
HOW TO BUILD BACK BETTER

A 10-Year Plan
for Economic Renewal



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over 10 million people are out of work, another six million people are underemployed, and yet another seven million people who want a job have given up trying to find one. Unemployment among low-income households is hovering around Great Depression levels. Job losses have been particularly acute for women, and the unemployment rate for Black and Latinx workers remains more than 50 percent higher than for white workers. Due to economic hardship, more than one in three families with children cannot afford adequate food, one in five households could not pay last month's rent, and over half of all households are having difficulty covering expenses.

To tackle this economic crisis, we cannot simply reopen the economy and hope things return to “normal.” “Normal” was fundamentally unjust, unhealthy, and unstable. Thanks to decades of “normal” conditions, millions of people — particularly in Black and Latinx communities — breathe in air pollution that increases the risks of COVID-19, earn as much in one year as Jeff Bezos makes in 20 seconds, and are forced to grapple with increasing climate-related storms, droughts, and fires.

We have to do better than “normal.” We need to put millions of people back to work building a healthier, more equitable, clean energy economy that leaves no one behind. The THRIVE Agenda outlines a plan to do just that. Backed by over 100 members of Congress and hundreds of union, racial justice, climate, and other grassroots groups, the THRIVE Agenda offers Congress an eight-pillar blueprint for economy-wide investments. To “build back better” instead of reverting to the unjust status quo, Congress needs to pass a THRIVE-aligned economic renewal plan that is as comprehensive as the crises we face.

A new economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute reveals that a bold, THRIVE-aligned economic renewal plan would **provide family-sustaining jobs for 15.5 million people for the next 10 years** — enough to essentially end the unemployment crisis — while building an economy that fosters cleaner air and water, higher wages, healthier communities, greater equity, and a more stable climate. Here's the sectoral breakdown of the 15.5 million new jobs:

- ▶ Over 5.2 million new jobs to upgrade our infrastructure for clean water, clean transportation, and clean energy;
- ▶ Over 4.1 million new jobs to expand renewable energy and increase energy efficiency;
- ▶ Over 3.9 million new jobs to restore our lands and invest in regenerative agriculture; and
- ▶ Over 2.3 million new jobs to care for children and the elderly and provide essential services.
- ▶ Economy-wide, nearly 1.6 million jobs would be created to manufacture the goods needed for all of the above investments.

This economic renewal plan would help us simultaneously tackle the multiple, mutually reinforcing crises that we face: public health, joblessness, inequity, and climate change. It would reduce the air pollution that is exacerbating COVID-19 risks, particularly in communities of color. It would counteract the gross levels of racial, economic, and gender inequity that the COVID crisis has magnified by ensuring that those hardest hit get priority access to economic and environmental benefits. While putting people back to work, this plan also would put us on a path to climate stability by enabling at least a 45 percent reduction in U.S. climate pollution by 2030, in line with targets set by climate scientists. Here are a few specific examples:



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- ▶ To bolster our transition to a **100% clean energy economy**, stimulus investments could help many of the over 400,000 unemployed clean energy workers get their jobs back, while over 190,000 unemployed oil and gas workers could be employed to close orphaned oil and gas wells.
- ▶ A single program to exchange gas guzzlers for **affordable, clean electric vehicles** would yield over 635,000 jobs — nearly the entire population of Detroit — including over 77,000 good manufacturing jobs to produce the vehicles.
- ▶ Over 500,000 workers could be employed to **upgrade all public housing units, schools, hospitals and low-income homes nationwide** to support healthier living conditions, lower energy bills, and reduced pollution.
- ▶ Over 350,000 workers could be employed to replace lead pipes and secure **clean drinking water**.
- ▶ Over 225,000 people could be employed to **protect our wetlands and forests and shield communities from toxic pollution** by restoring ecosystems and Superfund, Brownfield, and coal mine sites.

To employ 15.5 million people for five years, this economic recovery plan would cost less than \$5 trillion. That is less than the amount that the U.S. government committed in coronavirus spending in just March and April

of 2020. With the cost of borrowing at rock bottom, this is a small price to pay to offer economic security to millions of unemployed people while charting a path toward a society that is healthier, more just, and less prone to crisis.

The quality of the jobs created through this economic renewal plan is just as important as the quantity of jobs. Stimulus investments must be subject to **high-road labor standards** to ensure that the jobs created are family-sustaining careers that offer workers a dignified and meaningful livelihood and lasting economic security. To chart a path to a more equitable society, these jobs must be made accessible to all people. In addition, **equitable hiring practices and targeted investments** must be used to prioritize job creation, improved health outcomes, and environmental benefits for low-income communities, communities of color, women, and others who are bearing the brunt of the economic, health, and climate crises. Finally, to yield a healthier and more stable future, stimulus investments also **must address climate change and toxic pollution**. The materials, operations, and end use of projects must uphold environmental standards that reduce pollution and increase climate resilience for communities.

To see why it is essential to attach strong labor, equity, and environmental standards to stimulus investments, we



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can examine what would happen without such standards. In short, such a stimulus would reinforce the unjust status quo instead of counteracting persistent economic, racial, and gender inequity. The analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute offers some examples:

- ▶ **Job Quality:** While investments would create high-quality careers in some areas, without strong labor standards, certain job types would suffer from low salaries, inadequate benefits coverage, and very little union protection. For example, investments in surface transportation, regenerative agriculture, and the care economy — three of the biggest job creators — would pay salaries 40 percent to 70 percent lower than the national average salary. Meanwhile, certain investments would create jobs with health benefits for less than 40 percent of workers and retirement benefits for less than a third of workers. Absent additional measures, most jobs created also would not be unionized, particularly in industries where union density dips as low as 3 percent. To ensure that new jobs offer family-sustaining salaries and benefits and access to a union, a stimulus package must require **prevailing wage standards, use of project labor agreements, employer neutrality with regard to union organizing, and other labor standards.**
- ▶ **Job Equity:** Without strong equity standards, stimulus investments would simply replicate long-standing inequities in access to jobs. In many investment categories, those benefiting would be largely white and male, leaving women and people of color — particularly Black workers — with a disproportionately small slice of the economic benefits. For example, in 12 of 13 infrastructure investment cate-

gories, Black workers would constitute just 6 percent to 9 percent of the workforce, despite comprising 11 percent of the overall workforce. In general, people of color and women would be underrepresented in several high-paying job types, but overrepresented in certain low-paying job categories. For example, only 10 percent of high-paying rail jobs would go to women, while women would take on 80 percent of low-paying care economy jobs. To counteract inequity, a stimulus package must direct **at least 50 percent of investments to communities of color and other frontline communities, while requiring equitable hiring and contracting preferences that favor people of color and women.**

