

# Our Communities Need **Environmental Justice** to THRIVE

Communities are facing the overlapping crises of the pandemic, the economic crisis, climate chaos, and chronic racial injustice.

**We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity**

to rebuild our economy in a way that lifts up all people. Congress's next big infrastructure bill could invest billions into neighborhoods across the country, ushering the transformative recovery our communities need to thrive.

**Environmental racism needs broad and immediate federal action,** and those directly impacted must be the beneficiaries of any repair and remediation. Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately exposed to toxic pollution, despite contributing less to the creation of that pollution than white people.

The transformative legislation of the THRIVE Act calls for \$10 trillion over the next 10 years.

**We need investment in frontline communities.**

At least 50 percent of all funding - no less than \$5 trillion - should go to disadvantaged communities facing environmental injustice, including low-income and low-wealth communities of color, Indigenous nations and communities, deindustrialized communities, and communities facing energy transition.

Funding must ensure frontline communities can democratically plan, implement, and govern projects.



**\$105 billion for cleaning up contaminated and polluted sites**

Superfund and brownfield site cleanup; orphaned and abandoned oil and gas well closure; abandoned coal mine reclamation.



**\$111 billion for clean water**

For lead pipe replacement, PFAS pollution remediation, and water system upgrades.



**Penalties for corporate polluters**

For historic, persistent, and concentrated pollution in environmental justice communities - in a way that ensures penalties are paid for by the corporations, not passed through to customers.



**Increased investment in public health**

For public hospitals, mental health care, and care worker services.

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# Our Communities Need **Good Jobs and Workers' Rights** to THRIVE

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**We can create 15.5 million good jobs** that span the agricultural, care services, construction, and manufacturing sectors. But without strong labor standards that empower workers, the jobs could be low-quality, low-paying, and will go overwhelmingly to white men.

**We need labor standards** to ensure that all 15.5 million jobs

- pay a family-sustaining wage
- have significant benefits
- protect workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain.

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## **Good jobs that pay at least \$15 per hour**

Or the prevailing wage for jobs that have one.



## **Good jobs that provide family-sustaining benefits**

Including child care support, paid family leave, paid sick leave, and paid vacation



## **Good jobs that have mandatory equity assessment**

To address discriminatory hiring practices and prioritize local and equitable hiring and contracting.



## **Good jobs that protect workers' rights to organize**

- Protect workers' rights to form and join a labor organization, collectively bargain, strike, and carry out other concerted worker activities.
- Prohibit funding to employers with a history of union busting and misclassifying employees as independent contractors.
- Give preference to employers that recognize and agree to collectively bargain and create pathways of opportunity for historically marginalized groups.

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# Our Communities Need **Indigenous Sovereignty** to THRIVE

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The relationship of the US government to Indigenous Nations has been characterized by hundreds of years of genocide, stolen lands, dishonored Treaties and trust responsibility and underinvestment in Indigenous Nations, and Indigenous Communities.

**Any recovery effort must invest in and clarify the jurisdictional authority of Indigenous Nations**, ensuring that American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages have full Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and can exercise their full civil and adjudicatory authority over all lands and waters within their exterior boundaries and over their off reservation customary rights reserved through Treaties and other agreements.



## **Engage Indigenous Nations and communities**

Require public hearings and direct engagement opportunities for impacted communities and Indigenous communities, codifying the principle of **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent**.

## **Invest Significantly in Indigenous Nations and Communities**

Direct at least 50 percent of all new funding - no less than \$5 trillion - to frontline and impacted communities, with funding set aside for Indigenous Nations and communities.

## **Protect Indigenous culture and values**

By supporting projects that preserve and protect sacred and cultural sites of significance to Indigenous Nations and communities.

## **Provide equitable funding**

For environmental and ecosystems management, clean-up, and remediation of contaminated and hazardous sites on & near Indigenous land.

## **Adequately and equitably addresses violence against Indigenous women**

Including Indigenous trans women and femmes, and Indigenous children, in a manner that is inclusive of the inherent authority of Indigenous Nations with respect to that violence.

## **Invest in housing and community infrastructure**

To address Indigenous Nation housing needs and infrastructure relating to clean water and sustainable waste disposal.

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# Our Communities Need **a Strong Care Economy** to THRIVE

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**Care jobs are crucial to a just transition to a green economy.** Investment in the care sectors of our economy – childcare, residential care, and home healthcare, among others – not only allows for dignity wages and conditions in these vital life sustaining sectors, it also supports thousands of families, including those transitioning out of fossil fuel industries, to have more equitable access to the jobs in the clean energy sector and all aspects of the economy.

**Building a healthy economy includes visibilizing and investing in women workers and care workers** who play such a critical role in the well-being and stability of all our families and communities.

**Care workers are also essential workers who support those most vulnerable in climate disasters.** During and after wildfires, floods, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events, it is often care workers who are our first responders

**Care jobs are green jobs.** Many care jobs – including residential and home care – have small carbon footprints, making them ideal additions to a “green” economy. Public investment in more carbon-intensive care jobs – such as health care in hospitals that may need weatherization upgrades to reduce emissions – can also fund efforts to decarbonize these sectors.



## **\$625 billion investment**

In child care, care for the elderly, and care for people with disabilities. In addition to job creation, funding would increase employment protections, wages, and benefits for care workers.



## **2.2 million additional good care jobs**

With wages no less than \$15 per hour and family sustaining benefits, including child care support, and guaranteed paid, vacation, and sick leave.

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# Our Communities Need **Housing Justice** to THRIVE

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**Housing justice is climate justice.** We can revitalize and expand high-quality affordable housing for millions of people while addressing both the housing crisis and climate crisis. Retrofits to modernize buildings will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving the quality of housing for millions. Climate crisis is already displacing people from their homes nationwide. Thus while we work to improve housing, we must protect people from gentrification and displacement.

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## **\$504 Billion for Affordable Housing**

To modernize all public housing and upgrade homes in low-income communities: weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits, renewable energy installation, electrification, climate resilience, and safety upgrades.



## **Housing Justice Protections**

Investment in impacted communities that ensures upgrades to buildings does not displace any residents or community-serving entities.



## **Investment in Community Land Trusts**

To promote cooperative ownership and the removal of housing from the speculative market.

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# Our Communities Need **Racial Justice** to THRIVE

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**Racial justice is core to a just recovery.** Investments must be targeted to communities who have faced historic discrimination, create processes for communities to engage in funding and governance of projects, and include protections to prevent further harm in communities that have suffered from historic racial inequality.



## **Invest in Communities Facing Racial Injustice**

**At least 50 percent** of all new funding to frontline and disadvantaged communities, including low-income communities of color and Indigenous nations and communities.

## **Give Power to Communities**

To democratically plan, implement, and administer funding and projects, and ensure meaningful involvement in the implementation and governance of proposed activities and investments.

## **Invest in Public Resources**

To remediate polluted sites, and increase equitable access to public health resources and public education opportunities by including educational pathways to high-quality jobs.

## **Screen All Investments for Equity**

To ensure equitable outcomes and prevent disproportionate social, economic or environmental impacts such as displacement, discriminatory hiring, or toxic pollution in impacted communities.

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