

CONFRONTING URGENT CRISES AND DELIVERING HISTORIC PROGRESS

When the President took office, the United States was confronting overlapping crises of unprecedented scope and scale: a once-in-a-century pandemic; a sharp economic downturn; an accelerating climate crisis; and a legacy of persistent inequity. On day one of his Administration, the President immediately got to work leveraging

every tool at his disposal to tackle these crises head-on—mobilizing the Nation around an ambitious agenda to deliver results for working families. Under the President’s leadership—and thanks to the grit and resilience of the American people in the face of significant challenges—America has made historic progress.

POWERING A HISTORIC ECONOMIC RESURGENCE

When the President took office, he faced an economy that was struggling to recover from the most severe downturn since the Great Depression. The unemployment rate stood at 6.4 percent, with 10 million Americans unable to find a job. Factoring in workers who dropped out of the labor force or couldn’t find full-time work, the unemployment rate was closer to 11 percent. Between February 2020 and January 2021, the labor force participation rate for women dropped by 3.7 percent overall, 6.4 percent for Black women, and 7.1 percent for Hispanic women, undoing more than 35 years of progress in labor force participation. More than 18 million Americans were receiving unemployment benefits, and more than half of the unemployed had been without a job for more than 15 weeks. Thousands of small businesses—the backbone of the American economy—were forced to close their doors, some permanently. Millions of Americans reported that they were struggling to pay their rent or mortgage, put food on the table, and cover basic expenses.

In the face of these challenges, the President took decisive action—not only to put a floor under the immediate economic fallout, but to begin

rebuilding the economy from the bottom-up and the middle-out. The President’s strategy helped rescue the economy, delivered urgently needed relief to families and small businesses, fueled record-breaking economic growth and job creation, and bolstered American competitiveness and manufacturing.

Fueling Record-Breaking Economic Growth and Job Creation

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (American Rescue Plan) and the President’s vaccination program, the American economy is recovering faster than other advanced economies around the world, with record-breaking economic growth and job creation. In 2021, the Administration achieved the best record of job creation in American history, with the single largest calendar year decrease in the unemployment rate on record. As of February 2022, the unemployment rate had fallen to 3.8 percent. Prior to passage of the American Rescue Plan, the Congressional Budget Office did not project the unemployment rate dropping to 3.8 percent at any point over this entire decade. Since the

President took office, the economy has created 7.4 million jobs. The number of long-term unemployed Americans decreased by two million during the President's first year in office—a record decline. More than 1.6 million women have reentered the workforce.

As more Americans have gotten back to work, the economy has come roaring back to life. In 2021, the American economy grew at 5.7 percent, the fastest rate in nearly four decades. For the first time in 20 years, the economy grew faster than China's. Applications for new small businesses increased 30 percent since before the pandemic. Retail sales rose by \$90 billion. Between the American Rescue Plan's tax cuts for families that are raising children and rising wages for middle class families, the average American had more money in their pocket each month in 2021 than they did in 2020—after accounting for inflation.

Strengthening Supply Chains, Promoting Competition, and Bolstering Manufacturing

To sustain and build on this economic momentum, the President has taken aggressive actions to address other global challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and expand the productive capacity of the economy—strengthening domestic supply chains, promoting competition and innovation to help lower prices, and bolstering American manufacturing.

In the face of global supply chain bottlenecks and global inflation, last year the President issued an Executive Order 14017, "America's Supply Chains," to strengthen the Nation's supply chains and launched the Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force to address disruptions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to those efforts, more cargo is moving through American ports than at any time in the Nation's history. The number of containers sitting on the docks at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach—two of the largest ports in America—for more than eight days has been cut by more than 70 percent since the beginning of November 2021. Holiday

sales surged 14 percent last year—a new record. Despite dire predictions about delivery delays at the end of last year, holiday season delivery times dropped below their pre-pandemic levels, while retail inventories hit an all-time record. In addition, the Administration's Action Plan for America's Ports and Waterways and Trucking Action Plan to Strengthen America's Trucking Workforce continue to help American port operators move a record amount of goods from ships to shelves as quickly as possible and connect more Americans to good jobs in the trucking industry.