To tackle the full scope of the climate crisis while ending mass unemployment, this economic renewal plan would invest in sectors throughout the economy. Here is a breakdown of the jobs created by major industrial sector:

- ▶ **Manufacturing: 1.6 million new manufacturing jobs.** Investments in electric vehicles, wind power, and solar power would drive the manufacturing job boost. Buy America standards should apply to all investments to bolster the manufacturing base that we need to build a more just, clean energy economy.
- ▶ **Construction: 1.6 million new construction jobs.** Many of these jobs would stem from investments in upgrading infrastructure and buildings to boost efficiency and resilience while cutting pollution.
- ▶ **Services: 9.3 million new services jobs.** Investments in public parks and recreation, ecosystem restoration, and the care economy would yield a particularly high share of services jobs.

- ▶ **Agriculture: 1.4 million new agricultural jobs.** Investments in regenerative agriculture and marginalized farmers would yield these jobs, while supporting healthy food and rural economic security.

- ▶ **Wholesale and Retail: 1.2 million new wholesale and retail jobs.** Most of these would be “induced jobs,” created thanks to increased spending from workers supported by the stimulus investments.

For dynamic simulations of the job creation impacts of stimulus investments, please visit our [Jobs Calculator](#).



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JOB CREATION FROM ECONOMY-WIDE INVESTMENTS

ECONOMIC RENEWAL PLAN: OVER 15.5 MILLION GOOD JOBS

The Problem

Due to the COVID-spurred crises of mass unemployment and public health, millions of people currently lie awake at night wondering how to make rent, put food on the table, or afford medical bills. The pandemic also has laid bare the links between the longstanding, mutually reinforcing crises that our society faces, such as racial, economic, and gender injustice; economic insecurity; toxic pollution; health vulnerability; crumbling infrastructure; and climate change.

Those links have long been a lived reality for communities across the country. In the Gulf South the intersection between systemic racism and climate impacts is no more theoretical than the five storms that battered Louisiana's Black and Indigenous communities in last year's record-breaking hurricane season. Or look to the industrial cities of the Midwest, where racist redlining has led to lower wages and higher air pollution for many Black communities — air pollution that is increasing the risk of death from COVID-19 while contributing to the climate crisis. For millions, the connections between systemic racism, economic injustice, environmental crisis, and public health have been just as real as the air we breathe.

Chronic underinvestment in our communities has exacerbated these interconnected crises. For example, after decades of inadequate and inequitable investments in our buildings infrastructure, today millions of people live in substandard and overcrowded housing that makes it difficult to shelter at home to prevent COVID infection. Meanwhile, the low energy efficiency of these buildings saddles low-income families with high energy bills that exacerbate income inequity, while contributing to the climate pollution that is feeding increasingly intense storms — storms that the same substandard buildings are not equipped to withstand.

The lesson for policymakers is clear: The crises we face are interlocking and thus our solutions must be as well.

The Solution

We cannot and need not choose between addressing job creation or climate change, public health or racial inequity, toxic pollution or crumbling infrastructure. All of



PHOTO: ISTOCK / ORANAT TAESUWAN

these are false choices. With a holistic economic renewal plan such as the THRIVE Agenda, we can put millions of people back to work while tackling the overlapping crises we face. Backed by over 100 members of Congress and hundreds of union, racial justice, climate, and other grassroots groups, the THRIVE Agenda offers Congress an eight-pillar blueprint for economy-wide investments to build an economy that fosters justice, not crisis.

For example, hiring workers to upgrade our water, energy, transportation, and natural infrastructure would support cleaner air and water, and thus, improved public health, for millions of people — particularly for communities of color and working class families. It also would diminish climate pollution and increase climate resilience, which could support greater equity by reducing the disproportionate climate threats that low-income families and communities of color face.

We can only achieve such deep infrastructure upgrades by creating millions of jobs — jobs that span the construction, manufacturing, services, agriculture, and care sectors from coast to coast. Properly designed, these jobs would raise wages and expand healthcare benefits and access to unions for working class households, curbing income inequality. Properly targeted, these investments would expand economic opportunities and slash pollution in communities of color, helping to counteract environmental racism and close the racial wealth gap. To “build back better” instead of reverting to the unjust

status quo, Congress needs to pass a THRIVE-aligned economic renewal plan that is as comprehensive as the crises we face.

The Jobs

A [new economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) shows that a THRIVE-aligned economic renewal plan would provide over **15.5 million good jobs for 10 years**. The plan includes economy-wide public investments totaling \$954 billion per year, or \$4.77 trillion for the first five years. The plan has four primary components:

- ▶ **5.2 million jobs to upgrade our infrastructure:** This economic renewal plan starts with a much-needed infrastructure upgrade. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) currently gives [an overall grade of “D+”](#) to our ailing transportation, energy, water, and natural infrastructure. ASCE estimates that upgrading our infrastructure to a “B” grade would take a public investment of \$2 trillion over 10 years. With additional upgrades (e.g., [expanding broadband access](#) and [fixing leaking gas pipes](#)), the total infrastructure investment becomes \$3.2 trillion over 10 years. These upgrades would support improved health, climate, equity, and jobs outcomes, as spelled out above and in the “Job Creation from Specific Investment Programs” section.
- ▶ **4.1 million jobs to transition to a clean energy economy:** The second component of the economic renewal plan is a comprehensive investment to meet science-based targets for reducing climate pollution, because our response to one crisis must not leave us vulnerable to another. This investment includes expanding renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, and investing in electric vehicles.



