



Democratic
**Policy &
Communications**
Committee

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First 100 Days

It's Getting Better with Biden

April 27, 2021



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President Biden, partnering with Senate and House Democrats, has taken decisive and effective action for the American people during his first 100 days in office. In just 100 days, we're beginning to turn the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic, and help is here for families, small businesses, farmers, and communities.

Fighting COVID-19

American Rescue Plan Act: President Biden and Congressional Democrats partnered to pass landmark legislation to help Americans weather the COVID-19 crisis. The American Rescue Plan Act invests \$1.9 trillion to help get shots into people's arms, money in people's pockets to survive, and funding for our children to safely get back to school.

Shots in Arms:

The U.S. has administered more than 230 million vaccine doses, and over 95 million Americans are now fully vaccinated. More than half of U.S. adults have received at least one dose.



Click [HERE](#) to see state-by-state vaccination progress

Protecting Against New Strains of COVID-19: With the original strain of COVID-19 comprising only about half of all COVID-19 cases in America today, President Biden's Administration is expanding COVID-19 genomic sequencing capacity and improving data sharing. This investment will allow us to more quickly identify variants that may be more contagious or deadly, as well as inform diagnostic and vaccine development and improvement.

Reopening Schools for In-Person Learning: President Biden ordered the Department of Education to issue evidence-based guidance on safely reopening schools for in-person learning. Earlier this month the Department published an updated [handbook](#) with guidance for schools to reopen safely while meeting all students' needs.

Protecting Travelers:

President Biden signed an executive order to protect domestic and international travelers by requiring masks on certain forms of domestic travel, including planes, trains, ferries, and intercity buses. He also required those coming to the U.S. from a foreign country to provide proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test before arrival.

President Biden
is working to
get our
students back
into the
classroom
safely.



Increasing Access to Health Care

Health Insurance Marketplace: President Biden created a special enrollment period (SEP) on the Federal health insurance exchange until August 15, 2021, providing Americans more time to enroll in comprehensive, affordable health coverage. [Over half a million people](#) have enrolled during the SEP between February 15 and April 21.

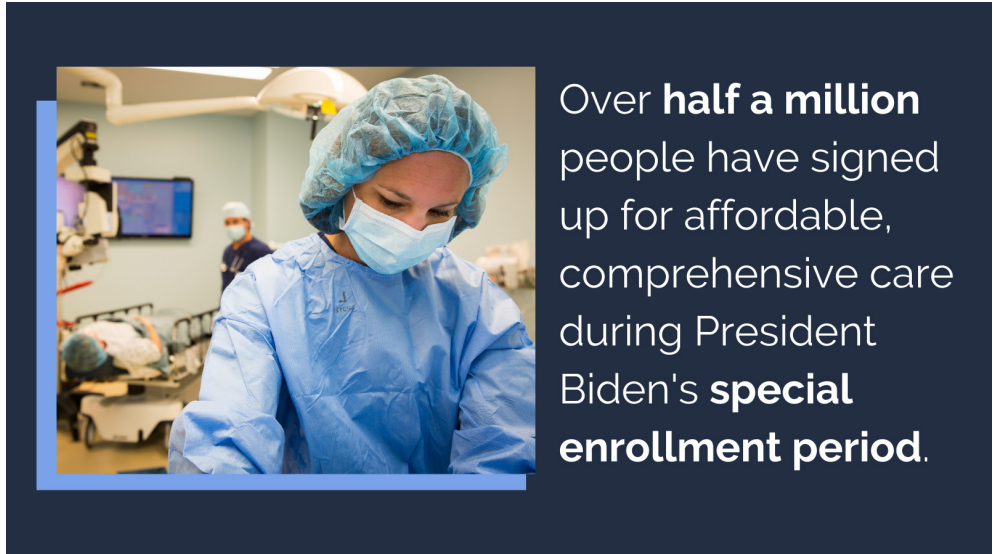
Improving Affordability: The American Rescue Plan Act also provides two years of enhanced premium tax credits and a 100% COBRA subsidy to help unemployed workers keep their coverage. The enhanced credits mean that [four out of five enrollees](#) will be able find a plan for \$10 or less per month after premium tax credits, and over half will be able to find a Silver plan for

\$10 or less. The law also provided incentives for states to expand Medicaid, potentially helping millions of Americans gain coverage.

