

A portrait of President Joe Biden, smiling and looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is standing behind a podium with microphones. The background is a blurred view of the White House interior with gold columns and chandeliers.

# One Year Later, The American Rescue Plan Has Delivered *for* The American People

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On March 11, 2021 President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law, historic legislation that addressed the health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan has been the cornerstone of the American COVID-19 recovery, providing funding for a national vaccination distribution, resources to local communities, reopened schools, and created measures to allow [millions](#) of Americans to safely get back to work. The ARP builds on the strong foundation of the ACA by lowering premiums, expanding coverage, and increasing access to essential health services. Making health insurance more affordable and accessible is more important than ever, as individuals are dealing with [mental](#) and [physical](#) health issues from COVID-19. Measures to increase affordability also reduces racial disparities in health care access.

### **Funded Vaccinations, Kept Schools Safe, Lowered Health Care Costs, and Increased Coverage**

The American Rescue Plan provided funding for national programs and resources to allow Americans to begin to return to pre-pandemic life. The package resulted in the vaccination of more than 3 in 4 individuals, safely reopened schools for children across the country, and made health care more affordable for millions of Americans.

- **Creates A National Vaccination Program.** When President Biden took office in January 2021, only [12 million shots](#) had been administered and 31 million vaccines had been distributed. The Biden Administration and The American Rescue Plan built a program that invested [\\$160 billion](#) to provide supplies, tests, emergency response, and a public health workforce to distribute vaccines as quickly as possible. This resulted in the vaccinations of [more than 3 in 4](#) Americans and prevented [1 million](#) COVID-19 deaths and more [10 million](#) hospitalizations by November of 2021.

	January 20, 2021	March 1, 2022
Americans with at least one shot	<a href="#">10.5 million</a>	<a href="#">253.5 million</a>
Fully vaccinated Americans	<a href="#">1.6 million</a>	<a href="#">215.6 million</a>
Boosted Americans	0	<a href="#">94.2 million</a>

- **Safely Reopens Schools For All Children.** The American Rescue Plan provided [\\$130 billion](#) to reopen the vast majority of schools. This investment provided local and state governments the means to provide resources to districts to alleviate learning



loss and meet the social and emotional needs of students, especially students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities. As of January 2022, [99 percent](#) of public K-12 schools were open for full-time, in-person learning. The Biden administration has also made [millions](#) of COVID-19 tests available each month for schools to ensure the safety of all students, teachers, and school staff.

(Students Enrolled)	February 2021	March 2022
Remote	<a href="#">43 percent</a>	<a href="#">&lt;1 percent</a>
Hybrid	<a href="#">21 percent</a>	<a href="#">&lt;1 percent</a>
In-Person	<a href="#">35 percent</a>	<a href="#">More than 99 percent</a>

- Lowered Health Care Costs.** In the midst of a pandemic, it's more important than ever that all Americans have access to affordable health care. The American Rescue Plan expanded upon the Affordable Care Act by guaranteeing coverage that costs less than [8.5 percent](#) of income, eliminating premiums for those making [150 percent](#) of the federal poverty level, and expanding eligibility for premium tax credits for those making up to [400 percent](#) of the FPL.
- Expanded Coverage To More Than 30 Million Americans.** Because of the ACA, [more than 30 million](#) Americans have health coverage through the Marketplace, Medicaid, or CHIP.
- Provided More Than 14.5 Million People With Coverage Through The Individual Market.** In 2021, [14.5 million](#) people signed up for health coverage through the ACA Marketplace. This is the highest number of Americans to ever enroll in a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) and it is thanks to President Biden's [American Rescue Plan](#). Premium savings under the American Rescue Plan benefit all Americans, with families now saving an average of [\\$2,400](#) a year on their health insurance premiums.

### **Provided Economic Solutions For American Families And Communities**

The American Rescue Plan included provisions to help Americans struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 caused the loss of [over 20 million jobs](#) and peaked at a 14.8 percent unemployment rate in April 2020. The package provided direct relief to families, children, and communities causing the unemployment rate to drop to 4 percent and drastically [reducing poverty](#) across the country. The American economy is currently on track to [recoup all of the jobs](#) lost during the pandemic by the end of 2022. Without the ARP, it would have taken the U.S. an additional four years to recover economically.

- Increased Child Tax Credit And Earned Income Tax Credit.** The American Rescue Plan [increased](#) the Child Tax Credit to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 per child under 6



years old) through the end of December 2021. This allowed a family of four to receive an additional \$3,200 to help cover the costs of raising children during a pandemic and reduced child poverty by 4 percent – keeping [3 million](#) children out of poverty. 17 million workers will also benefit from the increased Earned Income Tax Credit. Frontline workers will directly benefit, each receiving as much as \$1,000 from the credit.

- **Expanded Unemployment Coverage.** After the loss of [over 20 million](#) jobs, Congress enacted temporary unemployment benefits to help the millions of Americans suffering from a weak unemployment insurance system. The package expanded who was eligible for unemployment benefits and increased the weekly Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefit by \$600, then later \$300. People who lost their jobs were also given additional time to find work via Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation expansion. Currently, the American economy is on track to [recoup all of the jobs](#) lost during the pandemic by the end of 2022. Without the ARP, it would have taken the U.S. an additional four years to recover economically.

	January 2021	February 2022
Jobs Added	<a href="#">49,000</a>	<a href="#">678,000</a>

- **Invested In Small Businesses.** The American Rescue Plan provided [\\$350 billion](#) in state and local funding to help struggling small businesses. Communities used ARP funds to revitalize local communities by building long needed infrastructure in business districts to attract entrepreneurs to the area. Local municipalities also used funding to assist existing businesses with technical and capital assistance, such as providing outdoor dining options to help locally owned restaurants adapt to COVID-19 safety measures.

### **Addressed Racial Disparities In Access To COVID-19 Resources**

Measures in the American Rescue Plan have had profound impacts in reducing racial disparities in access to COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and care. In addition to expanding health care access, the American Rescue Plan includes funding to provide health services and economic stability to underserved populations. Despite significant progress after the implementation of the ACA, Black and Hispanic adults are [more likely](#) than white adults to have low incomes and face financial barriers to receiving care, making the ARP essential to health equity.

- **Vaccine Distributions Helped Underserved Populations.** Efforts to increase vaccination distribution will be especially beneficial in communities of color and hard



to reach populations. Based on states reporting [vaccination data](#) by race and ethnicity, Black and Hispanic people received smaller shares of vaccinations compared to their shares of cases and deaths and compared to their proportions of the total population in early 2021. Following the passage of the American Rescue Plan, vaccination rates of Black and Hispanic people have [increased](#), but continued at a slower rate than their white counterparts. As of January 2022, 55 percent of Black populations and 62 percent of Hispanic populations are vaccinated.

- **Reduced Poverty And Food Insufficiency In Communities Of Color.** The American Rescue Plan expanded lifeline policies such as unemployment benefits and the Homeowners Assistance Fund that helped reduce poverty by an estimated [34 percent](#) in Black communities and 39 percent in Hispanic communities. The expansion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also helped the approximately [1 in 5](#) Black families struggling with food insecurity.
- **Boosted Funding For Community Health Centers In Minority Communities.** COVID-19 has hit communities of color [much harder](#) than others. The American Rescue Plan includes [\\$7.6 billion](#) for Community Health Centers, critical sources of care for underserved populations. This has resulted in [millions of Americans](#) receiving vaccinations from federally funded health centers in rural communities with large underserved populations.