



Workforce: Recommendations to Advance Social Connection



Coalition to End
Social Isolation
& Loneliness

We envision a society where every individual will one day have the opportunities and supports necessary to be socially engaged.

The Challenge

Social isolation and loneliness take a toll on individuals, leading to poorer health outcomes, higher rates of mortality, and higher healthcare costs. Social connection, or lack of social connection, is a social determinant of health that influences physical, mental, and emotional health outcomes. A lack of social connection has been compared to the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Our Recommendations

American adults spend on average a third of their lives at work. Since individuals spend so much time at work, the Coalition believes there are key opportunities for meaningful social connection. Programs that connect both young and older adults who may be entering or reentering the workforce to rewarding careers and professional networks can lead to financial security and foster lifelong purpose, belonging, and well-being.



To address social isolation and loneliness and to encourage social connection in the workforce, policymakers should:

1. Expand eligibility for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and funding to support young adults without children.



2. Provide states with technical assistance and authority to braid federal funding intended to comprehensively support youth workforce development and training such as TANF, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Grants (RESEA), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), and Vocational Rehabilitation programs.



3. Amend TANF requirements to explicitly list technology and internet supports as eligible costs for current-year state funding to promote job preparation and work. This could be accomplished by directing the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to provide states with guidance and technical assistance to states on how to utilize TANF to provide technology and internet services to workers, job seekers, and those receiving job readiness training.



4. Establish federal incentives and initiatives to address social isolation and loneliness in the public sector workplace environment.



5. Support the collaborative improvement methodology to address social isolation and loneliness in the workplace environment.



Join us in advocating for solutions that encourage greater social connection. Read our full 2023-2024 Policy Priorities [here](#).

About Us

The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness, founded in 2018, advocates for policy change that combats the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness. The Coalition represents some of the most influential consumer groups, patient advocates, health plans, community-based organizations, behavioral health groups, and private sector innovators in the United States. Visit our website at www.endsocialisolation.org