Expanding Medicaid

Coverage: President Biden and Congressional Democrats incentivized non-expansion states with billions of federal dollars to provide affordable care to their

residents – potentially allowing up to 4 million low-income, uninsured Americans to finally gain access to health care. Additionally, states now have the option to give women who are pregnant or have just given birth up to one year of Medicaid coverage. This coverage can save the lives of countless mothers and newborns, disproportionately assisting Black women who rely on Medicaid for post-partum care at twice the rate of white women.



Over **half a million** people have signed up for affordable, comprehensive care during President Biden's **special enrollment period**.

Addressing Mental Health and Substance Abuse Needs: The American Rescue Plan Act includes nearly \$5 billion in funding for programs and services to address the rising levels of mental health and substance abuse issues exacerbated by COVID-19. During the pandemic, about 4 in 10 adults have reported symptoms of anxiety or depression, up from 1 in 10 adults who reported the same symptoms less than a year ago; similarly, nationwide drug overdose deaths have grown by 18.2%.

Care for Seniors and People with Disabilities: Older Americans and people with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The American Rescue Plan increased federal funding for home- and community-based health care services that will help more Americans access these services, reducing the need for institutional care where contracting COVID-19 is more likely.

Investing in American Jobs

Making It in America: President Biden signed an executive order to strengthen existing Buy American rules that will boost U.S. manufacturing and ensure U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on American-made goods and services.

Supporting Small Business: President Biden implemented changes in the Paycheck Protection Program to increase lending to the hardest hit, most vulnerable small businesses and eliminate exclusionary restrictions. The American Rescue Plan also provided small businesses with over \$50 billion in new resources.

Supporting our Farmers: Democrats provided \$4 billion to protect our farmers and food workers from COVID-19, and build a more resilient food supply chain to withstand future disruptions. That's in addition to the more than \$5 billion President Biden secured in debt relief and assistance for farmers of color who have faced widespread and longstanding discrimination and have seen disproportionate impacts from the pandemic.

Investing in American Families

Cutting Child Poverty in Half: The American Rescue Plan Act is estimated to cut child poverty in half through the expansion of the Child Tax Credit for 2021 by increasing the credit amount and making it fully refundable so low-income families can benefit from the full credit amount.



Putting Money into the Pockets of Working Families: Individuals will receive a direct payment of \$1,400 under the American Rescue Plan Act, amounting to \$5,600 in total relief for an average family of four to help them weather the economic downturn. President Biden's Treasury Department and IRS have already sent out more than 160 million of these payments, with a total value of nearly \$380 billion.

Keeping Roofs Over Families' Heads: President Biden has extended the CDC's moratorium on evictions during the pandemic until June 30, 2021. The American Rescue Plan Act also provides an additional \$21.6 billion in emergency rental assistance and nearly \$10 billion for property owners behind on their mortgage and utility payments to prevent foreclosures. The bill also provides \$5 billion in housing assistance and supportive services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Click [HERE](#) to see state-by-state rental assistance data

Click [HERE](#) to see state-by-state homeowner assistance allocations

Click [HERE](#) for state and local allocations for homeless assistance and supportive services

Helping Families Put Food on the Table: Additional food assistance is now available for over 41 million Americans who are relying on SNAP benefits, and 17.1 million children who need Pandemic EBT because schools are closed. In addition, USDA has extended free school meals and flexibilities for schools to distribute food to children in need through the upcoming school year to help the [1 in 4 kids facing hunger](#).

Click [HERE](#) for the estimated state-level impacts of the SNAP increase

Making Child Care More Accessible: To reduce child care costs for working families, the American Rescue Plan Act improves the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for 2021 by increasing the maximum credit amount and making it fully available to lower-income households.

Protecting Workers' Retirement Security: Through the American Rescue Plan Act, President Biden helped secure the retirement benefits of more

than 1 million workers and retirees in imperiled multiemployer pension plans, providing direct financial relief to these plans without cutting people's hard-earned benefits.

Pausing Federal Student Loan Payments: President Biden extended the moratorium on student loan payments, interest, and collections through at least September 30, 2021. He also retroactively expanded the interest rate and pause of collections activity to 1.14 million borrowers who defaulted on privately held Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans, protecting more than 800,000 borrowers who were at risk of having their federal tax refunds seized to repay a defaulted loan.