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A \$3.6 trillion public investment over 10 years in these sectors, when coupled with an equal amount of private investment, would yield an estimated 45 percent reduction in U.S. carbon emissions by 2030, in line with the global emissions reductions goal established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This investment covers two areas:

- A \$2.4 trillion investment over 10 years in renewable energy, providing 2.8 million jobs for a decade, and
 - A \$1.2 trillion investment over 10 years in the energy efficiency of our buildings, industries, and vehicles, providing 1.3 million jobs for a decade.
- ▶ **3.9 million jobs to restore our lands and expand regenerative agriculture.** The economic renewal plan invests \$1.9 trillion over 10 years to clean up toxic pollution, restore ecosystems, and transition from a highly polluting, unsustainable food system dominated by a handful of exploitative corporations toward a regenerative agriculture model that ensures fairness for family farmers and workers, supports rural economic security and racial equity, and boosts climate resilience and access to healthy food.
 - ▶ **2.3 million jobs to expand public services and care for children, people with disabilities, and the elderly.** As families struggle to access essential healthcare, child care, and adult care services, those who provide critical care work — disproportionately women of color — are all too often unpaid, underpaid, and systematically undervalued. This plan lays out investments totaling \$845 billion over 10 years to increase access to — and the quality of — child care, healthcare, and public services, while creating millions of good, family-sustaining jobs that honor the value of care and public service workers.
 - ▶ Of the over 15.5 million total jobs created by this economic renewal plan, nearly **1.6 million jobs would be in the manufacturing sector**. This manufacturing growth would support greater income equity, as manufacturing jobs tend to pay higher wages than construction or service-sector jobs and union density in the manufacturing sector is higher than in the private sector overall.

Below is a breakdown of the 30 categories of investment included in this economic renewal plan, with the dollars invested and jobs created for each category, as reflected in the modeling conducted by the [Political Economy Research Institute](#).

OVER 15.5 MILLION JOBS FROM \$1 TRILLION PER YEAR IN INVESTMENTS

Sector	Annual investment (billions USD)	Jobs sustained each year	10-year investment (billions USD)
Infrastructure: 5.2 million jobs			
Surface transportation	110.1	2,268,060	1,101
Water / wastewater	32.2	473,340	322
Electricity	42.7	448,350	427
Airports	4.2	43,260	42
Inland waterways / marine ports	1.5	19,200	15
Dams	3.9	72,540	39
Hazardous and solid waste	0.3	4,590	3
Levees	7	131,600	70
Public parks and recreation	10.2	216,240	102
Rail	20.9	234,080	209
Schools	38	790,400	380
Gas pipelines leak repairs	18.3	157,380	183
Broadband	35	353,500	350
Clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency: 4.1 million jobs			
Wind	108	1,274,400	1,080
Solar	108	1,220,400	1,080
Geothermal	24	280,800	240
Building retrofits	56.5	757,100	565
Industrial efficiency	6.3	89,460	63
High-efficiency autos	56	481,600	560
Agriculture and land restoration: 3.9 million jobs			
Regenerative agriculture	41	975,800	410
Farmland conservation	25	482,500	250
Organic farming	1.5	35,700	15
Resources for marginalized farmers	91	1,965,600	910
Agricultural R&D	2.5	40,500	25
Pollution cleanup	12.6	204,120	126
Closing orphaned wells	12	190,800	120
Ecosystem restoration	1	23,000	10
Care economy, public health, and Postal Service: 2.3 million jobs			
Care economy	77.5	2,216,500	775
Public health	4.5	76,950	45
Postal Service	2.5	40,000	25
TOTAL	954.2	15,567,770	9,542

CROSS-CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL, LABOR, AND EQUITY STANDARDS

The quality of the jobs created through this economic renewal plan is just as important as the quantity of jobs. Stimulus investments must be subject to high-road labor standards to ensure that the jobs created are family-sustaining careers that offer workers a dignified and meaningful livelihood and lasting economic security.

To chart a path to a more equitable society, these jobs must be made accessible to all people. In addition, equitable hiring practices and targeted investments must be used to prioritize job creation, economic ownership opportunities, improved health outcomes, and environmental benefits for low-income communities, communities of color, women, and others who are bearing the brunt of the economic, health, and climate crises. Finally, to yield a healthier and more stable future, stimulus investments also must address climate change and toxic pollution. The materials, operations, and end use of projects must uphold environmental standards that reduce pollution and increase climate resilience for communities.

All investments in a THRIVE-aligned economic renewal plan must uphold the following environmental, labor, and equity standards.

Climate and Environmental Standards

- ▶ Investments should meet a baseline climate and environmental test. To qualify for funding, projects should demonstrate that their use will support reduced greenhouse gases, reduced toxic pollution, and/or increased climate resilience.
- ▶ The materials and parts used should be subject to Buy Clean standards that reduce industrial pollution, climate resilience standards, and energy efficiency standards (as applicable).
- ▶ All construction and related contracts should include requirements to use climate-resilient designs for infrastructure and low-emissions operations.

Labor Standards

- ▶ All construction, service, and related contracts should include requirements for Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, project labor agreements, a neutrality policy on collective bargaining, and use of registered apprenticeship programs, among other labor standards; in addition to preferences for local hire, community-based businesses, and worker cooperatives.



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- ▶ The materials and parts used should be subject to Buy America and other domestic content policies, after closing loopholes in those policies, to support manufacturing job creation.

Equity Standards

- ▶ At least 50 percent of investments should be directed toward low-income communities, communities of color, deindustrialized communities, and other communities facing disproportionate impacts from the COVID-19 crisis, toxic pollution, and/or climate change.
- ▶ The share of infrastructure funding that goes to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and all U.S. territories should be at least proportional to the population of these jurisdictions.
- ▶ All construction and related contracts should require community benefits agreements; a mandatory “ban the box” policy to ensure fair employment opportunities for all; and hiring and contracting preferences for low-income workers, people of color, women, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and formerly incarcerated people.
- ▶ All jobs created should be accessible to undocumented immigrants and paired with a moratorium on deportations and a path to citizenship for those workers.

WHY STANDARDS MATTER: BREAKDOWN OF THE JOBS CREATED

To see why it is essential to attach strong labor and equity standards to stimulus investments, we can examine what would happen without such standards. In short, such a stimulus would reinforce the unjust status quo instead of counteracting persistent economic, racial, and gender inequity.

