

FACT SHEET:

How the Build Back Better Framework Helps LGBTQI+ Communities

Joe Biden believes that there's no greater economic engine in the world than the hard work and ingenuity of the American people. But for too long, the economy has worked great for those at the top, while working families get squeezed. President Biden promised to rebuild the backbone of the country – the middle class – so that this time everyone comes along. He also campaigned on a promise to forge consensus and make government work for working people again.

Today, the President is delivering on these promises. After hearing input from all sides and negotiating in good faith with a broad group of members of Congress, President Biden is announcing a framework for the Build Back Better Act. President Biden is confident this is a framework that can pass both houses of Congress, and he looks forward to signing it into law. He calls on Congress to take up this historic bill – in addition to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – as quickly as possible.

The Build Back Better Framework will deliver meaningful outcomes for LGBTQI+ people and families, and help build an America in which all can thrive.

The most transformative investment in children and caregiving in generations.

LGBTQI+ families are feeling the strain of the high costs of child care. The average yearly cost of preschool for those without access to publicly-funded programs is \$8,600. For the LGBTQI+ families with children who are more likely to be living in poverty than non-LGBTQI+ families, these costs can be prohibitive. The Build Back Better Framework will ensure that the vast majority of working LGBTQI+ families of four earning less than \$300,000 will pay no more than 7% of their income on child care for children under 6. This will expand access to the 9 out of 10 families with young children across the country who are working, looking for work, participating in an education or training program, or taking care of a serious health condition, and who are making up to 2.5 times their state's median income. This means most families will cut their child care spending by more than half – for example, for a same-sex couple earning \$100,000 per year, the framework will produce more than \$5,000 in annual child care savings. The Build Back Better Framework also offers access to free preschool for all 3- and 4-year old children, providing LGBTQI+ parents access to high-quality programs in the setting of their choice – from public schools to child care providers to Head Start. The Build Back Better Framework will also reduce the cost of home-based care for the hundreds of thousands of older LGBTQI+ adults and LGBTQI+ people with disabilities who need it and are unable to access it.

The biggest expansion of affordable health care in a decade.

LGBTQI+ people <u>face longstanding challenges</u> in accessing health insurance coverage and health care that is both respectful and high quality. Too many LGBTQI+ people, especially LGBTQI+ people of color, fall into the "coverage gap" and were locked out of coverage because their state refused to expand Medicaid. President Biden's framework closes the Medicaid coverage gap while also lowering health care costs for those buying coverage through the ACA by extending the American Rescue Plan's lower premiums, which helps people save an average of \$50 per person per month, and will advance health equity for LGBTQI+ people. The framework also adds hearing coverage support for LGBTQI+ people on Medicare.

The most significant effort to bring down costs and strengthen the middle class in generations.

The single largest and most comprehensive investment in affordable housing in history. LGBTQI+ adults report facing greater difficulties in making their next housing payment, and LGBTQI+ people report lower rates of homeownership, and higher rates of homelessness. The Build Back Better framework will enable the construction, rehabilitation, and improvement of more than 1 million affordable homes, boosting housing supply and reducing price pressures for renters and homeowners. It will make investments to improve the safety, energy efficiency, and quality of existing public housing. It also expands the availability of housing choice vouchers to hundreds of thousands more families. The Build Back Better Framework will remove lead-based paint from housing units, which disproportionately affects low-income children. Finally, this framework provides grants for resident-led community development projects in neighborhoods that have faced systemic disinvestment.

Promote nutrition security to support children's health. LGBTQI+ households experience food insecurity at nearly twice the rate of non-LGBTQI+ households, an issue made more urgent by the pandemic. Federal data shows that overall, about 13% of LGBTI+ adults lived in a household where there was sometimes or often not enough to eat in the past seven days. No one should have to worry about whether they can provide nutritious food for themselves or their children. The Build Back Better Framework will ensure that the nutritional needs of children being raised in LGBTQI+ families are met by expanding access to free school meals during the school year and providing students with resources to purchase food over the summer.

Tax cuts for families with children. Over 36% of LGBTQI+ people lived in a household that had difficulty paying for usual household expenses in the previous seven days, compared to 26% of non-LGBTQI+ people. Research suggests that LGBTQI+ people are more likely to be living in poverty because of the effects of discrimination, bias, and denial of economic opportunity, and that children of LGBTQI+ parents are especially vulnerable to poverty. President Biden's framework will extend the Child Tax Credit, lowering taxes for middle class families by providing the families of more than 66 million kids in the U.S. a major tax cut.

Tax cuts for workers without children. The President's Build Back Better Framework permanently extends the American Rescue Plan's increase to the Earned-Income Tax Credit from \$543 to \$1,502. This will benefit low-wage LGBTQI+ workers, including cashiers, cooks, delivery drivers, food preparation workers, and child care providers.

Education beyond high school and workforce training. An education beyond high school is increasingly important to succeed in the 21st-century economy, even as it has become unaffordable for too many LGBTQI+ people, particularly LGBTQI+ students who may lack support and financial assistance from family. And, the U.S. has chronically underinvested in workforce development, with millions of jobs going unfilled in growing sectors such as construction and health care. That's why the Build Back Better Framework would increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$550 per year for students enrolled in public and private, non-profit colleges and make a historic investment in minority-serving institutions (MSIs), such as a Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs), as well as Historically Black Colleges and Universities

(HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). Through high-quality training programs, career and technical education pathways and Registered Apprenticeships, President Biden's Build Back Better Framework will invest in training programs that will prepare millions of American workers for high-quality jobs in growing sectors, particularly LGBTQI+ workers who may face bias or discrimination when seeking a job.

Community violence interventions. President Biden believes in a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to gun crime and community violence. He also knows that the toll of this community violence overwhelmingly falls on people of color, and uniquely impacts LGBTQI+ communities, especially transgender women of color who continue to face epidemic levels of violence. Controlling for geographic location, LGBTQI+ people are 6 times more likely than non-LGBTQI+ individuals to experience violence by someone who is well known to them and approximately 2.5 times more likely to be the victim of violent crime at the hands of a stranger. The Build Back Better Framework will support evidence-based community violence intervention programs that train at risk individuals for jobs and provide wraparound supports to prevent violence and assist victims. These programs are effective because they leverage trusted messengers who work directly with individuals most likely to commit acts of violence, intervene in conflicts, and connect people to social, health and wellness, and economic services to reduce the likelihood of violence as an answer to conflict.

The largest effort to combat climate change in American history.

The framework's \$555 billion investment is the largest effort to combat the climate crisis in American history and set the country on course to meet its climate targets, achieving a 50-52% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels in 2030. It would create good-paying, union jobs, deliver environmental justice, and launch a new, diverse Civilian Climate Corps that will put Americans to work deploying climate solutions in communities across the country. The framework will also expand and extend clean energy and electric vehicle tax credits to lower electricity bills and make electric vehicles more affordable for middle class families. And, the framework will make critical investments to clean up pollution and monitor and improve air and water quality, while ensuring community engagement and input on infrastructure projects. The Build Back Better Framework would also restore American manufacturing with R&D investments at HSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs —including critical investments to compete on clean energy.

Read about the President's full Build Back Better Agenda here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/build-back-better

/###