Protecting Workers

Delivering Relief for Low-Income Workers: The American Rescue Plan Act expands the Earned Income Tax Credit for lower-paid workers without children for 2021, nearly tripling the maximum credit amount and extending the credit to a greater number of individuals.

Click [HERE](#) to see state-by-state Earned Income Tax Credit data

Worker Health and Safety: The American Rescue Plan provided \$100 million in new funding for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to help keep vulnerable workers healthy and safe from COVID-19. President Biden's Administration also updated guidance to employers on workplace safety. OSHA launched a national program to focus enforcement efforts to protect high-risk workers from COVID-19 and focus on employers that retaliate against workers with safety concerns.

Federal Workforce:

President Biden expanded protections for federal workers, including putting federal agencies on a path to require a \$15 minimum wage for contractors.

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Workers' Rights and Protections: Strengthening protections for workers, President Biden's Department of Labor rescinded the previous Administration's rules on joint employer and independent contractor status under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Paid Leave: President Biden announced a paid leave tax credit that will offset the cost for employers with fewer than 500 employees to provide full pay for any time their employees need to get a COVID-19 vaccination or recover from that vaccination.

Rebuilding Our International Partnerships

International Agreements: President Biden has restored U.S. leadership on the global stage and brought the U.S. back into the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Paris Climate Accord, acknowledging the necessity of global cooperation to end the COVID-19 pandemic and fight climate change.

Tending to Our Alliances and Protecting National Security: President Biden has employed sanctions to hold Russia accountable for its ongoing malicious activities. He is also building critical partnerships with our allies in the Indo-Pacific region to prioritize the renewal of American jobs and the protection of human rights and democracy as we work to strategically confront China.

Combating the Climate Crisis

Climate Action: In addition to rejoining the Paris Climate Accord, President Biden has positioned the United States to lead the way in addressing the climate crisis, recently pledging to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in at least half by 2030. He also has directed federal agencies to eliminate



fossil fuel subsidies, identify new opportunities for clean energy, and electrify their vehicle fleets.

Environmental Justice: President Biden has created a government-wide Justice40 Initiative to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of federal investments to disadvantaged communities. This effort will help ensure that communities on the front lines of the climate crisis are at the forefront of climate action considerations.

Public Lands and Waters: President Biden has announced ambitious plans to conserve America's lands and waters and has developed a plan to establish a new Civilian Climate Corps and to put a new generation of Americans to work mitigating climate change and restoring our precious public lands. The Biden Administration has also paused new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and offshore waters while a comprehensive review is completed to ensure the programs serve all Americans.

Protecting Dreamers and Vulnerable Immigrants

Safeguarding DACA: President Biden ordered the Department of Homeland Security to preserve and fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provides protections for hundreds of thousands of Dreamers.

Expanding Temporary Protected Status: President Biden granted TPS protections to more than 300,000 nationals from Venezuela and Myanmar, allowing them to temporarily stay in the U.S. rather than return to unrest in their home countries.

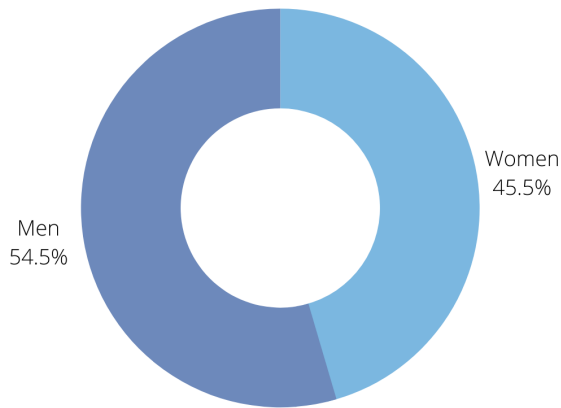
President Biden has
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640,000 Dreamers.

Took Swift Action to End Trump-Era Harmful Policies: President Biden ended the discriminatory Muslim travel bans, established an Interagency Task Force to identify and reunify separated families, and put a stop to diverting money from the Department of Defense for construction of a wasteful and ineffective border wall.

Building a Cabinet for America

In his first 100 days, President Biden and Senate Democrats have filled key positions in the administration, and the President has submitted over 100 highly qualified nominees to the Senate for confirmation. President Biden also has the most diverse cabinet in history, helping to ensure that all Americans are represented and have their voices heard.

President Biden's Cabinet



President Biden's Cabinet