After modeling the total job creation potential from THRIVE-aligned investments, the Political Economy Research Institute assessed what types of jobs these investments would produce without the application of THRIVE's high-road labor or equity standards, revealing who would benefit and who would be left behind. This analysis included three components:

1. **Job Quality:** average salary, health and retirement benefit coverage, and union density for the jobs created in each category of investment, if the stimulus were to omit labor standards
2. **Who Benefits:** educational background and racial and gender composition of the workforce that would benefit from the jobs created in each category of investment, if the stimulus were to omit equity standards
3. **Sectoral Breakdown:** the number of jobs created in each category of investment, broken down by major industry sectors (e.g., manufacturing, construction, services, agriculture, and wholesale and retail)

Job Quality

This analysis makes clear that the labor standards named above are essential to ensure that stimulus jobs actually offer workers family-sustaining salaries and benefits and access to a union. Absent such standards, the quality of the jobs created ranges from high-paid careers to low-quality occupations where workers earn about half of the

national average salary and have little access to health insurance, retirement plans, or union protection.

- **Salaries:** Several types of investment would likely create jobs with an average annual salary that exceeds \$80,000 — significantly higher than the economy-wide average of \$64,600. This includes infrastructure upgrades such as investments in rail, electricity, broadband, and leak repairs on gas distribution pipelines; and clean energy investments such as expansion of wind power, electric vehicles, and industrial efficiency. However, without strong labor standards, salaries would be less than half as high in the jobs resulting from investments in surface transportation (\$37,500), regenerative agriculture (\$21,500), and the care economy (\$36,300). Millions of workers would live with these low salaries, given that these very investments are some of the biggest job creators in the THRIVE package, generating 2.3 million, 1 million, and 2.2 million jobs, respectively. To ensure that all of the new jobs offer dignified pay, a stimulus package must condition investments on adherence to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage standards for construction and service jobs, project labor agreements for construction projects, and new wage standards for other sectors.
- **Benefits:** Several categories of investment would yield jobs with good benefits, including health insurance coverage for at least 60 percent of workers and retirement plans for at least half of workers. Such benefits, for example, would result from investments in electric vehicles, leak repairs on gas pipelines, and the Postal Service, thanks in part to higher union density in these sectors. Meanwhile, investments in categories such as public parks and recreation, surface transportation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration, and the care economy would create jobs with health benefits for less than 40 percent of workers and retirement benefits for less than a third of workers. A stimulus package could improve the benefits coverage of new jobs, particularly those in construction, by requiring employers to pay prevailing wages and use project labor agreements that offer workers fringe benefits.



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- **Union Density:** Unionized workplaces tend to offer workers higher wages and better benefits than non-unionized counterparts. Since the workforce tends to be more unionized in industries such as airports, rail, gas pipeline leak repairs, and the Postal Service (all of which have over 20 percent union membership), stimulus investments in these sectors would tend to promote union jobs. By the same token, investments in less unionized workforces would result in a low number of union jobs, absent measures to expand access to unions. This includes investments in most agricultural sectors and the care economy, where just 3 to 6 percent of workers are union members. While fully fixing this problem will require structural reforms (e.g., amending the National Labor Relations Act to allow domestic workers and farmworkers to form unions), a stimulus package could help reverse the suppression of unions by, for example, requiring employer neutrality with regard to union organizing.

Who Benefits

Without strong equity standards, stimulus investments would simply replicate long-standing inequities in access to jobs. In many investment categories, those benefiting would be largely white and male, leaving women and people of color — particularly Black workers — with a disproportionately small slice of the economic benefits. To avoid this outcome and ensure equitable access (or even proportional access) to stimulus jobs, investments must be concentrated in communities of color and paired with equitable hiring and contracting practices.

- **Racial Composition:** People of color constitute 37 percent of the overall workforce. People of color would benefit from a similar share of stimulus jobs for certain categories of investment (e.g., most infrastructure categories). However, without strong equity standards, people of color would be underrepresented in certain high-paying jobs (e.g., fixing leaks in gas pipelines, industrial efficiency), while several low-paying job categories would employ a disproportionately high number of people of color (e.g., surface transportation, care economy) — a clear example of systemic racism. But this overall picture obscures an even starker reality: Black workers would be underrepresented in nearly all job types. In 12 of the 13 infrastructure job categories, Black workers would constitute just 6 percent to 9 percent of the workforce, despite comprising 11 percent of the overall workforce. (The one excep-

tion — surface transportation, where Black workers would be overrepresented — is the lowest-paying infrastructure category.) This is likely due in part to the fact that a disproportionately small number of Black workers work in construction, which constitutes a significant share of the infrastructure jobs. Black workers would be similarly underrepresented in virtually all energy, agricultural, and land restoration jobs, while being overrepresented in the care economy — another low-paying category — and the Postal Service, where new jobs would be higher-paying but relatively scarce. To ensure that people of color, particularly Black workers, get access to job creation benefits, a stimulus package must direct at least 50 percent of investments to communities of color and other frontline communities. In addition, investments should be paired with requirements to use equitable hiring and contracting preferences that favor people of color, including via community benefits agreements and project labor agreements.

- **Gender Composition:** While women make up nearly half of the overall workforce, they are vastly underrepresented in most job types that would be supported by these stimulus investments. In some investment categories such as rail or building retrofits, only 10 percent of the jobs created would go to women, unless equity standards were used. As with Black workers, in the few job types where women would have proportional or high representation, the salaries tend to be low. The clearest example is the care economy, where women would likely fill 80 percent of the jobs, though with an average salary of just \$36,000. The fact that women would miss out on many of the jobs in this stimulus package probably stems in part from the fact that women only make up 13 percent of the construction workforce (many infrastructure investments are construction-intensive) and just 29 percent of the manufacturing workforce (many energy investments are manufacturing-intensive). To ensure that investments counteract gender inequity rather than reinforce it, a stimulus package must use equitable hiring and contracting preferences that favor women.
- **Educational Background:** Thankfully, these stimulus investments would create jobs that are broadly accessible to people without a college degree. In fact, in many infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and land restoration categories, the share of jobs that would go to people with only a high school degree is higher than in the economy overall.



