in both public and private locations.
 72. **Zoning Laws that Exclude Group Homes:** Some local zoning laws restrict group homes for people with disabilities.
 73. **Emergency Housing Assistance for People with Disabilities:** Emergency housing programs often fail to consider the needs of people with disabilities.
 74. **Accessible Housing in Rural Areas:** There is a lack of accessible housing options in rural areas, leaving many people with disabilities isolated.
 75. **Inaccessible Affordable Housing Units:** Many affordable housing programs do not prioritize or provide accessible units.
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76. **Service Animals in Housing:** Confusion around the legal protections for service animals in housing leads to discrimination.
77. **Eviction Protections for People with Disabilities:** People with disabilities face higher risks of eviction due to financial instability and inaccessible housing.
78. **Accessible Housing for Aging Individuals with Disabilities:** As people with disabilities age, finding accessible housing that meets their needs becomes more difficult.
79. **Disaster Relief Housing for People with Disabilities:** People with disabilities are often left behind in disaster relief efforts, including temporary housing.
80. **Lack of Universal Design in Public Infrastructure:** Public spaces and infrastructure frequently fail to incorporate universal design principles that make them accessible to all.

E. Civil Rights and Legal Protections (81-100)

81. **Voting Accessibility:** People with disabilities face barriers to voting, including inaccessible polling places and voting technology.
82. **Employment Discrimination:** Despite the ADA, workplace discrimination remains a major issue for people with disabilities.
83. **Inadequate Enforcement of ADA Protections:** Lack of enforcement mechanisms makes it difficult for people with disabilities to assert their rights under the ADA.
84. **Access to Legal Representation:** People with disabilities often face barriers in accessing legal representation, particularly in civil rights cases.
85. **Criminal Justice System Bias:** People with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, including higher rates of arrest and incarceration.
86. **Discrimination in Access to Public Services:** Public services, including social services and government programs, are often inaccessible to people with disabilities.
87. **Intersectional Discrimination (Disability, Race, Gender):** People with disabilities who are also part of racial, gender, or sexual minority groups face compounded discrimination.
88. **Guardianship and Autonomy:** Restrictive guardianship laws limit the autonomy of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
89. **Discriminatory Sentencing Practices:** People with disabilities often receive harsher sentences or lack appropriate accommodations in the criminal justice system.
90. **Lack of Disability Representation in Government:** People with disabilities are underrepresented in public office and policy decision-making roles.
91. **Disability-Based Discrimination in Insurance:** Private insurance policies frequently discriminate against people with disabilities, particularly in long-term care and life insurance.



92. **Digital Accessibility in Government Services:** Many government websites and services remain inaccessible to people with disabilities.
 93. **Sexual and Domestic Violence Protections:** People with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by sexual and domestic violence, yet face barriers to accessing protective services.
 94. **Immigration and Disability:** Immigrants with disabilities face additional barriers in accessing services and navigating the immigration system.
 95. **Disability Rights in Higher Education:** Colleges and universities often fail to meet their obligations under the ADA, leaving students with disabilities without necessary accommodations.
 96. **Public Safety and Emergency Response:** People with disabilities are often overlooked in public safety planning and emergency response efforts.
 97. **Discrimination in Access to Financial Services:** People with disabilities face barriers to opening bank accounts, applying for loans, and accessing financial services.
 98. **Access to Restrooms and Changing Facilities:** Public restrooms and changing facilities are often inaccessible to people with disabilities, particularly those who need assistance.
 99. **Sexual Health Education:** People with disabilities often lack access to sexual health education that is accessible and relevant to their needs.
 100. **Cultural Representation of Disabilities:** People with disabilities are often underrepresented or misrepresented in media, arts, and popular culture, contributing to stigma and misunderstanding.
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These 100 national policy issues illustrate the diverse and interconnected challenges faced by people with disabilities in the United States. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive, multifaceted policy solutions to promote equity, accessibility, and inclusion for all individuals with disabilities.



Executive Summary

This comprehensive policy addresses the top 100 policy issues facing people with disabilities, spanning critical areas such as healthcare, social security, education, employment, housing, transportation, civil rights, emergency preparedness, and more. This policy proposal provides a detailed roadmap for achieving equity, accessibility, and inclusion for people with disabilities in the United States. It includes specific actions, timelines, budget estimates, and a strategic approach to overcoming challenges.

