



# The Build Back Better Act Delivers for New Mexico

The Build Back Better Act invests \$1.75 trillion in New Mexico's climate resilience, good-paying clean energy jobs, affordable housing, childcare and education, and affordable healthcare. The Build Back Better Act will support working families by bringing down the costs that have held New Mexicans back for decades by cutting taxes and making childcare, home care, education, healthcare, and housing more affordable for years to come.

The Build Back Better Act also includes key provisions to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation, ensure that every worker has the paid leave they need to care for their family, and lower the ever-increasing costs of prescription drugs.

Hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans will benefit from these community investments, including an expansion of the Child Tax Credit, affordable childcare for over 120,000 children statewide, and the creation of thousands of sustainable jobs.

## **The Build Back Better Act makes game-changing investments in:**

### **Climate**

- **Makes the largest investment in addressing climate change in American history.** The Build Back Better Act invests over \$555 billion in addressing the climate crisis. In the last decade, New Mexico experienced 14 extreme weather events, costing \$5 billion in damages. The Build Back Better Act will invest in grid modernization, expand wind and solar energy, invest in sustainable agriculture, protect and preserve our water sources, prioritize forest management, and create clean energy jobs and jobs through the Civilian Climate Corps.

### **Education**

- **Creates the United States' first universal pre-K system and cut childcare costs.** The Build Back Better Act adds two additional years of public education for children across the country during the most impactful stage of child development. In New Mexico, only 14% of our 3-and 4-year-olds have access to publicly funded pre-K, costing \$8,600 on average to those without it. This bill will expand access to free, high-quality pre-K for almost 35,000 New Mexican children. In New Mexico, parents with two young children spend 24% of their income on childcare every year, contributing to 23% of the gender pay gap. The Build Back Better framework will provide childcare to nearly 122,000 children in New Mexico.
- **Addresses childhood hunger.** The Build Back Better Act will expand funding for free school meals nationwide for children during the school year and throughout summer holidays. Today, 1 in 4 children in New Mexico experience hunger. The Build Back Better Act will provide free school meals for an additional 44,000 students in New Mexico during the school year and provide almost 167,000 students with food over the summer.
- **Addresses the K-12 teacher shortage.** The Build Back Better Act invests nearly \$650 million in addressing the nationwide teacher shortage by funding efforts to recruit and train educators. New Mexico is currently experiencing a teacher shortage. The bill invests millions in our state's teachers to address teacher shortages in high-need subjects, increase diversity and representation in teaching, and fund teachers serving children with disabilities.
- **Makes education beyond high school more affordable and accessible.** The Build Back Better Act takes several critical steps to lower the cost of higher education. The bill will increase maximum Pell grant awards by \$550 for almost 34,000 students in New Mexico who rely on Pell, while investing in New Mexico's 29 minority-serving institutions like UNM. The bill also expands federal financial aid to students who are recipients of immigration programs like DACA and TPS.

## **Employment**

- **Trains America's workers for the jobs of the future.** The Build Back Better Act will invest in training programs nationwide to prepare workers, especially young workers, for high-quality jobs in sectors like public health, childcare, manufacturing, IT, and clean energy. In New Mexico, 19 public community colleges and Tribal colleges will benefit from grants to develop and expand innovative training programs like trades education, apprenticeships, and jobs in key sectors such as health care.

## **Housing**

- **Invests the largest-ever in affordable housing and homeownership.** The Build Back Better Act commits resources nationwide to Housing Choice Vouchers, rental assistance, and homeownership programs. New Mexico is currently experiencing an affordable housing crisis contributing to rising homelessness. The Build Back Better Act bill will invest millions of dollars in rental assistance for New Mexicans, increase the supply of high-quality housing and assist first-time homebuyers with their down payments.

## **Paid Family Leave**

- **Establishes the first paid family and medical leave program in the United States.** The Build Back Better Act establishes four weeks of a universal and permanent family and medical leave program. The United States lags behind the rest of the industrialized world when it comes to guaranteeing paid family and medical leave. Only 21 percent of American workers have access to employer-provided paid family leave, and just 42 percent of American workers have access to paid medical leave through an employer-provided plan. In New Mexico, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham recently signed the first paid sick leave program and established a 12-week paid parental leave policy for all state employees.

## **Health Care and Elder Care**

- **Expands affordable health care & lower prescription drug costs.** The Build Back Better Act will lower health care costs by extending premium cuts from the American Rescue Plan and lowering prescription drug prices. In New Mexico, 42,000 uninsured people will gain coverage and almost 25,000 will save hundreds of dollars per year. The Build Back Better Act also cap prescription drug costs for seniors at \$2,000 per year and expand Medicare to cover hearing benefits. The Build Back Better Act will also fund rural health care systems to attract and train health providers.
- **Invests in elder care and long-term care needs.** The Build Back Better Act invests in training and retaining the long-term care workforce through grants to states. The bill will expand access to home- and community-based care for more of New Mexico's senior citizens and individuals with disabilities and improve the quality and wages of caregiving jobs.

## **Immigration**

- **Protects immigrant communities from deportation.** The Build Back Better Act gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to grant temporary protection and work permits to immigrants who have entered the United States prior to January 1, 2011, if they pass a background check. In New Mexico, an estimated 60,000 undocumented immigrants are essential to communities and the workforce but have been excluded from most federal programs.

## **Taxes and Deficit Reduction**

- **Cuts taxes for working families.** The Build Back Better Act extends the success of the expanded American Rescue Plan Child Tax Credit that invests up to \$300 per child, per month. Before the pandemic, 14% of children in New Mexico lived in poverty. The Build Back Better Act will extend the monthly Child Tax Credit payments of \$300 per child under 6, or \$250 per child ages 6 to 17 by one year, which has already cut child poverty in half across the country. The bill will also give tax cuts of up to \$1,500 for 132,000 low-wage workers in New Mexico by extending the American Rescue Plan's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) expansion.
- **Lowers the deficit and reduces inflation.** The Build Back Better Act will lower the deficit by an estimated \$1.5 trillion by investing in working families, closing corporate tax loopholes, and asking billionaires to pay their fair share. In addition, 17 Nobel Prize-winning economists have affirmed that the Build Back Better act will ease inflation by empowering more Americans to participate in the workforce.