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Sectoral Breakdown

Any economic stimulus package that aims to tackle the full scope of the climate crisis while ending mass unemployment will need to invest in sectors throughout the economy. The THRIVE stimulus package does just that, resulting in significant job creation in an array of major industries.

- ▶ **Manufacturing:** This stimulus package would create and sustain nearly 1.6 million new manufacturing jobs, a 12 percent increase in our manufacturing employment. Many of the manufacturing jobs would stem from investments in clean energy, particularly electric vehicles, wind power, and solar power. This would offer a needed boost to a manufacturing sector that typically provides family-sustaining benefits and wages (\$29 per hour on average), but that has been declining for years as corporations have outsourced production to countries with weaker labor and environmental standards. Studies have shown that the U.S. manufacturing decline is one of the biggest reasons for rising economic inequality, as a strong manufacturing base is important for sustaining a middle class. We also need a robust manufacturing base to be able to produce the goods that serve as building blocks for a clean energy economy: energy efficient building materials, wind turbines, auto parts for electric vehicles, solar panels, components to replace lead pipes, and so on. The economic transition we need is one where workers can fully capture the gains by producing the goods needed to build a new economy. To further increase the manufacturing boost from a stimulus package, the materials and parts used should be subject to strengthened Buy America and other domestic content standards.
- ▶ **Construction:** While construction accounts for only 5 percent of our economy's jobs, the jobs tend to pay well (\$32 per hour on average) and the sector is currently outpacing most other sectors in job growth. These stimulus investments would create nearly 1.6 million construction jobs — a 21 percent increase in construction employment. Much of that increase would stem from construction-intensive infrastructure investments (e.g., dams and levees) and building retrofits, where more than one-third of the jobs created would be in construction.
- ▶ **Services:** Service sectors account for two-thirds of U.S. employment. The quality of these jobs ranges widely, from computer programming services that pay \$50 per hour on average to restaurant work that pays \$15 per hour on average. (Both of these examples are among our economy's biggest job growth sectors.) This stimulus plan would create an additional 9.3 million service jobs, an increase of 9 percent. Given the mammoth size of the services sector, it is no surprise that services would account for the majority of jobs created in many categories of investment. That said, the services sector would play a particularly dominant role in job creation in certain categories, such as investments in public parks and recreation, ecosystem restoration, and the care economy.
- ▶ **Agriculture:** While agriculture accounts for just over 1 percent of total U.S. employment, many rural communities depend on agriculture as a primary source of economic security. These stimulus investments would create over 1.4 million agricultural jobs. Most of that job creation would stem from direct investments in regenerative agriculture, resources for marginalized farmers, and other agricultural projects.
- ▶ **Wholesale and Retail:** The wholesale and retail sectors currently account for 13 percent of U.S. jobs, though they are among the sectors experiencing the largest decline in jobs. While wholesale jobs pay \$33 per hour on average, the more plentiful retail jobs pay only \$21 per hour on average. While the investments in this stimulus package do not directly target wholesale or retail sectors, they would create 1.2 million new wholesale and retail jobs, an increase of 6 percent. The vast majority of these new jobs would be "induced jobs," meaning that they would be created indirectly thanks to increased spending from workers who are directly supported by the stimulus investments.

Sources: Data on sector-wide job numbers, pay levels, and racial and gender composition for each economic sector come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

JOB CREATION FROM SPECIFIC INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

In addition to modeling job creation from economy-wide investments, the Political Economy Research Institute modeled the number of jobs that would be created for investments in dozens of specific programs that many labor, environmental justice, climate, and other civil society groups have proposed for an economic renewal plan.

Sierra Club's April 2020 letter to Congress on stimulus priorities describes most of these programs, with dollar amounts named for each. For each investment, the analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute estimates the total number of jobs (including the number of manufacturing jobs) that would be created. These programs fall into eight categories of investment: energy, transportation, buildings, manufacturing, water, lands/outdoors, agriculture, and care economy/public services.

The investments in these programs would put millions of people back to work to replace lead pipes, build clean and affordable public transit, modernize our grid, build and repair public housing, manufacture clean energy goods, clean up hazardous waste, restore wetlands and forests, support regenerative agriculture, increase access to child care, and more. Below are some illustrative examples for each of the eight categories.

SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY WORKERS

The Problem

Nearly 430,000 clean energy workers are out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, clean energy was one of the fastest-growing sectors in the economy, employing more than 3 million workers. Growth in wind and solar power and energy efficiency has been supporting more and more working families, while promoting cleaner air and water and slashing climate pollution. However, the COVID crisis has brought hardship to many clean energy workers, as made clear in an analysis by E2: “Energy efficiency workers are losing their jobs after being shut out of homes and buildings to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Solar and wind turbine companies are laying off workers as they’re unable to access panels and parts stranded in shut-down factories and as financing disappears.” To tackle this crisis, clean energy workers need economic investment.

The Solution

We urgently need to support clean energy workers by investing in the transition to a 100% clean energy economy. That means expanding tax incentives for wind, solar, battery storage, and other clean energy industries. It means extending loans and grants to launch new renewable energy projects, to connect remote sources of wind and solar to our electricity grid, and to modernize the grid for reductions in energy costs and climate pollution. While supporting jobs for hundreds of thousands of clean en-



ergy workers, we also could hire unemployed oil and gas workers to close orphaned and leaking oil and gas wells — a win-win for working families and our climate.

The Jobs

Investments in clean, renewable energy programs would provide good jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers. Specifically, Congress should:

- ▶ **Provide nearly 100,000 jobs by extending clean energy tax credits:** Congress needs to invest \$41.5 billion over five years to extend tax credits for wind, solar, battery storage, energy efficiency, and other clean energy sectors, helping to put nearly 100,000 clean energy workers back to work. To further support clean energy, existing tax credits should be made refundable and construction and safe harbor deadlines should be extended.
- ▶ **Provide over 50,000 jobs by investing in rural access to clean, renewable energy:** Congress needs

to invest at least \$50 billion over 10 years in rural electric cooperatives via existing programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These investments would help rural communities to pursue democratic, cooperative ownership of clean renewable energy generation, transmission, storage, and distribution; energy efficiency upgrades; and electrification projects.