The President has also taken key steps to promote greater competition, protect consumers, and lower prices. In July 2021, the President signed a historic Executive Order 14036, "Promoting Competition in the American Economy," to encourage competition across industries, including travel, healthcare, food, internet service, and more. Executive Order 14036 includes 72 initiatives by more than a dozen Federal agencies to promptly tackle some of the most pressing competition problems across the economy. In the months since, the Administration has worked to lower prices for hearing aids and has taken on meat processors that are raking in record profits while raising prices for consumers at the grocery store. Also, enforcement agencies like the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have taken strong actions to protect consumers from anti-competitive mergers that could have raised prices for consumers and businesses.

The President has also relentlessly focused on implementing an industrial strategy to revitalize America's manufacturing base. During his first week in office, the President signed Executive Order 14005, "Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers," that created the first-ever Made in America Office within the Office of Management and Budget and launched a Government-wide initiative to leverage the Federal Government's procurement power to support American manufacturing and American workers. To help translate that commitment into action, the President announced the most robust changes to the Buy American Act of

1933 in more than 70 years—raising the domestic content threshold, strengthening domestic supply chains for critical goods, and increasing transparency and accountability. Since the President took office, the economy has added more than 423,000 new manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing as a

share of Gross Domestic Product has returned to pre-pandemic levels. In recent months, major companies have announced significant investments in new manufacturing lines and factories that will create thousands of good-paying jobs in the United States.

MOUNTING A FORCEFUL RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

In January 2021, the United States lacked the tools to fully protect people against COVID-19. Less than one percent of Americans—some two million people—were fully vaccinated. Less than half of our Nation’s schools were open for in-person instruction. Zero at-home tests were on the market. The Nation faced shortages of protective equipment for frontline workers and didn’t have enough vaccines, vaccinators, or locations where people could get vaccinated. Meanwhile, the rapid spread of the virus had disrupted the education of millions of students, forced an estimated 1-in-4 child care providers to close their doors, taken a significant toll on Americans’ mental health, produced a massive surge in domestic violence incidents and overdose deaths, worsened food and housing insecurity, and deepened longstanding health inequities in communities across the Nation.

From the day he took office, the President has been unrelenting in his focus on ensuring that the American people have the tools necessary to protect themselves against COVID-19: more vaccines, boosters, tests, masks, and treatments. Through the American Rescue Plan, the Administration secured \$160 billion to support the President’s vaccination program, therapeutics, testing and mitigation, personal protective equipment, and the broader COVID-19 response. These resources have played a key role in preventing hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 and combatting the Delta and Omicron variants.

As a result of these efforts, the United States is moving forward safely. As of March 2022, more than 216 million Americans—including more than 75 percent of adults—had been fully vaccinated. Vaccines are approved or authorized for

all Americans five years of age and older. There are more than 90,000 vaccination locations in communities across the Nation, with 90 percent of Americans living within five miles of a site. The Administration is securing millions of doses of a highly effective pill to treat COVID-19. In addition, the President’s focus on equity is delivering results: the latest CDC data show that gaps in vaccination rates among Latino, Black, and White adults have been effectively closed.

After a year of children falling behind on learning, the President took action to open schools and get kids and teachers back into their classrooms. The American Rescue Plan provided \$130 billion to schools to allow for their safe operation and address the COVID-19 pandemic’s impacts on learning, as well as an additional \$10 billion to support COVID-19 testing. The Administration has also ensured schools have the flexibility and resources they need to ensure children are fed healthy meals. As a result, about 99 percent of schools are now open, full-time and in person—up from just 46 percent when the President took office. This progress has been crucial to ensuring that all students can safely be back where they belong—learning alongside their peers—and to helping them recover from any learning loss or mental health setbacks they experienced since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the Administration combats the COVID-19 pandemic at home, the United States is also leading the international effort to respond to the Global COVID-19 pandemic and vaccinate the world. At the President’s direction, the United States has committed to donating 1.2 billion vaccine doses for free with no strings attached—the largest commitment in the world—and has

already shipped 500 million doses to 112 countries, four times more doses than any other country. The Administration is also working to expand access to tests, treatments, and personal protective equipment globally. These efforts are saving lives, improving our national and economic security, and helping prevent the emergence and spread of other dangerous variants and future biological catastrophes like pandemics.

Delivering Urgent Relief

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, the Administration quickly mobilized vital resources to help families and small businesses weather the worst of the pandemic and create a bridge to an economic recovery.

