

West Virginia Specific Benefits of Build Back Better

Following is a list of benefits that a coalition of organizations supporting the proposed legislation claims will help West Virginians of all ages.

Child Tax Credit + Earned Income Tax Credit

- [13% of West Virginia children live in poverty](#), and over [300,000](#) qualify for expanded Child Tax Credit payments.
- [93% of West Virginia children](#) would benefit from permanent expansion of the child tax credit.
- Without the Build Back Better Act, eligible West Virginia single parents and married parents will [miss out on](#) up to \$5,450 or \$3,800 a year, respectively, from expanded Child Tax Credits that they could use to pay bills and put food on the table.
- The Build Back Better Act [would extend the expanded Child Tax Credit](#) of \$300 per month per child under 6, or \$250 per month per child ages 6 to 17.
- Without the Build Back Better Act, 103,000 working West Virginians will miss out on [up to \\$1,500 in tax cuts](#) from the extension of the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit.

Child Care

- Without Build Back Better, West Virginia will lose the chance to create and support an estimated [6,010 new jobs](#) in child care over 10 years.
- Without Build Back Better, West Virginia married parents will miss out on [average savings](#) of up to \$5,750 a year on child care costs; single parents could save up to \$5,850 a year.
- The Build Back Better Act could [provide child care access](#) to about 94,170 low-income West Virginia children, and ensure families pay no more than 7% of their income for high-quality child care.

Elder Care + Home & Community Based Services (HCBS)

- Without Build Back Better's investments in services to support older people and people living with disabilities, West Virginia will lose the chance to [create and support 12,200 new jobs each year](#) over ten years.

- These investments would also add an estimated [\\$3.3 million in additional income each year](#) for current workers and their families in West Virginia.

Universal Pre-K

- Only about 25% of West Virginia 3- and 4-year-olds have [access to publicly-funded preschool](#); preschool in West Virginia cost about \$8,600 per year for those who couldn't access a publicly-funded program.
- Without Build Back Better, West Virginia will miss out on [expanded access to free preschool](#) for over 27,753 additional 3- and 4-year-olds, as well as improved quality of education for those already enrolled.
- The Build Back Better Act would raise wages for child care and pre-k workers, leading to an overall [increase in wages of \\$5.4 million](#) to these West Virginia workers.

Black Lung

- Funding rates for the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund [expired](#) on December 31, 2021, causing a 55% reduction in funding.
- The reduction in funding comes as black lung disease among coal miners has risen to historically unprecedented levels. The incidence rate of black lung has [doubled nationwide since 2000](#) and [1 in 5 coal miners](#) in Central Appalachia now have the disease.
- The Build Back Better would [extend full funding rates](#) for the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund through December 31, 2025.

Clean Energy

- West Virginia is home to [8,996 clean energy jobs](#); the Build Back Better Act would set the U.S. on a course to reduce up to 52% of greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2030, [continuing to support and create these good-paying West Virginia jobs](#).
- Without the Build Back Better Act's investments in clean energy, West Virginia would miss out on [over 34,080 jobs](#) making West Virginia homes and businesses more energy efficient.

- The Build Back Better Act would make [historic investments](#) in clean energy technologies, and help middle class families save money transitioning to clean energy electrification.

Paid Leave

- Nearly 186,000 West Virginians worked in frontline industries, facing [challenges managing family caregiving needs](#).
- Failure to pass Build Back Better would remove [an additional \\$79 million annually in West Virginians' paychecks through](#) wage replacement and increased economic activity.
- The Build Back Better Act would permanently authorize the [first-ever national paid family and medical leave guarantee](#), providing up to four weeks of paid leave.

Child Hunger

- In West Virginia, [21% of children](#) live in food insecure households.
- Without Build Back Better, West Virginia will miss out on [expanded access to free school meals](#) for an additional 38,000 West Virginia students, and summer lunch programs for 204,542 students.

Housing

- 83,000 West Virginians are [rent burdened](#), spending over 30% of their income on rent; renters have to work [1.7 full time jobs 68 hours per week earning minimum wage](#) to afford a 2-bedroom rental home.
- The Build Back Better Act would [expand rental and down payment assistance](#) for West Virginians, supporting an estimated [over 2,800 good-paying jobs](#) in just the first year.

Health Care

- Without the Build Back Better Act, an estimated [441,852 West Virginians](#) will remain without guaranteed or expanded Medicare coverage of hearing benefits.

- The Build Back Better Act would also extend premium tax credits so that 20,800 West Virginians can continue to save hundreds of dollars a year on premium costs, a national average of \$600.

Prescription Drugs

- The average cost of prescription drug treatments increased 26.3%, while the annual income for West Virginians only increased 10.4%, resulting in an estimated 24% of West Virginians not taking medications as prescribed due to high costs.
- The Build Back Better Act would help ensure that drug costs do not increase faster than inflation by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.
- 251,038 West Virginians live with diabetes; the Build Back Better Act could lower the price of insulin from \$600 to \$35.

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