The estimated budget for this proposal is \$800 billion over a five-year period. This funding will address both immediate and long-term needs, ensuring that people with disabilities can fully participate in society. The implementation will require coordination among federal agencies, state governments, the private sector, and disability advocacy organizations.

I. Healthcare and Health Insurance (1-20)

1. Universal Health Coverage for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Expand Medicaid and Medicare to cover essential services for people with disabilities. Eliminate out-of-pocket costs for disability-related healthcare.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from private insurers, budget constraints.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$200 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate for Medicare-for-All proposals and Medicaid expansion costs.

2. Coverage for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Assistive Technology

- **Actions:** Mandate that all insurers cover DME and assistive technology. Create a federal fund for out-of-pocket costs.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Lobbying from insurance companies, initial high costs.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$15 billion over five years.
- **Source:** National Council on Disability (NCD) and HHS projections.

3. Access to Rehabilitation and Therapy Services

- **Actions:** Ensure insurance coverage for ongoing physical, occupational, and speech therapy without arbitrary limits.
 - **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
 - **Challenges:** Need to create national guidelines for evidence-based rehabilitation.
 - **Budget Estimate:** \$30 billion over five years.
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- **Source:** HHS and CBO estimates on expanded rehabilitation coverage.

4. Mental Health Services Accessibility

- **Actions:** Integrate mental health services into Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance as essential services.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Shortage of mental health professionals, stigma.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$25 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports.

5. Accessible Healthcare Facilities

- **Actions:** Mandate ADA compliance for all healthcare facilities. Provide federal funding for facility upgrades.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Cost of retrofitting older facilities.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$20 billion over five years.
- **Source:** ADA National Network and Department of Justice (DOJ) data on accessibility improvements.

6. Inclusive Public Health Campaigns

- **Actions:** Fund accessible public health campaigns in all formats (ASL, braille, simplified text).
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Coordination across federal and state agencies.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** CDC and HHS estimates for national health campaigns.

7. Comprehensive Prescription Drug Coverage

- **Actions:** Require insurance to fully cover essential medications for people with disabilities. Cap drug prices.
- **Timeline:** Year 2-3.
- **Challenges:** Pharmaceutical industry lobbying.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$50 billion over five years.
- **Source:** CBO analysis of Medicare prescription drug reform.

8. Palliative and End-of-Life Care

- **Actions:** Expand access to palliative care services. Increase funding for Medicare and Medicaid for hospice care.



- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Limited provider networks for palliative care.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$10 billion over five years.
- **Source:** National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) data.

9. Healthcare Provider Training on Disability

- **Actions:** Mandate disability awareness training for healthcare professionals.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from medical training institutions.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$1 billion over five years.
- **Source:** National Institutes of Health (NIH) and HHS data.

10. Health Research Inclusion

- **Actions:** Fund research on health disparities affecting people with disabilities. Mandate disability representation in all federally funded health studies.
- **Timeline:** Year 2-5.
- **Challenges:** Integrating disability into existing research frameworks.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** NIH, CDC, and research funding estimates.

II. Social Security, Income Support, and Employment (21-40)

11. Reform SSDI and SSI Benefits

- **Actions:** Increase benefits to 150% of the federal poverty level. Simplify application and eligibility criteria.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Political resistance to increasing federal spending.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$100 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Social Security Administration (SSA) budget and CBO projections.

12. Work Incentives in SSDI and SSI

- **Actions:** Raise the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) threshold to allow part-time work. Implement gradual benefit phase-outs.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Balancing work incentives with financial stability.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$20 billion over five years.
- **Source:** SSA and CBO reports on SSDI reforms.



13. Guaranteed Income for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Establish a Universal Basic Income (UBI) for people with disabilities starting at \$1,200 per month.
- **Timeline:** Year 2-5.
- **Challenges:** High cost, need for broad political support.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$200 billion over five years.
- **Source:** UBI pilot programs and economic impact studies.

14. Expanded Unemployment Insurance for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Extend unemployment benefits to part-time workers with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Integration with existing state unemployment systems.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$10 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Department of Labor (DOL) estimates.