In 2021, the Administration delivered more than 175 million economic impact payments of \$1,400 to the vast majority of Americans—totaling over \$400 billion in relief. The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit for families of more than 61 million children, with up to \$3,600 available for families with children under six, and \$3,000 for families with children 6 to 17 years old. For the first time—and beginning just four months after the American Rescue Plan’s passage—these payments were made on a monthly basis, providing a reliable boost to working families to help cover essential expenses. The American Rescue Plan also helped make quality health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act more affordable than ever—with

families saving an average of \$2,400 on their annual premiums, and 4 out of 5 consumers finding quality coverage for under \$10 a month.

At the same time, the American Rescue Plan provided funding to all 50 States and more than 34,000 cities, towns, and counties to help prevent layoffs and get workers back on the job. It provided \$28 billion through the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) to help more than 100,000 restaurants and bars keep their doors open. The RRF was part of the more than \$450 billion in emergency relief delivered to more than six million small businesses in 2021 through the Administration’s implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program, COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, the COVID EIDL Targeted and Supplemental Advance programs, and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants program.

The Administration also implemented the Emergency Rental Assistance program, which delivered 3.8 million payments totaling over \$33 billion to eligible households in 2021. Over 80 percent of the assistance was delivered to lowest-income households (those earning 50 percent of area median income and below). As a result of these efforts, the Administration has built a nationwide infrastructure for rental assistance and eviction prevention, helping keep eviction filings below 60 percent of historical levels and preventing households from experiencing further economic setbacks associated with housing insecurity.

DELIVERING PROGRESS AT HOME

Under the President’s leadership, our Nation has not only risen to meet urgent crises, but we have begun building a better and more resilient America. Since taking office, the President has advanced an agenda to bring more dignity, opportunity, security, and prosperity to working families across the Nation—from rebuilding America’s infrastructure and laying a new foundation for growth, to taking historic action to combat the

climate crisis, to embedding equity as a priority across the Federal Government.

Rebuilding America’s Crumbling Infrastructure

After decades of talk in Washington about rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, last year

the President worked with members of both parties in the Congress to pass and sign into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)—a once-in-a-generation investment in our Nation’s infrastructure and competitiveness that will help build a better America, create good-paying union jobs, ease inflationary pressures, and grow the economy sustainably and equitably so that everyone has the chance to get ahead for decades to come.

For the up to 10 million American households that lack safe drinking water, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$55 billion to deliver clean water to all American families and eliminate the Nation’s lead service lines—including in tribal, rural, and disadvantaged communities. To ensure that every American has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet, it invests a historic \$65 billion for broadband deployment to help lower the cost of internet service and to close the digital divide. To fix and rebuild our roads and bridges, it reauthorizes surface transportation programs for five years and makes the single largest investment in repairing and reconstructing our Nation’s bridges since the construction of the interstate highway system.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also: includes crucial resources to improve transportation options for millions of Americans and reduce greenhouse emissions through the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history; upgrades the Nation’s airports and ports to strengthen domestic supply chains; makes the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak; builds a national network of electric vehicle chargers; makes our Nation’s infrastructure resilient against the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks, and extreme weather events; and includes more for our Nation.

In the months since the President signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law into law, the Administration has hit the ground running to deliver results. Already, the Administration has mobilized resources to: connect tribal Nations to reliable, affordable high-speed internet; replace, repair, and rehabilitate bridges across the Nation;

upgrade critical infrastructure at 3,075 airports; update America’s aging water infrastructure, sewerage systems, pipes and service lines; and stop toxic waste from harming communities.

Taking Aggressive Action to Tackle the Climate Crisis

When the President took office, he made tackling the climate crisis a central priority across the entire Federal Government. At his direction, the Administration has launched an unprecedented effort to reduce climate pollution while creating good-paying union jobs, advancing environmental justice, strengthening the Nation’s resilience, and protecting public health.

On the first day of his Administration, the President rejoined the Paris Agreement. The President set an ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas pollution 50 to 52 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, while rallying countries around the world to make their own bold contributions. At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the President launched the *U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan* in support of the Global Methane Pledge of September 18, 2021 (Global Methane Pledge) to reduce the world’s methane emissions 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030. To advance the global phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons, the President secured domestic action to reduce emissions of these super pollutants by 85 percent within 15 years. Also, to reward clean manufacturing in the global marketplace, the President announced a groundbreaking commitment to negotiate the world’s first carbon-based arrangement on steel and aluminum trade with the European Union.