- **Provide over 190,000 jobs by closing orphaned oil and gas wells:** Congress needs to invest \$60 billion over five years to close over 3 million orphaned and leaking oil and gas wells, relieving a burden that cur-

rently falls largely on states. This investment would support unemployed workers in the oil and gas industry while reducing pollution.

And More ...

For a complete list of clean energy investments, see [economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) and [Sierra Club's letter to Congress](#), which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL

The Problem

The transportation sector is a major source of air pollution that contributes to asthma, cancer, and an [increased likelihood of death from COVID-19](#), particularly for communities of color who are disproportionately exposed to such pollution. In addition, the transportation sector is one of the largest and fastest-growing sources of carbon emissions in the U.S., responsible for nearly [30 percent](#) of all U.S. climate pollution. We urgently need clean transportation for all. Thankfully, clean transportation options like electric vehicles and clean public transit have been growing, employing [hundreds of thousands of workers](#). However, [tens of thousands](#) of clean transportation workers have lost their jobs due to the COVID crisis, and many more are at risk of unemployment as public transit agencies lose billions of dollars amid historic declines in ridership.

The Solution

We urgently need to support clean transportation workers and the continued growth of clean transportation for all. That means investing in clean public transit to ensure safety, cover lost revenues, and expand access to clean and affordable buses, subways, and light rail options. It means making clean electric vehicles affordable and accessible to everyone by offering equitable rebates to make electric vehicles cheaper, electrifying public buses, and investing in charging infrastructure in our communities. It means investing in bikeable and walkable communities that promote safety, accessible mobility, and public health.

The Jobs

Investments in clean transportation programs would provide hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Specifically,

Congress should:

- **Provide over 635,000 jobs by making electric vehicles more affordable:** Congress should pass and fully fund the Clean Cars for America proposal, which would invest \$454 billion over 10 years to replace millions of gas guzzlers with electric vehicles. The proposal includes consumer rebates to lower the cost of electric vehicles, particularly for lower-income families, and incentives to support domestic manufacturing of electric vehicles.
- **Provide 213,000 jobs by investing in clean public transit:** Congress needs to increase public transit operational funding by \$50 billion and maintenance funding by \$100 billion over 10 years to support public health measures during the COVID crisis while making up for lost revenues. Estimated COVID-related losses to transit agencies tally between \$26 billion and \$38 billion, and the estimated transit maintenance backlog totals \$99 billion.
- **Provide 56,000 jobs by electrifying school buses and public transit buses:** Congress should invest \$20 billion over five years for school districts and transit systems to replace 60,000 school and public transit buses (about 10 percent of the national fleet) with domestically manufactured electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

And More ...

For a complete list of clean transportation investments, see [economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) and [Sierra Club's letter to Congress](#), which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

CLEAN AND HEALTHY BUILDINGS



The Problem

Too many of our homes, offices, and other buildings are old, inefficient, polluting, costly, vulnerable, and unhealthy. Overcrowded and substandard housing is currently making it harder for millions of people to shelter at home to prevent COVID-19 infection. Meanwhile, residential and commercial buildings account for nearly 40 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, due to the burning of oil and gas for heat in some buildings and the inefficient use of energy in most buildings for heating, cooling, lighting, and appliances. Such inefficiency also spells high energy bills; about one-third of all U.S. households have trouble paying those bills. The burden falls heaviest on low-income families, which tend to spend significantly higher shares of their income on electricity — twice as much as the median household. In addition, many old buildings also contain indoor air pollutants such as mold that can trigger asthma attacks. Compounding these threats to human health and safety is the fact that many buildings are not equipped to handle climate-related disasters such as increased flooding, extreme heat, or violent storms.

The Solution

We urgently need to upgrade our buildings to support public health, reduced emissions, economic security, and climate resilience. That means fully electrifying our homes, schools, hospitals, offices, and other buildings so that they do not need to rely on polluting fossil fuels for heat. It means weatherizing and retrofitting buildings to increase energy efficiency, slash electricity bills, and reduce climate pollution. It means upgrading buildings to withstand climate change and support healthy living and working environments.

The Jobs

Investments in clean and healthy buildings would provide good jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers. Specifically, Congress should:

- **Provide over 230,000 jobs to upgrade all public housing:** Congress needs to pass the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act, investing \$172 billion over 10 years to retrofit all U.S. public housing in support of energy efficiency, electrification, rooftop solar, climate resilience, and a healthier living

environment. In addition to creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, this investment would improve living conditions for over 2 million people, and cut over 5 million tons of carbon emissions each year.

- **Provide over 165,000 jobs to upgrade all schools, hospitals, and municipal buildings:** Congress needs to invest \$61.2 billion over five years to retrofit every school, university, hospital, and municipal building in the country. These building upgrades would create good jobs; improve health standards for hospital patients, health workers, students, and teachers; cut energy costs; reduce pollution; and help tackle climate change.

- **Provide over 92,000 jobs to support community-led development:** Congress needs to invest \$30 billion for Community Development Block Grants over five years to expand affordable housing, improve living conditions and public health, and support community-led economic development in low-income neighborhoods.

And More ...

For a complete list of clean building investments, see economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute and Sierra Club's letter to Congress, which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

MANUFACTURING RENEWAL

The Problem

We are not producing nearly enough of the goods needed for the transition to a 100% clean energy economy. To expedite that transition, and ensure that workers gain from it, we need to invest in increased manufacturing of electric vehicle parts, wind turbine components, energy efficient building materials, and other clean energy goods. Meanwhile, industry remains a significant source of pollution. Too many communities who live outside the fences of U.S. factories endure health problems from industrial pollution, including the type of air pollution that is increasing the likelihood of death from COVID-19, particularly in communities of color. Industry also is the largest source of U.S. climate pollution, when accounting for factories' burning of fossil fuels, chemical processes, and consumption of electricity. While climate pollution from other sectors is expected to decline or remain constant, industrial climate pollution is expected to rise even further. In addition, the U.S. imports as much industrial climate pollution as it produces. Each year, over 1.4 gigatons of climate pollution is emitted abroad just to produce the manufactured goods that we import — the same amount of climate pollution produced by all U.S. factories combined.