15. Vocational Training and Job Placement Programs

- **Actions:** Expand Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs. Provide job placement services tailored to people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Building partnerships with employers.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$15 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOL and VR program data.

16. Accessible Job Search Platforms

- **Actions:** Mandate that all online job platforms meet accessibility standards.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from private job platform providers.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$500 million over five years.
- **Source:** Department of Commerce and EEOC reports.

17. Federal Hiring Initiatives for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Set a target of 15% of federal employees being people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Need for federal agency cooperation.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$2 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Office of Personnel Management (OPM) hiring initiatives.

18. Tax Incentives for Disability Employment



- **Actions:** Expand tax credits for businesses hiring people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Budget constraints.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$3 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data on tax incentives.

19. Remote Work and Telework Expansion

- **Actions:** Mandate telework options for federal and private sector jobs for people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from employers.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$2 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Department of Labor (DOL) and Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) reports.

20. Worker Protections for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Strengthen enforcement of ADA workplace protections. Increase funding for EEOC to investigate discrimination cases.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Delays in legal proceedings.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$1 billion over five years.
- **Source:** EEOC budget reports.

III. Education (21-30)

21. Fully Fund IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

- **Actions:** Increase federal funding for special education to meet the 40% mandate.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Budget constraints at the federal level.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$40 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Department of Education (DOE) and National Education Association (NEA) data.

22. Inclusive Education and Integrated Classrooms

- **Actions:** Mandate inclusive classroom practices. Provide training and resources for teachers.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from school districts and lack of teacher training.



- **Budget Estimate:** \$10 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOE estimates and school district budgets.

23. Early Intervention Services

- **Actions:** Expand access to early childhood intervention services under Part C of IDEA.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Need for additional providers and funding.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOE and HHS reports.

24. Postsecondary Education Accessibility

- **Actions:** Provide grants for colleges to meet ADA compliance standards. Expand financial aid for students with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Lack of funding for higher education institutions.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$15 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOE and higher education financial aid data.

25. Teacher Training on Disability Inclusion

- **Actions:** Mandate disability inclusion training in all teacher preparation programs.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from education programs.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$2 billion over five years.
- **Source:** National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data.

26. Support for Students with Mental Health Disabilities

- **Actions:** Expand school-based mental health services and training for school staff.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Lack of mental health professionals in schools.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** SAMHSA and CDC school health reports.

27. School Discipline Reform

- **Actions:** Ban exclusionary discipline practices for students with disabilities. Implement restorative justice programs.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from school boards and administrators.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOE civil rights data and NCES reports.



28. Accessible Learning Materials and Assistive Technology

- **Actions:** Fund the provision of accessible textbooks and digital platforms for students with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** High cost of assistive technology and digital platforms.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$10 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Assistive technology industry reports and DOE data.

29. Vocational Training in High Schools

- **Actions:** Expand vocational and technical training programs for students with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Lack of specialized vocational programs in schools.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$8 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOE and Department of Labor vocational training data.

30. Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Strengthen transition planning services for students moving from school to adulthood.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Lack of coordination between schools and vocational programs.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOE and VR program data.

IV. Housing and Transportation (31-40)

31. Affordable, Accessible Housing for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Expand funding for the Section 811 housing program. Increase the number of accessible units in new housing developments.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-5.
- **Challenges:** Lack of affordable housing developers and resources.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$50 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) data.

32. Home Modification Support

- **Actions:** Establish a federal grant program for home accessibility modifications.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.



- **Challenges:** Need for specialized contractors and materials.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$10 billion over five years.
- **Source:** HUD and nonprofit housing reports.

33. Accessible Public Transportation

- **Actions:** Increase funding for public transportation systems to meet ADA standards.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-5.
- **Challenges:** High costs of retrofitting transportation infrastructure.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$30 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Department of Transportation (DOT) and transit authority data.

34. Accessible Ride-Sharing Services

- **Actions:** Mandate that ride-sharing companies provide accessible vehicles.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from ride-sharing companies and drivers.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$2 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOT and ride-sharing company reports.

35. Affordable Housing Vouchers for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Expand the Housing Choice Voucher program to prioritize people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Long waiting lists for vouchers.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$15 billion over five years.
- **Source:** HUD and NLIHC reports.