The President also set a target to eliminate carbon pollution from the electricity sector by 2035 and is fast-tracking clean energy—including the launch of the American offshore wind industry, with the first approvals of large-scale projects on the path to 30 gigawatts by 2030. The President’s support for innovation and deployment of wind, solar, storage, transmission, and more is creating good-paying union jobs and lowering energy bills

for consumers. To jumpstart an electric transportation future that's Made in America, the President brought together automakers and autoworkers around a new ambitious goal for 50 percent electric vehicle sales share in 2030. The President also launched a Federal Sustainability Plan to lead by example through the Federal Government's vehicle fleet, buildings, and purchasing power. The President has pursued new climate-smart agriculture and forestry initiatives, protections for cherished monuments and habitats, and the America the Beautiful initiative to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. Also, the President launched whole-of-Government efforts to build resilience to intensifying climate impacts, protect the economy and financial systems from climate-related financial risks, and secured emergency funding last year to help communities recover from disasters and related crop losses.

The President is also making good on his Justice40 commitment to deliver 40 percent of the benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities to build their economies. To create good-paying union jobs in hard-hit energy communities, the President has driven Federal resources to coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities. The President made environmental justice and economic revitalization a centerpiece of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes the largest investment in addressing legacy pollution in American history, including capping orphaned oil and gas wells that are major sources of methane emissions and local air pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency has committed to cleanup and clear the backlog of 49 previously unfunded Superfund sites and accelerate cleanup at dozens of other sites across the Nation.

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Administration also secured the largest investments ever in the Nation's water infrastructure, power grid, public transit, and resilience. The law will help replace lead service lines and reduce exposure to the dangerous per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemical substances. It will make communities safer and our infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change and

cyber-attacks, with an investment of over \$50 billion to protect against droughts, heat, floods, and wildfires, in addition to a major investment in weatherization. It invests more than \$65 billion through the Department of Energy to upgrade our power infrastructure, facilitate the expansion of renewables and clean energy, and fund new programs to support the development, demonstration, and deployment of cutting-edge clean energy technologies to accelerate our transition to a zero-emission economy. Also, it will deliver thousands of electric school buses nationwide, including in rural communities, helping school districts across the Nation buy clean, American-made, zero-emission buses, and replace the yellow school bus fleet for America's children.

Advancing Equity across the Economy and Nation

The promise of our Nation is that every American has an equal chance to live to their full potential. Yet persistent systemic inequities and barriers to opportunity have denied this promise for so many. That is why the President has taken historic steps to put equity at the center of his agenda—and why the President assembled the most diverse cabinet in American history to deliver on this Government-wide effort.

Beginning on his first day in office, the President took a series of landmark executive actions to advance equity. The President signed a day-one Executive Order 13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government," on advancing equity and racial justice across the Federal Government; a day-one Executive Order 13988, "Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation," directing Federal agencies to extend protections against discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, upon which agencies have already acted in the areas of housing, lending services, education, healthcare, and more; and Executive Order 14035, "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce," on advancing diversity, equity,

inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) across the Federal workforce. In the months since, Federal agencies have been hard at work implementing these orders—delivering more equitable external work, revised DEIA policies and trainings, and updated civil rights guidance and regulations.

The Administration set a Government-wide goal of increasing the share of Federal contracts to small disadvantaged businesses, including those owned by people of color, by 50 percent by 2025—which would translate to an increase of \$100 billion to these firms over five years. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made permanent the Minority Business Development Agency, the only Federal entity focused exclusively on promoting growth and competitiveness of minority-owned businesses, and elevated the head of the Agency to the Under Secretary level. The Administration provided \$32 billion specifically for tribal communities and Native Americans as part of the American Rescue Plan, as well as \$13 billion in direct investments in tribal communities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Also, the American Rescue Plan’s \$122 billion Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, in addition to providing critically needed funds to safely reopen and operate schools and support students, included landmark maintenance of equity requirements that protected high-poverty districts and schools from disproportionate funding reductions and the highest poverty districts from any reductions.

On International Women’s Day in March 2021, the President signed Executive Order 14020, “Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council,” establishing the first White House Gender Policy Council within the Executive Office of the President and charged the office with leading a Government-wide effort to advance gender equity and equality. To guide that work, last year the Administration issued the first ever *National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality* in the United States to advance equal opportunity for people of all genders—now, agencies are developing action plans to achieve their top priorities for advancing gender equity and equality. The Administration has also: taken critical steps to

eliminate racial disparities in maternal health; advanced historic military justice reform; deployed resources from the American Rescue Plan for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and services; and announced bold commitments to advance women’s economic security, gender-based violence prevention and response, and sexual and reproductive health and rights both at home and around the world.

