

## Key Provisions in the 'Build Back Better' Act: A Summary for the HCH Community

November 2021

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act, [H.R. 5376 \(summary\)](#) on November 19, 2021. The \$1.75 trillion legislation includes major investments in health care, housing, education, jobs, climate, and other social programs. The bill is now in the Senate and likely to be taken up in late December, where it will be further amended. See the latest [Mobilizer action alert](#) to learn how to advocate for robust health expansions in the final bill. Relevant provisions in the bill include:

### HEALTH INSURANCE:

- Closes the [Medicaid coverage gap](#) through 2025 for uninsured people in the 12 states that did not expand Medicaid by providing premium marketplace tax credits to purchase a plan for \$0, with a requirement for the plan to cover at least 94% of costs. (Earlier versions of the bill created a permanent federal Medicaid look-alike program, [as NHCHC advocated](#)).
- Requires **Medicare to cover hearing** services starting in 2023, including rehabilitation, treatment, and hearing aids. (Earlier versions of the bill included Medicare dental and vision coverage, [as NHCHC advocated](#)).
- Phases out the 6.2% increased federal **Medicaid matching rate and continuous coverage requirement** from the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) by September 2022. Encourages states to maintain eligibility standards by penalizing states with a 3.1% federal match decrease if states cut eligibility standards or make it harder to enroll.
- Encourages **enrollment stability** by requiring states to make a good faith effort to update enrollees' contact information. Bars states from dis-enrolling anyone on a basis of returned mail without attempting other forms of contact and providing 30-days' notice.
- Permanently requires state Medicaid programs to cover **incarcerated individuals** 30 days before their release from jail or prison ([as NHCHC has long-advocated](#)).
- Permanently requires all states to provide 12-months of **postpartum coverage** after an individual gives birth through Medicaid and CHIP.
- Permanently expands federal funding for **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** – avoiding future risks of funding lapses– and requires all states offer 12-month continuous eligibility for children.

- **Numerous other provisions** that expand coverage for Puerto Rico and other territories, Indian and Native health care, drug pricing, long-term services and supports, home and community-based services, certified community behavioral health clinic programs, vaccine services, and more ([see full analysis of health care provisions](#)).

## HEALTH CENTERS:

Our partners at the National Association for Community Health Centers (NACHC) [report](#) funds for health centers include “\$2 billion for **health center capital**, nearly \$3.4 billion for the **Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program**, \$2 billion for the **National Health Service Corps** and \$500 million for the **Nurse Corps**.”

## HOUSING:

- \$25 billion to expand **rental assistance**, of which \$22.1 billion goes towards Housing Choice Vouchers and \$1 billion goes towards project-based rental assistance.
- \$65 billion to **public housing infrastructure**, of which \$10 billion goes to the Public Housing Capital Fund and \$53 billion is to be spent as determined by the HUD Secretary.
- \$15 billion for the **National Housing Trust Fund**.
- **Numerous other provisions**, in total \$150 billion for affordable housing ([see full analysis](#)).

## OTHER:

- Makes permanent the enhanced Medicaid funding for states to implement community-based **mobile crisis behavioral health response teams** to divert people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis from law enforcement and into proper care.
- Major investments in **education and childcare** ([see more](#)) including an [extension to historic increases](#) of up to \$3,000 for the Child Tax Credit.
- Provides four weeks of **paid medical and family leave** for workers with at least \$2,000 in earnings in the two years prior to starting benefits ([see more](#)).
- **Protections for immigrants** who have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years, including work permits and protection from deportation that would allow individuals increased access to social benefits and health care ([see more](#)).
- Historic investments to **combat climate change**, including funding for public transportation, increasing access to clean water, and upgrading public housing ([see more](#)).