



FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and Labor
Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Build Back Better Act *Education and Labor Committee Provisions*

The Education and Labor Committee's portion of the *Build Back Better Act* will lower costs for families, secure good-paying jobs for American workers, and set a strong foundation of America's children. These investments will:

- [Lower the cost of child care](#) by ensuring a vast majority of families pay no more than 7 percent of their income on child care
- [Secure free, universal preschool](#) for three- and four-year-olds
- [Lower the cost of prescription drugs](#) for workers and families
- [Lower the cost of higher education](#) by increasing student financial aid and investing in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Minority-Serving Institutions
- [Help workers secure good-paying jobs](#) by expanding job training programs
- [Invest in a Civilian Climate Corps](#) to create a climate-focused service opportunities and build a climate-focused workforce
- [Help prevent child hunger](#) by expanding our most effective child nutrition programs

[Affordable Child Care and Universal Preschool](#)

The *Build Back Better Act* invests roughly \$390 billion in lowering the cost of child care and securing universal pre-K for three- and four-year-olds.

Lower the Cost of Child Care for Working Families

Working families across the country are facing a child care crisis. The high cost of child care is straining family budgets and pushing millions of Americans out of the workforce – a majority of whom are women. The lack of affordable child care is also hurting our economy. As workers are forced to stay home, employers are struggling to fill job openings to meet demand and grow their businesses.

The *Build Back Better Act* makes a historic investment to lower the cost of child care for working families for millions of children, expand the availability of high-quality child care, and raise wages for child care workers.

Through this investment:

- Nearly all families of four earning up to \$300,000 would pay no more than seven percent of their income on child care,
- Child care providers would have the resources to raise wages for child care workers and expand available supply to serve more children and families.

Secure Universal Preschool for 3- and 4-Year-Olds

Early childhood education provides children and families the strong foundation they deserve. Yet, many families do not have access to participate in preschool programs, and often communities do not have the resources to support universal pre-K programs.

The *Build Back Better Act* invests in securing universal preschool for three- and four-year-olds, which will help prepare as many as 6 million children for happier, healthier, and more productive lives.

Through this investment:

- We will have free, universal, high-quality preschool for three- and four-year-olds,
- Communities will have the resources they need to provide safe and healthy environments for preschool programs,
- A wide range of providers - public schools, Head Start programs, and other licensed child care providers, including faith-based providers - will be eligible to receive funding for preschool programs.

Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs

The exorbitant cost of prescription drugs forces many Americans to ration or even decline life-saving medications. The *Build Back Better Act* takes the historic step of allowing the government to negotiate prescription drug prices in Medicare and protects workers and businesses from price-gouging.

The *Build Back Better Act* reduces the costs of prescription drugs for workers and their families by:

- Capping cost-sharing for insulin at \$35 per month, and
- Requiring pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to provide transparency regarding drugs costs in private health plans, as well as rebates, fees, and other compensation charged by PBMs.

The *Build Back Better Act* also invests in services for older Americans and Americans with disabilities by:

- Providing more than \$1 billion for proven *Older Americans Act* programs to extend vital services that help vulnerable Americans stay safe, healthy, and independent and additional investments to help people with disabilities learn, work, and thrive in their communities.

Lower the Cost of Higher Education

Most jobs in the modern economy require some level of education past high school. Whether they choose to attend a community college or a four-year university, every American should have the opportunity to get the quality and affordable education they need to find a rewarding career.

The *Build Back Better Act* invests more than \$20 billion to strengthen higher education. This investment will:

- Lower the cost of higher education by increasing the value of the Pell Grants—the cornerstone of student financial aid,
- Expand federal financial aid to eligible students with DACA, TPS, and DED status,
- Provide funding for retention and completion grants to help students succeed in school and transition into a rewarding career,
- Invest in grant programs to help train new teachers and address the teacher shortage, and invest in specialized training to prepare teachers to meet the needs of students with disabilities, and
- Make a quality degree more affordable through targeted investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other Minority-Serving Institutions.

[Help Workers Secure Good-Paying Jobs](#)

Public workforce development programs – including paid job training opportunities, career navigation services, and wraparound support– are a critical to help American workers secure good-paying jobs and provide employers the talent they need to succeed and grow. The pandemic has led millions of Americans to consider new careers in emerging and in-demand fields, and the investments in the bipartisan infrastructure bill will further increase the demand for skilled workers.

The Build Back Better Act invests \$20 billion in proven programs to help workers secure good-paying jobs. This investment will:

- Expand Registered Apprenticeships and other paid job training programs that are targeted to serve at-risk young people, support workers who were laid off from their jobs, provide career pathways for individuals with barriers to employment, and create partnerships with employers and labor unions in local communities to train workers to fill openings in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand occupations,
- Fund strategies to recruit and retain direct care workers, including raising wages and creating training opportunities to help address the direct care workforce shortage,
- Invest in increased enforcement of labor law and civil rights violations, and set meaningful civil monetary penalties to deter violations of wage and hour, worker safety and labor laws, and
- Provide assistance to states seeking to phase out subminimum wages for workers with disabilities.

[Invest in a Civilian Climate Corps](#)

The climate crisis is threatening the lives and livelihoods of Americans across the country. The *Build Back Better Act* funds a Civilian Climate Corps to create service opportunities and fund job training programs that will help protect our communities from this urgent threat.

The Build Back Better Act invests nearly \$20 billion in the Civilian Climate Corps, including:

- More than \$15 billion – carried out through AmeriCorps – to create climate-focused public service opportunities, and
- More than \$4 billion – carried out through the Department of Labor – to prepare workers for good-paying jobs in emerging fields to help address the climate crisis.

[Help Prevent Child Hunger](#)

Even before the pandemic, more than five million children lived in homes that did not have reliable access to nutritious food. This has a lasting impact on children’s physical health, mental health, and their education. Every child should have the basic nutrition they need for a healthy and happy childhood.

The Build Back Better Act invests \$10 billion in proven child nutrition programs that will bolster the fight against child hunger.

This investment will:

- Allow nearly 9 million more children to receive free school meals by expanding eligibility and eliminating paperwork, and
- Help more children get healthy nutrition over the summer for children by providing Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) benefits to eligible low-income children.