

A Green New Deal for Health

Senator Edward J. Markey

The intersecting effects of the climate crisis, social and economic inequality, gaps in health care access, and lack of worker power are making people and the planet sick. The Green New Deal for Health is a national treatment plan to help heal from these simultaneous crises by reimagining a health care system that is prepared and empowered to protect the health and well-being of our workers, our communities, and our planet.

The Green New Deal for Health supports:

Healthy communities

- Provides \$130 billion over five years for community health centers while protecting the right to organize, which will help ensure all Americans have access to high-quality, dignified care in their communities
- Protects access to care by establishing a public accountability process when hospitals propose closures or reductions of services in order to understand and mitigate the impact on surrounding communities and health care providers
- Provides \$500 million over five years for strengthening community mental health to address the mental toll of extreme weather disasters and other stressors
- Provides \$150 million over five years to support community heat resilience programs that conduct research and educate communities on the risks of extreme heat and on mitigation strategies to reduce heat-related illness and mortality
- Includes solar batteries, heat pumps, and other resiliency measures as eligible Medicare expenses, in order to allow people with disabilities to install life-saving, resilient home infrastructure to protect their health in extreme weather and blackouts

Workers who make high-quality health care possible

- Provides \$100 billion over ten years to expand the community health workforce and empower community health workers to help build good careers and healthy communities
- Invests \$9 billion in climate & health education and training grants for health care workers, including doctors, nurses, midwives, physician's assistants, and others, to ensure all health care workers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to protect our health from the impacts of the climate crisis
- Establishes grants to pay hazard pay to the essential workers in health care who show up and continue to care for us during and after disasters
- Includes provisions to protect workers from union busting and prioritize grants to facilities that collectively bargain with their workers

Green & resilient health care systems

- Provides \$100 billion to revive a New-Deal-era program to modernize, weatherize, and reduce the environmental footprint of health facilities to protect public health and ensure people can access care before, during, and after crises
- Provides an additional \$5 billion in planning grants to engage community members to ensure modernization investments serve real community needs
- Invests \$5 billion per year in scientific research into the solutions and innovations for the climate-health crisis
- Mobilizes federal agencies for a whole-of-government approach to protect our health from the climate crisis and to protect our planet by decarbonizing the health care sector and establishing green and resilient medical supply chains

This bill boldly reimagines our health care system, bringing together the principles of the Green New Deal—good-paying jobs, justice for all, and a livable environment—to create a health care system that people deserve. The Federal government has a duty to create a cleaner, healthier future. With the Green New Deal for Health, we have the opportunity to build a health care system where people do not just survive, they thrive.