**American Rescue Plan**

President Joe Biden released details of his administration's first legislative proposal, a $1.9 trillion COVID relief proposal, titled the "American Rescue Plan."

The scale of the plan is more than twice the size of the Obama-era Recovery Act and is modeled on an FDR-style strategy to put our country in a better position than it was before the pandemic hit.

The package, according to the [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/14/us/biden-american-rescue-plan.html), "includes more than $400 billion to combat the pandemic directly, including money to accelerate vaccine deployment and to safely reopen most schools within 100 days. An additional $350 billion would help state and local governments bridge budget shortfalls, while the plan would also include a dramatic increase in tax credits to help lift children, families, and workers out of poverty, $1,400 direct payments to individuals, more generous unemployment benefits, federally mandated paid leave for workers, food and housing aid, and large subsidies for child care costs."

**In his announcement of the plan, Biden said, “The very health of our nation is at stake. We have to act and we have to act now.”**

More than 23 million Americans have contracted COVID-19 and roughly 400,000 have already died.

**It’s critical that members of Congress hear from people in every state across our country. This is a time for action. Congress must start legislating solutions to the economic and health crises caused by the pandemic.**

**This is a historic rescue package to fund vaccinations and contain the virus, deliver direct, immediate relief to those hardest hit, and support struggling communities. The American Rescue Plan includes:**

* A $20 billion national vaccine program with nationwide community vaccination centers.
* Hiring 100,000 additional public health workers for vaccine outreach, contact tracing, and other work to improve care in underserved communities
* An education campaign to persuade people the vaccines are safe and effective
* More money for COVID-19 testing, treatment, and protective supplies
* Increased access to health coverage through subsidies for COBRA for the unemployed and increased Premium Tax Credits to help people afford insurance, as well as expanded mental health and substance use disorder services
* $1,400 stimulus checks on top of the current $600 payments
* Enhanced unemployment insurance benefits
* Increased food assistance in all states and territories for the duration of our current crisis, with automatic triggers for increases during future health or economic crises
* Critical aid to renters, people threatened with or experiencing homelessness, and households unable to pay heat or water bills
* An extension of the eviction and foreclosure moratoria
* Money for small businesses targeted to those hardest hit, including those owned by people of color
* $350 billion for state, local and territorial governments that have seen finances plummet during the pandemic recession, crippling services and causing layoffs
* Funds for public transit agencies
* $170 billion for schools, including roughly $130 billion dedicated toward safe reopening and/or effective remote learning for K-12, and funds to help colleges deal with the shift to distance learning and other pandemic-tied problems.
* Dramatic increases to the Child Tax Credit to $3,000 per child, or $3,600 for a child under 6 years old. (These credits are fully refundable, which means even the poorest families in our country can receive the full benefit. This measure also increases the Earned Income Tax Credit for the poorest workers without dependent children.)
* An increase in the federal minimum wage to $15/hour
* A plan to hire 100,000 public health workers to assist with vaccine distribution, testing, and public outreach
* $20 billion to support Tribal governments’ pandemic response, including health care and increased access to clean water, electricity and broadband
* 14 weeks Paid Sick and Family and Medical Leave

The most recent jobs report shows job losses are continuing—leaving far too many Americans barely scraping by, or falling further and further behind, through no fault of their own as they lose jobs or see smaller paychecks.

**With both houses of Congress controlled by Democrats, and Joe Biden in the White House, we now have an opportunity to pass legislation that reflects our shared priorities and meets the urgency of the moment.**