



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## **FACT SHEET: How the Build Back Better Framework Helps Rural 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 bill– in addition to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – as quickly as possible.

The Build Back Better (BBB) framework will ensure that every community has a fair shot at participating in the nation's economic growth. It recognizes that rural prosperity is critical to the prosperity of the entire nation and will help build an America in which all can thrive.

### **A landmark new program that will empower rural regions and support locally-led rural economic development.**

The BBB framework makes a transformative investment in Rural America's economic future through a new Rural Partnership Program that will provide rural regions, including Tribal Nations and territories, with flexible grants for locally-led economic development projects, including planning and implementation. This program will transform the way the federal government partners with rural and Tribal communities, empowering them to create jobs, spur inclusive economic growth, and build the staff and partnerships needed to more easily access federal programs and build projects to secure a stronger future.

### **The most transformative investment in children and caregiving in generations.**

Rural children are [less likely to be enrolled in pre-K programs](#) than urban and suburban children, and a third of rural children enter kindergarten without having attended pre-K. Even before the pandemic, nearly [two-thirds](#) of rural Americans lived in areas where there is a significant shortage of licensed child care slots, with [nine](#) infants and toddlers for every one child care slot in rural America. President Biden's plan offers access to free preschool for all 3- and 4-year old children, providing parents access to high-quality programs in the setting of their choice from schools to child care providers and community-based organizations to Head Start. It will also build the supply of child care in rural America and enable most American families to cut their child care spending on young children by more than half. The vast majority of working American families of four earning less than \$300,000 per year – and all working families earning up to 2.5 times their state median income -- will pay no more than 7 percent of their income on child care for children under 6. For two parents with one toddler earning \$100,000 per year, the framework will produce more than \$5,000 in child care savings per year. The Build Back Better

framework would also reduce the cost of home-based care and raise wages for home care workers.

**The biggest expansion of affordable health care in a decade.**

More than [12 percent of people living in completely rural counties](#) lacked health insurance before President Biden took office, and coverage under the Affordable Care Act was still too expensive for many families. Across the country, more than 4 million people were locked out of coverage because their state refused to expand Medicaid. President Biden’s plan closes the Medicaid coverage gap while also lowering health care costs for those buying coverage through the Affordable Care Act by extending the American Rescue Plan’s lower premiums. In addition, rural America is home to a higher concentration of older Americans than urban areas, with more than [one in five older Americans](#) living in rural parts of the country. The plan will also expand Medicare coverage to cover hearing coverage.

**The largest effort to combat climate change in American history.**

***Create clean energy jobs in Rural America.*** When President Biden thinks about climate change, he thinks jobs. The rural electric cooperative investments in this bill are the largest since the Rural Electrification Act that first brought reliable electricity to rural America — these investments will enable coops to take advantage of modern, cheap, clean electricity. The framework will also provide relief to America’s rural electric cooperative utility customers by assisting with outstanding debt and investing in improving public health. To support cost-saving energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in rural America, the Build Back Better framework will provide funding for the popular Rural Energy for America Program and the Rural Energy Savings Program. The framework will also create good-paying, union jobs and enlist a new, diverse Civilian Climate Corps that will put Americans to work deploying climate solutions in communities across the country, especially low-income communities. In addition, the framework will invest in biofuels and target incentives to grow domestic supply chains in solar, wind, and other critical industries in communities on the frontlines of the energy transition. It will also boost the competitiveness of existing industries, like steel, cement, and aluminum, through grants, loans, tax credits, and procurement to drive capital investment in the decarbonization and revitalization of American manufacturing.

***Bolster resilience and natural solutions to climate change through a historic investment in coastal restoration, forest management, and soil conservation.*** The Build Back Better framework will provide resources to farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners, supporting their efforts to reduce emissions. At its peak, the increased investments in climate smart agriculture alone could reach roughly 130 million cropland acres per year, representing as much as 40% of all the cropland in America on many as 240,000 farms. Farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners have long demonstrated leadership in environmental stewardship with strategies that provide benefits for the farm, the environment, and the public. These investments will help meet the demand from the farming community for conservation support and enable producers to realize the full potential of climate benefits from agriculture.

***Provide critical investments in rural water infrastructure.*** Some rural communities lack access to clean drinking water or functional wastewater systems. The framework will improve the safety of rural drinking water by providing funds to replace lead service lines. This investment will

enhance the long-term water security of communities throughout rural America, including those in persistent poverty counties, on Tribal lands, and in insular areas.

**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.*** Rural communities face unique housing needs that are not always fulfilled by traditional federal housing programs. [One in four rural renters](#) pay over half their income in rent. The Build Back Better Framework will lower housing costs and increase the supply of affordable housing. Investments in the framework will support the construction, rehabilitation, and affordability of thousands of multifamily units, including units that provide affordable, sustainable housing to farmworkers and their families. It will also invest in the Department of Agriculture’s Section 504 program to help very low-income owner occupants of single-family homes in rural areas repair their homes.

***Promote nutrition security to support children’s health.*** The Build Back Better framework will help children reach their full potential by investing in nutrition security year-round. The legislation will expand free school meals to 8.9 million children during the school year and provide a \$65 per child per month benefit to the families of 30 million children to purchase food during the summer. The framework also includes funding for a new Healthy Food Incentives Demonstration to help schools test strategies for encouraging healthy lifestyles in the school environment, such as preparing more school meals from scratch or procuring local and culturally appropriate foods. To complement this investment, the framework supports School Kitchen Equipment Grants so that schools have the necessary equipment to serve healthier meals.

***Tax cuts for families with children.*** [16.4 percent of rural people](#) fall below the poverty line, struggling to pay expenses like food, rent, health care and transportation for their families. The Build Back Better framework will provide 39 million households up to \$3,600 (or \$300 per month) in tax cuts per child by extending the American Rescue Plan’s expanded Child Tax Credit. It will provide monthly payments to the parents of nearly 90 percent of American children – \$300 per month per child under six and \$250 per month per child ages 6 to 17. This historic tax cut will help cover the cost of food, housing, health care, and transportation and will continue the largest one-year reduction in child poverty in history.

***Tax cuts for workers without children.*** The Build Back Better framework will extend the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for around 17 million low-wage workers. Before this year, the federal tax code taxed low-wage childless workers into poverty or deeper into poverty — the only group of workers it treated this way. The Build Back Better framework will extend the American Rescue Plan’s tripling of the credit for childless workers, benefiting 17 million low-wage workers, many of whom are essential workers, including cashiers, cooks, delivery drivers, food preparation workers, and childcare providers.

***Education beyond high school and workforce training.*** Education beyond high school is increasingly important to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, even as it has become unaffordable for too many families. The Build Back Better framework will increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$550 for the more than 5 million students enrolled in public and private,

non-profit institutions and provide historic investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs). It will also invest in high-quality training programs, career and technical education pathways, and Registered Apprenticeships. President Biden's BBB framework will invest in training programs that will prepare workers for high-quality jobs in growing sectors.

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