

# FACT SHEET: How the Build Back Better Framework Helps Latino 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 Latinos and help build an America in which all can thrive.

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

Latino families are feeling the strain of the high costs of child care, and nearly 1 in 10 Latino parents report having to quit, turn down, or make a major change in their job due to child care disruptions. Only 19.5% of Hispanic 3- and 4-year old children are enrolled in publicly-funded preschool, while the average yearly cost of preschool for those without access to publicly-funded programs is \$8,600. Under the Build Back Better Framework, the vast majority of working Latino 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 two Latino parents 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 Latino 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 homebased care for the hundreds of thousands of older Latino adults and Latinos with disabilities who need it and are unable to access it. And, investment in home care will raise wages for home care workers, 23% of whom are Hispanic or Latino.

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

Almost 10.9 million Hispanic people were uninsured in 2019 before President Biden took office, coverage under the Affordable Care Act (even with the ACA's premium subsidies) was too expensive for many families, and 640,000 Latinos fell 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 could save 730,000 Latino people an average of \$50 per person per month. With these changes, more than one in four uninsured Latinos could gain coverage. The framework also adds hearing coverage, including for the more than 5 million Hispanic people on Medicare. And, the framework will make an historic investment in maternal health to reduce the unacceptably high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality in this country.

# 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. More than 55% of Latino renters pay over 30% of their income in rent. The 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, where a quarter of the residents are Latino. It also expands the availability of housing choice vouchers to hundreds of thousands more families, including the nearly 20% of current voucher holders who are Latino. The Build Back Better Framework will remove lead-based paint from housing units, which disproportionately affects Latino 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.** Latino households experience food insecurity at a <a href="https://higher-rate">higher rate</a> than the national average, an issue made more urgent by the pandemic. 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 Latino children 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 21% of Hispanic people fall below the poverty line, struggling to pay expenses like food, rent, health care, and transportation for their families. 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 and nearly 4.5 million Hispanic people in the U.S. a major tax cut – cutting the Hispanic poverty rate by 39%. This will help support the more than 60% of Hispanic women who are either sole or co-breadwinners for their families.

*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 roughly <u>2.8 million Latino low-wage workers</u>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy, even as it has become unaffordable for too many Latino families. 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 an 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.

Community violence interventions. President Biden believes in a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to gun crime. He also knows that the toll of this violence overwhelmingly falls on people of color, including Latinos. That is why 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 gun 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.

*Immigration reform.* The Build Back Better framework includes a \$100 billion investment in reforms that will improve our immigration system by providing long awaited relief to millions through reconciliation, and making enhancements to reduce backlogs, expand legal representation, and make the asylum system and border processing more efficient and humane.

## 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: <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/build-back-better">https://www.whitehouse.gov/build-back-better</a>

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