



# **Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Provisions in the Build Back Better Act**

The Build Back Better Act invests more than \$90 billion in agriculture, forestry and rural communities. It addresses the climate crisis by investing in nature-based solutions, climate research, clean energy, small-town economies, rural water quality and healthy food for more children.

## **Climate-Smart Agriculture**

\$27 billion to give farmers and ranchers the tools they've asked for to keep leading on climate. It's the biggest investment in conservation since the Dust Bowl —reaching as many as 240,000 farms and 130 million acres of cropland per year.

- Helps producers implement and expand conservation practices that safeguard resources and sequester carbon in their soil and trees.
- Expands practices like cover cropping, nutrient management and buffers, and leverages private and outside investments to support locally-led conservation.
- Increases focus on whole-farm conservation systems, and ensures that land in easements addresses climate change, while maintaining its viability as farmland.
- Puts strategies to address the root causes of the climate crisis on the same footing as programs like crop insurance that we count on to repair the damage from climate-related extreme weather.

## **Forestry**

\$27 billion to restore forests, fight wildfires and sequester carbon in trees – the biggest ever investment in forest restoration, wildfire prevention, and climate-smart forestry.

- Invests in forest health projects on both public and private lands, and equips firefighters and rural communities to be more resilient to wildfire.
- Invests in climate-smart forestry to boost carbon sequestration.
- Plants trees in urban communities and prioritizes underserved forest landowners.

## **Research**

\$2 billion for agricultural climate research and agricultural research facilities.

- Invests in agriculture climate research and cooperative extension to help farmers and rural communities develop climate solutions and adapt to the climate crisis.

- Provides \$1 billion for ag research facilities at Minority Serving Institutions.
- Funds scholarship programs at 1890 historically Black land-grant universities, tribal scholarships, and multicultural student scholarships.

### **Rural Development and Energy**

\$18.3 billion to invest in rural prosperity and help rural communities transition to cleaner energy.

- Establishes the Rural Partnership Program, the most significant new rural development program in 30 years, to help small towns and tribal nations and territories strengthen their communities and improve their quality of life.
- Supports rural electric cooperatives in the transition to cleaner energy, dramatically reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Funds programs that help farmers and small business owners be more energy efficient, and helps small towns and high-poverty rural areas revamp their water and waste systems and make energy efficiency upgrades.

### **Child Nutrition**

\$10 billion to invest in child nutrition programs to feed millions of additional kids during the school year and over the summer.

- Provides meals for almost 9 million additional children by expanding Community Eligibility for 5 years, so eligible schools can serve all children for free, reducing the administrative burden on schools and eliminating the stigma for students.
- Provides \$65 per month in Summer EBT benefits to all children eligible for free and reduced price meals to buy food over the summer for 2 years.
- Provides \$250 million for a healthy food incentive demonstration program to improve the nutritional quality of food in school meals, and \$30 million for kitchen equipment so that schools are better able to serve healthy food and scratch meals.

### **Debt Relief**

\$6 billion in additional funding to expand support to economically distressed borrowers and underserved farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in high-poverty areas.

- Provides full and partial debt forgiveness on direct loans, and offers loan modification services to USDA direct and guaranteed borrowers to keep their operations resilient and avoid economic disaster.
- Gives additional assistance to historically underserved producers living in high-poverty areas to address credit barriers, land access and a lack of technical help.
- Allows farmers or ranchers who experienced past discrimination in USDA credit programs to apply for additional assistance of up to \$500,000.