The Solution

We urgently need to invest in a manufacturing sector that is compatible with the transition to a 100% clean energy economy. That means using government purchasing,



PHOTO: ISTOCK / KALI9

grants and loans, and other investments to spur increased manufacturing of clean energy goods. It means rewarding factories that slash pollution and investing in technologies to reduce industrial emissions. It means establishing institutions to support a swift and coherent transition to sustainable production of strategic goods while investing in manufacturing workers.

The Jobs

Nearly 1.6 million good manufacturing jobs would be generated just to produce the goods required by the energy, transportation, buildings, water, land, agriculture, care economy, and other investments detailed in this economic renewal plan. Beyond this impact, direct investments in clean manufacturing would provide hundreds of thousands of additional jobs. Specifically, Congress should:

- **Provide hundreds of thousands of jobs via government purchases:** Federal, state, and local governments need to expand procurement of domestically manufactured clean energy goods, including electric vehicles for government fleets; components for government-owned public transit and passenger rail; energy-efficient construction materials and appliances for government buildings; and renewable energy, battery storage, and grid modernization components for federal and municipal-owned energy systems. Every \$1 billion of government purchases would create 13,000 jobs if spent on clean transportation goods, 11,000 jobs if spent on clean energy goods, and 10,600 jobs if spent on goods for clean buildings.
- **Provide over 46,000 jobs by expanding grants and incentives for clean energy manufacturing:** Congress needs to invest \$3 billion over five years for retooling grants under Section 132 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, and invest \$20 billion over five years in the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program, to expand manufacturing of electric vehicles and components.

Congress also should invest \$3 billion over five years in the Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit under section 48C of the Internal Revenue Code to boost manufacturing of renewable energy, energy storage, and energy efficiency goods.

- **Create a National Investment Agency, including an economic development and industrial bank to support manufacturing jobs:** Congress needs to create and capitalize an economic development and industrial bank to provide preferential loans, grants, and contracts to manufacturers to produce goods needed for clean energy, clean transportation, clean buildings, and clean water, and to invest in reductions in greenhouse gases and toxic emissions from industrial production.

And More ...

For a complete list of clean manufacturing investments, see [economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) and [Sierra Club's letter to Congress](#), which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

CLEAN WATER FOR ALL

The Problem

Hand washing is an essential part of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Yet, amid the COVID crisis, access to clean running water is out of reach for millions of families. Even before the crisis, an estimated [15 million people](#) had experienced water shutoffs. Now, as unemployment persists and people struggle to pay utility bills, utilities are actually shutting off people's water — during a public health crisis. Meanwhile, far too many commu-

nities still do not have access to clean drinking water. In nearly [3,000 communities](#), lead poisoning is more than twice as severe as in Flint, Michigan. For many, that's due to toxic water from lead pipes. In addition, in cities across the country, major storms — which are intensifying with climate change — are causing destructive flooding, sewage overflows, and toxic runoff, due to old and overburdened wastewater systems.

The Solution

We urgently need to invest in clean water for all. That means halting all water shutoffs and reconnecting all households that have been disconnected from running water. It means replacing lead pipes in homes, schools, and buildings throughout the entire country and removing other water pollutants so that no one has to question whether their tap water is safe to drink. It means replacing wastewater systems to reduce flooding and toxic runoff in hard-hit communities.

The Jobs

Investments in clean water would provide good jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers. Specifically, Congress should:



PHOTO: ISTOCK / FIZKES

- **Provide over 356,000 jobs to secure clean drinking water:** Congress needs to invest \$45 billion over 10 years in the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water program to replace lead pipes and protect our children and communities from the damaging impacts of toxic lead pollution (this would provide 68,400 jobs). To further secure clean water for our communities, Congress needs to invest \$100 billion over five years in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (this would provide 288,000 jobs).
- **Provide over 59,000 jobs to halt water shutoffs and restore connections:** Congress needs to immediately invest at least \$5 billion to fund emergency relief and a nationwide moratorium on shutoffs of water for the duration of the crisis. This includes

funding the costs for utilities to restore and maintain water service for homeowners and renters.

- **Provide over 56,000 jobs to upgrade wastewater infrastructure:** Congress needs to invest \$6 billion for wastewater infrastructure over the next 18 months to prevent sewage overflows, prevent flooding, and stop runoff pollution.

And More ...

For a complete list of clean water investments, see [economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) and [Sierra Club's letter to Congress](#), which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

POLLUTION-FREE COMMUNITIES, LANDS, AND PARKS

The Problem

Fifty-three million people live within three miles of [1,836 “Superfund” sites](#) — places contaminated by toxic pollution and hazardous waste, which [pose disproportionate threats to communities of color](#). In addition, [over 5 million people in Appalachia](#) live within a mile of an abandoned coal mine with dangerous contamination. As we grapple with the COVID-19 crisis, such hazards only compound public health threats. While many of the places we live are contaminated with pollution, many of the places we love are disappearing or out of reach. Louisiana loses the equivalent of [a football field of wetlands every 100 minutes](#), exposing Gulf Coast communities to increased climate risks. Meanwhile, [protections for our public lands](#) are under [constant attack from corporate polluters](#). Such protected areas also are too often inaccessible. [Fewer than half](#) of all people in the U.S. live within walking distance of a park, as neighborhoods divided by race and class put the benefits of the outdoors out of reach for many low-income families and communities of color.

The Solution

We urgently need economic investments to protect the places we live and love. That means cleaning up toxic pollution at contaminated sites to support healthy communities. It means hiring local workers to protect and restore our wetlands and forests. And it means investing in projects to improve our parks and support equitable access to the outdoors.



PHOTO: ISTOCK / OZGURDONMAZ

The Jobs

Investments in pollution-free communities, lands, and parks would provide hundreds of thousands of good jobs for workers. Specifically, Congress should:

- **Provide nearly 100,000 jobs by cleaning up polluted communities:** Congress needs to invest \$20 billion over five years for Superfund site cleanup to protect communities from toxic pollution, with

funding set aside for workforce training and renewable energy development. In addition, Congress should invest \$10 billion in the Brownfields program over five years to clean up contaminated sites in support of community-driven economic development, while protecting against community displacement.