36. Housing Discrimination Enforcement

- **Actions:** Strengthen HUD's enforcement of the Fair Housing Act for people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Need for increased enforcement staff and legal resources.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$1 billion over five years.
- **Source:** HUD and DOJ enforcement data.

37. Accessible Housing in Rural Areas

- **Actions:** Provide grants to rural developers to build accessible housing in underserved areas.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Lack of contractors and developers in rural areas.



- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** USDA and HUD rural housing data.

38. Emergency Housing Assistance for People with Disabilities

- **Actions:** Create emergency housing programs for people with disabilities facing displacement.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-2.
- **Challenges:** Coordination between federal, state, and local agencies.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$3 billion over five years.
- **Source:** FEMA and HUD disaster relief data.

39. Zoning Laws and Group Homes

- **Actions:** Prohibit discriminatory zoning laws that exclude group homes for people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from local governments.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$1 billion over five years.
- **Source:** HUD and DOJ zoning law enforcement data.

40. Accessible Parking and Public Spaces

- **Actions:** Increase funding for local governments to build and maintain accessible parking spaces.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Lack of enforcement of ADA parking standards.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$2 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOT and local government data.

V. Civil Rights and Legal Protections (41-50)

41. Strengthening ADA Enforcement

- **Actions:** Increase funding for DOJ and EEOC to investigate ADA violations.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Delays in legal proceedings.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$5 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOJ and EEOC reports.

42. Voting Rights and Accessibility



- **Actions:** Implement nationwide accessible voting systems, ensuring polling places meet ADA standards.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** State-level resistance and budget constraints.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$10 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and state election data.

43. Disability Representation in Government

- **Actions:** Fund leadership development programs for people with disabilities in public office.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Lack of political support.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$500 million over five years.
- **Source:** OPM and nonprofit leadership programs.

44. Intersectional Disability Discrimination

- **Actions:** Fund research and advocacy initiatives on intersectional discrimination.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Lack of existing data on intersectional discrimination.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$1 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOJ and civil rights advocacy reports.

45. Criminal Justice System and Disability

- **Actions:** Mandate disability training for law enforcement officers.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from law enforcement unions.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$2 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOJ and police department training data.

46. Guardianship and Supported Decision-Making

- **Actions:** Promote supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-4.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from court systems.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$500 million over five years.
- **Source:** ABA and state guardianship programs.

47. Equal Access to Financial Services

- **Actions:** Mandate accessible banking services for people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.



- **Challenges:** Resistance from financial institutions.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$500 million over five years.
- **Source:** Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and banking industry reports.

48. Sexual and Domestic Violence Protections

- **Actions:** Fund accessible shelters and support services for people with disabilities facing domestic violence.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Shortage of accessible shelters.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$2 billion over five years.
- **Source:** DOJ and nonprofit shelter data.

49. Disability Discrimination in Immigration

- **Actions:** Ensure all immigration processes are accessible to people with disabilities.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Lack of existing accommodations in the immigration system.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$1 billion over five years.
- **Source:** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and DOJ immigration data.

50. Disability-Based Discrimination in Insurance

- **Actions:** Ban disability-based discrimination in life insurance, long-term care insurance, and other personal insurance products.
- **Timeline:** Year 1-3.
- **Challenges:** Resistance from the insurance industry.
- **Budget Estimate:** \$1 billion over five years.
- **Source:** HHS and insurance industry reports.



Executive Summary:

This policy proposal aims to comprehensively address six critical issues for people with disabilities in the U.S.: Cultural Representation, Sports Inclusion, Media Representation, Emergency Preparedness, Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS), and Technology Access. These areas are essential for fostering a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable society. The policy provides specific actions, detailed timelines, challenges, budget estimates, and sources of information to guide federal, state, and local governments in implementing these changes.

The estimated budget for addressing these six policy areas is \$150 billion over five years. The proposal includes legislative changes, funding increases, public awareness campaigns, infrastructure improvements, and regulatory enforcement.

VI. Cultural Representation (Policy Issues 51-60)

Policy Objective:

Promote accurate and positive cultural representation of people with disabilities in media, arts, education, and public discourse.

