West Virginians Who Would Benefit from Key Provisions in the Build Back Better Plan: Select Figures

(all numbers are for West Virginia residents)

President Biden and 96 percent of Democrats in the Senate and House are supporting a $3.5 trillion Build Back Better plan that would bring large benefits to poor and working people, to children, and to the environment. This is less than half the $7.5 trillion Pentagon budget. Senator Joe Manchin has proposed cutting the plan by over half to $1.5 trillion. Here are select examples of some of the ways that the full $3.5 trillion plan would help the 1.79 million people of West Virginia:

Job creation: the full program would create an estimated 17,290 new jobs, whereas the reduced Manchin plan would create only 7,410 jobs, a cut of almost 10,000 jobs.

Extension of the Expanded Child Tax Credit in the full program: would benefit 346,000 children (94% of total) and lift 23,000 children above the official poverty line.

Extension of the Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit: would benefit 110,000 workers without children (98,000 White, 8,000 Black, 4,000 other).

Expansion of housing vouchers: would benefit 8,000 people (including 3,000 children and 2,000 people with disabilities).

Universal pre-K and expanded child care support: would extend preschool to all three-year-olds (WV four-year-olds are already covered) and cap child care costs at no more than 7% of household income, saving the typical family $103 per week.

Paid family and medical leave: an additional 88,050 people could take paid leave each year.

Home care for the aging and disabled: would provide affordable long-term home and community-based care to 8,000 people, create 1,300 new home care jobs with good wages and benefits, and allow 2,700 family caregivers to go back to work.

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1 This fact sheet was compiled by the Institute for Policy Studies, 10-19-21.
2 Economic Policy Institute: https://www.epi.org/blog/cutting-the-reconciliation-bill-to-1-5-trillion-would-support-nearly-2-million-fewer-jobs-per-year/
Additional background: WV employment: 52.5% of the civilian population is employed (BLS, August 2021: https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/ststdsadata.txt) That's less than the national figure - 58.5%.
Education and health jobs are 17% of WV's workforce. (Mining, in contrast, is only 2.5% of those employed in the state.) (from BLS, https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/west_virginia.htm) That means the investments in Build Back Better will create jobs in the state as well as help people with more affordable health care and home care and education.
3 CBPP: https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/house-covid-relief-bill-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and
4 CBPP: https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/house-covid-relief-bill-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and
5 CBPP: https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/housing-vouchers-in-economic-recovery-bill-would-sharply-cut-homelessness-
housing#appendix
6 CAP: https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2021/09/22/503993/build-back-better-act-greatly-lowers-
families-child-care-costs/
These figures are from materials related to the Senator Bob Casey's Better Care Better Jobs Act, which includes the HCBS plan in Build Back Better.
Expansion of Medicare to cover dental, vision, and hearing services: would benefit the state’s 441,852 Medicare beneficiaries (of these, 88,900 currently receive limited dental and vision benefits through Medicaid).

Upgrades to Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities and job creation: would benefit the state’s 121,000 veterans.

Ensures the rich and corporations pay their fair share in taxes: The richest 0.3% of West Virginia residents will pay higher income taxes, while people making under $400,000 will not pay higher income taxes.

Right to Vote: Although not part of the Build Back Better Plan, robust voting rights are essential to realizing this agenda. However, in the 2021 legislative session, West Virginia made numerous changes to its election laws that may make it harder to vote.

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12 [https://www.kff.org/medicare/state-indicator/total-medicare-beneficiaries/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22,%22desc%22:%22%7D and https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/dual-eligible-beneficiaries/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22,%22desc%22:%22%7D](https://www.kff.org/medicare/state-indicator/total-medicare-beneficiaries/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22,%22desc%22:%22%7D and https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/dual-eligible-beneficiaries/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22,%22desc%22:%22%7D)