

What's Next for Build Back Better?

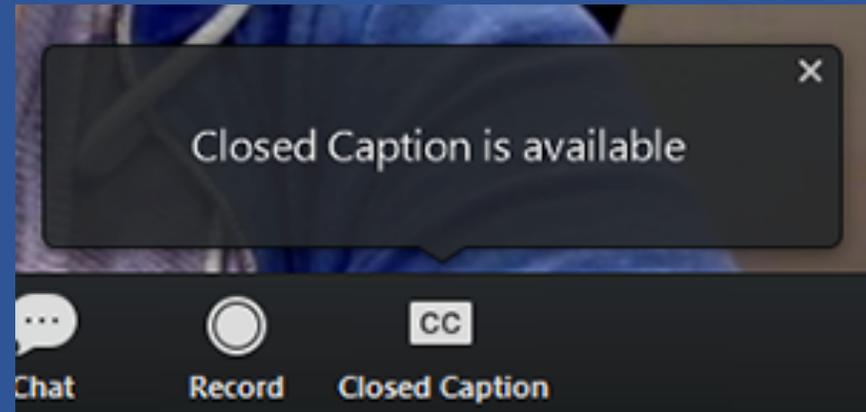


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CHN Members and Supporters

Deborah Weinstein

Deborah Weinstein has been Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs since 2003. At CHN and previously at the Children's Defense Fund and the Massachusetts Human Services Coalition, Debbie has helped advocates to combat poverty and hardship for about 40 years.



Ellen Nissenbaum

Ellen Nissenbaum is the Senior Vice President for Government Affairs for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Regarded as one of the leading government affairs directors among non-profit organizations in Washington, Ellen helps a broad array of both national and state organizations and coalitions strengthen their impact on federal policies by providing information on key policy developments in Congress and the Executive Branch, strategic guidance, and communications planning.



Kalena Murphy

Kalena Murphy joined CBPP in May 2021 as Senior State Campaigns Manager on the State Fiscal Policy Campaigns team. She manages the field strategy in key states engaged in the federal campaign with a particular focus on raising progressive revenue and enacting major expansions of housing assistance, health coverage, the Child Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit.



Our Ask:

Congress should act quickly to pass economic legislation that helps families and workers manage high costs now and advances an economy where everyone can share in the nation's prosperity.

Message and Messengers

- **Point 1:** What's Next for ~~Build Back Better~~?
 - Call it an economic package.
 - Emphasize its response to increased prices.
- **Our ask:** Congress should act quickly to pass economic legislation that helps families and workers manage high costs now and advances an economy where everyone can share in the nation's prosperity.

Point 2: People are having a hard time paying their usual household bills.

- People in households below \$75,000: **44%** said it was somewhat/very difficult to pay their usual bills in the previous week.
 - Nearly 100,000 people with this income. *[NOTE: we will share state data!]*
 - Hispanic: 42%; Blacks: 46%; White: 27%; Asian: 25%
 - With children: 40%
 - With household income below \$25,000: **57%**

[From Census Household Pulse, 1/26 – 2/7.

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2022/demo/hhp/hhp42.html>]

- In February, when inflation was 7.9% over previous year, the increase in prices was costing the average household **\$296/month**.

[source: Moody's Analytics: <https://www.moodyanalytics.com/-/media/article/2022/weekly-market-outlook-maybe-us-consumers-wont-turn-fuelish.pdf>]

Point 3: The public inflation

- **49%** say rising prices have caused hardship for their family
- **2/3** of adults with annual household income of less than \$40,000 say they've experienced hardship; 20% of these say it's been severe

(Gallup, Jan. 3-13: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/389129/americans-expect-inflation-persist-next-six-months.aspx>)

- **70%** disapprove of Biden's handling of inflation and gas prices

(ABC News/Ipsos poll, 3/11-12:
https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2022-03/Topline%20ABC_Ipsos%20Poll%20March%2012%202022%209%20am%20Embargo.pdf)

Point 4: We need an economic package that helps people cope with increased prices/reduces their costs

Examples:

- Child Tax Credit (monthly, expanded, permanent full refundability), EITC
- Health care and nutrition:
 - Keep higher ACA premium subsidies
 - Lower prescription drug costs
 - Close Medicaid coverage gap
 - Expand Home and Community Based Services
 - Child nutrition expansions: school and summer meals
- Child Care and pre-kindergarten
- Housing – rental subsidies, expanded supply

Point 5: The economic package doesn't increase inflation

Leading economists and major ratings agencies agree that a package that invests in lowering costs for families and workers and gives a boost to our economy will not add meaningfully to inflation.

- It will be paid for by revenue increases from corporations and the ultra-wealthy.
- Much less funding is flowing into the economy because of expiration of previous stimulus efforts.
- Investments in the package (housing, phase-in of child care benefits, etc.) will be spread out over the next decade.

Remember: \$296/month inflation impact

If CTC, child care/pre-k, ACA premium subsidies enacted:

- A New Hampshire married couple with 2 and 7 year-olds at 50% of median income (\$59,657) would save \$1,296 per month.
- NH single parent (same 2 kids) at 50% median income (\$17,488) would save \$1,396 per month.

Check out similar findings for your state:

Third Way calculator:

<https://www.thirdway.org/report/what-build-back-better-means-for-families-in-every-state>

(Dec. 1, 2021)

More examples of helping families/workers

- **Prescription drugs:**
Insulin w/o insurance: \$300-\$320 per month; with insurance, \$100 per month.
Biden calls for max \$35/month.
<https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2022/02/07/as-insulin-prices-soar-some-patients-ration-their-doses-you-try-to-make-do/>
- **ACA premiums:**
Income of \$40,000: maintaining current subsidies will save \$117/month.
<https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/how-marketplace-costs-premiums-will-change-if-rescue-plan-subsidies-expire/>
- **Child Tax Credit:**
\$300/month for each child under 6;
\$250/month for each child 6-17.
- **Summer EBT (food for children):**
\$65 per month per eligible child
<https://www.americanactionforum.org/insight/nutrition-provisions-in-build-back-better/#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20%24250%20million%20will,culturally%20appropriate%20foods%20and%20foods>
- **Rental Assistance:**
300,000 new vouchers will lower costs for 700,000 low-income residents
<https://www.opportunityhome.org/resources/still-want-to-build-back-better-dont-remove-housing/>

Point 6: Message without Messengers = SILENCE

Make sure your Senators know you and your community want an economic package that helps families/workers manage high costs now; invests in economy for shared prosperity:

- Get updates through
FederalScoop.org
www.chn.org
- Sign and share organizational and individual letters
- Write and share op-eds
- Join in group meetings with congressional offices – April recess (4/11-22)!
- Share your story
- Engage in social media – twitterstorms, etc.

Thank you!

Look out for an email with a captioned recording, slides, and other resources from our presenters.