Actions:

1. **Inclusive Educational Curriculum:**
 - Require the inclusion of disability history, culture, and contributions in K-12 and higher education curriculums.
 - Allocate grants to schools for developing and implementing disability studies programs.
2. **Funding for Disability Arts Programs:**
 - Provide federal grants to artists and cultural organizations that authentically portray disability in the arts (film, theater, visual arts).
 - Establish national awards for excellence in disability arts and culture.
3. **Disability Representation in Museums and Cultural Institutions:**
 - Provide funding for museums and cultural institutions to showcase disability-related exhibits.
 - Promote accessibility within museums by offering ASL interpreters, accessible exhibits, and braille descriptions.

Timeline:

- **Year 1-2:** Develop curriculum guidelines and award initial grants.
 - **Year 2-5:** Implement programs nationwide, track outcomes, and scale successful initiatives.
-



Challenges:

- Resistance from school boards and educators who may view curriculum changes as burdensome.
- Cultural institutions may need time and resources to make exhibits fully accessible.

Budget Estimate:

- \$10 billion over five years for curriculum development, grants, and cultural programs.

Sources:

- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Department of Education (DOE), and Smithsonian Institution budget reports.

VII. Sports Inclusion (Policy Issues 61-70)

Policy Objective:

Ensure full inclusion of people with disabilities in sports, physical education, and recreational activities.

Actions:

- 1. Adaptive Sports Programs in Schools:**
 - Require schools to provide adaptive physical education (PE) and sports programs for students with disabilities.
 - Fund the creation of inclusive sports programs in public schools, with additional training for PE teachers on adaptive sports techniques.
- 2. Support for Paralympic and Adaptive Sports Organizations:**
 - Provide federal grants to Paralympic and adaptive sports organizations to expand participation and increase accessibility.
 - Create mentorship programs pairing young athletes with disabilities with Paralympic athletes.
- 3. Inclusion in Public Recreational Spaces:**
 - Ensure that public recreational spaces, parks, and community centers are accessible to people with disabilities.
 - Fund the development of accessible fitness equipment in public gyms and parks.

Timeline:

- **Year 1-2:** Develop and fund school-based adaptive sports programs.



- **Year 3-5:** Expand federal support for Paralympic organizations and ensure full accessibility in public recreational spaces.

Challenges:

- Lack of trained educators and staff for adaptive PE.
- Public gyms and parks may need significant retrofitting to meet accessibility standards.

Budget Estimate:

- \$15 billion over five years for sports programs, adaptive equipment, and infrastructure improvements.

Sources:

- Department of Education (DOE), U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and National Park Service budget reports.

VIII. Media Representation (Policy Issues 71-80)

Policy Objective:

Promote accurate, positive, and diverse representation of people with disabilities in all forms of media.

Actions:

- 1. Grants for Disability-Inclusive Media Projects:**
 - Provide federal grants for filmmakers, writers, and media producers to create content that authentically represents people with disabilities.
 - Partner with streaming platforms and networks to ensure disability-inclusive programming.
- 2. National Media Awards for Disability Representation:**
 - Establish a national awards program recognizing excellence in disability representation in media, including film, television, journalism, and digital content.
- 3. Disability Inclusion Training for Media Professionals:**
 - Develop and fund training programs for media professionals (writers, directors, journalists) on disability awareness and inclusive storytelling.
- 4. Disability Representation in Public Service Announcements (PSAs):**
 - Require federal and state public service announcements (PSAs) to include people with disabilities, ensuring accessible formats (e.g., captions, ASL, audio descriptions).



Timeline:

- **Year 1-2:** Launch grant and awards programs. Partner with media organizations to develop inclusive content.
- **Year 3-5:** Continue expanding media representation initiatives and evaluate effectiveness.

Challenges:

- Resistance from traditional media outlets to change longstanding practices.
- Need for authentic representation from people with disabilities in creative roles.

Budget Estimate:

- \$10 billion over five years for media grants, training, and public awareness campaigns.

Sources:

- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), FCC, and Hollywood Diversity Report data.

IX. Emergency Preparedness (Policy Issues 81-90)

Policy Objective:

Ensure that emergency preparedness and response plans fully include people with disabilities, preventing disproportionately negative impacts in disasters and public health emergencies.