The President has also moved decisively to condemn racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans (AA) and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI). In his first week in office, the President signed a Presidential Memorandum establishing an official policy to ensure the Federal Government stands up against racism, xenophobia, nativism, and bias. The memorandum directed all Federal agencies to take steps to ensure their actions mitigate anti-Asian bias and xenophobia, especially in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and charged DOJ to partner with AA and NHOPI communities to respond to and prevent hate crimes and violence. In May 2021, the President signed into law the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, bipartisan legislation that makes significant improvements to the Nation’s response to hate crimes.

The Administration is also creating opportunity and building wealth in rural communities. For example, the American Rescue Plan’s Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund has enabled States to invest in critical rural broadband and water infrastructure. In addition, the Administration’s efforts to strengthen the food system through American Rescue Plan funding are opening up new markets for farmers and ranchers in rural America and supporting a fairer, more competitive, and more resilient meat and poultry supply chain. The Administration is also working to keep rural hospitals open, supporting rural providers, expanding rural health-care coverage, and making it more affordable than ever, with nearly 700,000 rural Americans gaining coverage through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2021 alone and families saving an average of \$2,400 per year due to the American Rescue Plan.

RESTORING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ON THE WORLD STAGE

As the President has restored the Nation's strength at home, he has revitalized our alliances and partnerships around the world, brought American leadership to bear on the defining issues of our time, and invested in our military advantage. The President has prioritized strategic competition with China and worked with allies and partners to resist coercion and deter aggression from Beijing and Moscow, and ended America's 20-year war in Afghanistan while removing all U.S. troops. The President has led a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and made historic investments to confront the climate crisis. As the United States enters what will be a decisive decade, the President is positioning America to win the competition for the 21st Century.

The President strengthened our foundational partnership with Europe on the full range of global challenges, including climate, health security, trade and technology, and our collective and decisive response to Russian aggression against Ukraine. In the Indo-Pacific, America is strengthening its role and expanding its cooperation with longtime allies and partners, including new diplomatic, defense and security, critical and emerging technology and supply chain, and climate and global health initiatives, while supporting stronger ties between our European and Indo-Pacific allies. Closer to home, the United States has invested in relationships in the Western Hemisphere, including by reviving the North American Leaders' Summit to consult with neighboring countries, committing to work together on major regional migration efforts, and collaborating on health security, democratic renewal, and shared economic growth. In the Middle East and North Africa, the United States is working to de-escalate tensions, curb Iran's destabilizing activities, and help regional partners lay the foundation for greater security, prosperity, and opportunity for their people. The United States is partnering with African nations and publics to solve problems of common interest—from health security to shared economic prosperity to countering

terrorism—mindful of the continent's importance to critical global issues.

From his first days in office, the President has restored U.S. leadership to the most significant global challenges of our time. At the President's direction, the United States has served as the world's vaccine arsenal, pledging more than 1.2 billion COVID-19 vaccines to countries around the world, providing lifesaving supplies, and hosting a Global COVID-19 Summit to build better health security for the future. The President renewed U.S. leadership on climate, including by rejoining the Paris Agreement. Alongside the Group of Seven partners, the United States launched the Build Back Better World Initiative to meet the developing world's infrastructure needs transparently, sustainably, and with high standards. The President convened 110 governments in the first Summit for Democracy to catalyze action to strengthen democracy at home and abroad. The United States rejoined and reinforced international institutions such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Human Rights Council. In addition, the Administration reprioritized cybersecurity by strengthening resilience at home and accelerating cooperation with allies and the private sector.

Under the President's leadership, the United States has resolved significant trade disputes, including on airplanes, steel, and aluminum, and protected American workers by centering them in our foreign policy. Last year, the United States rallied more than 100 countries to join the Global Methane Pledge to cut emissions by 30 percent by 2030. In addition to fueling the global economic recovery, America secured a historic win for workers and middle-class families through the agreement of 130 countries to support a global minimum tax for the world's largest corporations.

As America leads with diplomacy, we are also investing in our military—the strongest fighting force the world has ever known. We are investing in our warfighting advantages, understanding

that a combat-credible military is the foundation of deterrence and America's ability to prevail in conflict. At the same time, the United States is making disciplined choices about the use of military force and focusing its attention on the

military's primary responsibilities: to defend the homeland; deter conflict; and to fight and win the Nation's wars, while remaining committed to the wellbeing of its servicemembers and their families.