- **Provide over 25,000 jobs by restoring our wetlands, forests, and parks:** Congress needs to invest \$10 billion over 10 years to fund the creation of a Stewardship Corps to hire local workers to protect and restore forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems, as outlined in the Climate Stewardship Act. In addition, Congress should fund the National Park Service's Outdoor Recreation and Legacy Partnership program at \$1 billion over 10 years to support park improvement projects that boost economic competitiveness, job training, and equitable access to the outdoors.

- **Provide over 13,000 jobs in Appalachia by restoring abandoned coal mines:** Congress needs to pass and fully fund the RECLAIM Act and the Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization Act to spur economic development in hard-hit mining communities by restoring land and water resources impacted by coal mining. Congress should invest \$10 billion over 10 years to clear the entire backlog of abandoned mine restoration projects.

And More ...

For a complete list of lands and outdoors investments, see [economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) and [Sierra Club's letter to Congress](#), which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND HEALTHY FOOD



The Problem

The way we produce food is unhealthy, unfair, and unsustainable. In a food system dominated by a handful of corporations, exploitation of farm workers and family farmers is pervasive. Status quo agricultural policies favor agribusiness giants, which undercut small-scale farms and use highly polluting practices that poison our air, land, and water and threaten the health and safety of

farmworkers, communities, and consumers. Moreover, this model cannot be sustained. Soil degradation has eroded the nutritional content of our food and depleted agricultural ecosystems to the point that, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, there are fewer than 60 years of harvests left if current practices continue. The climate change impact of our food system is similarly concerning: Intensively managed soils have lost 50 percent to 70 percent of their pre-cultivation carbon,

releasing billions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere. Under current practices, agriculture accounts for nearly 10 percent of aggregate U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

The Solution

We urgently need to rebuild our food system to support family farmers, farmworkers, and rural economic security, while regenerating healthy ecosystems and safe, nutritious food. That means investing in marginalized farmers who have been historically exploited and excluded. It means equipping family farmers to protect communities and consumers from land, water, and air pollution, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions and expanding climate resilience.

The Jobs

Investments to build a healthier, more resilient food system would provide hundreds of thousands of good jobs for workers. Specifically, Congress should:

- **Provide nearly 2 million jobs by supporting marginalized farmers and farmworkers:** Congress needs to invest \$91 billion per year for 10 years to support Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrant, young, and other marginalized farmers by funding training, research, land transfer programs, and health and safety measures like the Asuncion Valdivia Illness and Fatality Prevention Act, which

Congress should immediately pass and fund.

- **Provide over 975,000 jobs by equipping farmers to transition to ecologically regenerative practices:** Congress needs to invest \$41 billion per year for 10 years to transition away from a system of dependency on large, highly polluting multinational corporations and toward ecologically regenerative practices. Funds should be made available to subsidize costs for family farmers who commit to fully transition to regenerative farming practices and to support displaced workers and their families.
- **Provide over 482,000 jobs by supporting farmland conservation:** Congress needs to invest \$25 billion per year for 10 years to bolster existing programs like the Conservation Stewardship, Agricultural Conservation Easement, and Regional Conservation Partnership programs, which have demonstrated improvements in environmental quality.

And More ...

For a complete list of agricultural investments, see [economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) and [Sierra Club's letter to Congress](#), which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

AN ECONOMY BUILT ON CARE

The Problem

Chronic underinvestment in the care economy and essential public services has left millions without access to the services they need to live full, healthy lives. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of families lacked access to affordable child care, care for people with disabilities, and care for the elderly. In many parts of the country, the number of children outnumber the number of child care slots by more than four to one. This gap contributes to gender inequity by keeping many women out of the workforce. Meanwhile, those who provide such critical care work — disproportionately women of color — are all too often unpaid, underpaid, and systematically undervalued. Beyond the care economy, the pandemic also has spotlighted a glaring gap in other essential services, such as emergency preparedness for health and climate calamities. As a society, we remain ill-equipped to limit the damage from climate-related storms and



PHOTO: ISTOCK / DRAZEN ZIGIC

droughts or to respond to outbreaks of disease. Disinvestment in emergency preparedness is a gamble we cannot afford.



PHOTO: ISTOCK / FATCAMERA

The Solution

We urgently need to recognize the importance of care work and essential public services by reinvesting in caregivers to reflect the enormous value of the services they provide. That means building and upgrading care facilities; increasing pay, training, and benefits for care workers; and offering families safe, high-quality, and affordable access to child care and long-term care. It means reinvesting in our public infrastructure for health, including community services that support preparedness for climate and health emergencies. By directing investments away from pollution-intensive, extractive activities and toward the low-carbon care economy, we can simultaneously support community health, gender equity, and greater climate stability.

The Jobs

Investments in care work and public services would provide good jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers. Specifically, Congress should:

- **Provide over 2.2 million jobs by mobilizing a Caregiving and Education Force:** Congress needs to invest \$77.5 billion per year for 10 years to bolster the care economy (child care, including early childhood education, care for people with disabilities, and care for the elderly), as proposed in [The Biden Plan for Mobilizing American Talent and Heart to Create a 21st Century Caregiving and Education Workforce](#).

- **Provide nearly 77,000 jobs by reinvesting in public health infrastructure and capabilities:** Congress needs to invest \$4.5 billion per year for 10 years to support core public health capabilities at the state, territory, local, and tribal levels, including through the State Climate and Health program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, improvements in public health emergency preparedness, and funding to address social determinants of health and to advance health equity.
- **Provide 40,000 jobs by sustaining and modernizing the Postal Service:** As a vital part of our country's economic, political, and cultural infrastructure, the U.S. Postal Service requires sustained investment. Congress should invest \$2.5 billion per year for 10 years to support and [modernize postal infrastructure and operations](#), including by purchasing clean delivery vehicles and improved processing equipment.

And More ...

For a complete list of care economy and public services investments, see [economic analysis from the Political Economy Research Institute](#) and [Sierra Club's letter to Congress](#), which outlines specific priorities for a bold stimulus package that puts millions of people back to work to build a healthier, more equitable clean energy economy.