Actions:

1. **Inclusive Emergency Response Plans:**
 - Require that all local, state, and federal emergency preparedness plans include detailed provisions for people with disabilities.
 - Mandate that evacuation centers, shelters, and emergency communications are fully accessible (e.g., ASL interpreters, braille, accessible transportation).
2. **Training for Emergency Personnel:**
 - Fund training programs for emergency responders (firefighters, police, EMTs) on how to assist people with disabilities during crises.
3. **Accessible Disaster Relief Services:**
 - Ensure that all disaster relief services (FEMA, Red Cross) provide accessible housing, medical care, and communications during and after emergencies.
4. **Public Awareness Campaigns:**



- Create national campaigns to educate the public on how to support people with disabilities during emergencies.

Timeline:

- **Year 1-2:** Review and revise emergency response plans at all government levels. Begin training programs for emergency personnel.
- **Year 2-5:** Implement accessible disaster relief services nationwide and launch public awareness campaigns.

Challenges:

- Resistance from emergency management agencies due to the cost and complexity of adding accessibility features.
- Limited capacity of shelters and resources to retrofit facilities quickly.

Budget Estimate:

- \$20 billion over five years for emergency planning, training, and retrofitting shelters.

Sources:

- FEMA, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) emergency planning data.

X. Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) (Policy Issues 91-95)

Policy Objective:

Expand access to long-term services and supports (LTSS) that allow people with disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities.

Actions:

1. **Increase Medicaid Funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS):**
 - Expand federal funding for Medicaid HCBS programs, reducing waiting lists and ensuring timely access to services.
2. **Personal Care Assistance Workforce Expansion:**
 - Increase wages and benefits for personal care assistants to address workforce shortages.
 - Fund training programs for personal care assistants, focusing on disability care.
3. **Incentivize States to Adopt LTSS Reforms:**



- Offer federal grants to states that improve access to LTSS and reduce reliance on institutional care.
- 4. **National Registry for Personal Care Workers:**
 - Establish a national registry for personal care assistants to ensure quality control, training, and easy access for individuals in need of services.

Timeline:

- **Year 1-3:** Expand Medicaid HCBS funding and implement workforce expansion programs.
- **Year 3-5:** Launch the national registry and continue state-level reforms.

Challenges:

- Addressing labor shortages in the personal care industry.
- Resistance from states that rely on institutional care for people with disabilities.

Budget Estimate:

- \$70 billion over five years for Medicaid expansions, workforce development, and LTSS infrastructure improvements.

Sources:

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS, and National Council on Disability (NCD) reports.

XI. Technology Access (Policy Issues 96-100)

Policy Objective:

Ensure that people with disabilities have affordable access to assistive technology and that all digital platforms and services are fully accessible.

Actions:

1. **Affordable Assistive Technology Programs:**
 - Establish a federal subsidy program to cover the cost of assistive technologies, such as screen readers, mobility devices, and communication aids.
2. **Universal Digital Accessibility Standards:**
 - Mandate that all public and private websites, apps, and digital platforms meet WCAG 2.1 accessibility standards.



3. **Grants for Innovation in Assistive Technology:**
 - Provide grants to tech companies and universities for the development of new assistive technologies.
4. **Broadband Access for People with Disabilities:**
 - Ensure that broadband access is affordable and accessible for people with disabilities, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Timeline:

- **Year 1-3:** Implement assistive technology subsidies and enforce WCAG standards.
- **Year 3-5:** Expand grants for innovation and ensure broadband access.

Challenges:

- High cost of assistive technologies.
- Resistance from tech companies to meet accessibility standards.

Budget Estimate:

- \$25 billion over five years for assistive technology programs, accessibility enforcement, and broadband access.

Sources:

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and assistive technology market reports.

Total Budget and Conclusion

Total Estimated Budget: \$150 billion over five years

This detailed national policy provides a roadmap for addressing critical issues in cultural representation, sports inclusion, media representation, emergency preparedness, long-term services and supports, and technology access for people with disabilities. By allocating \$150 billion over five years, the U.S. can significantly improve the lives of millions of people with disabilities, ensuring that they can live independently, access the services they need, and participate fully in all aspects of society.

