



WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATS

Help Is Here: The Washington State Democrats' Guide To Promoting The American Rescue Plan

Just 50 days since taking office, President Biden and Democrats have secured a major and consequential victory: successfully passing the American Rescue Plan (ARP), a bold and historic legislative package that will provide much-needed relief to millions of working people across the country.

Because of Democrats, working families bearing the brunt of this crisis will see \$1,400 direct checks in the mail, thousands more in individual benefits, funding to get more Americans vaccinated, the resources to get our kids and teachers safely back to school, access to more affordable health care and so much more.

This is a huge accomplishment, but we still have so much work to do to help our country recover from this pandemic. One thing is clear: we have to keep electing Democrats up and down the ballot to get critical, progressive legislation like the American Rescue Plan across the finish line.

When we elect Democrats, working people have more opportunity and better support. Our fundamental rights are restored and protected. But we have to make sure that voters know how we delivered for them when it counted most, and how Republicans did not, when they next head to the ballot box. That's where you come in!

Without you, these victories aren't possible. To win elections in 2021, 2022 and beyond, we need trusted voices like yours to spread the word now about this incredible victory and what it means for people across the country. This is our time to help our friends and neighbors understand how the ARP benefits them, and what Democrats are able to deliver with their support.

Wondering where to start? We wanted to ensure that you received this compiled this guide to help you talk to your friends, neighbors, and community about President Biden's bold and historic plan, with resources such as message guidance, social media content, graphics and more. We want to be as loud as possible about this win for the American people, so please share this with your networks and join us in letting Americans know that, thanks to the quick work of President Biden and Democrats, **HELP IS HERE.**

The Main Message

TOPLINE: HELP IS HERE

- When President Biden took office, he promised the American people that help was on the way. Now, Biden and Democrats have delivered on that promise.
- Help is here. Biden and Democrats have delivered real, tangible results for the American people and their families, beginning with direct payments of up to \$1400 to working people and resources to help manufacture and distribute vaccines.
 - DIRECT PAYMENTS: This plan will get checks out the door, starting this month. 85% of American households will get direct payments of one thousand four hundred dollars per person.
 - VACCINES: This plan provides funding for vaccine distribution, coronavirus testing, and contact tracing so we can get vaccines into the arms of more people and end this pandemic.
- In poll after poll, the vast majority of Americans support the American Rescue Plan. Despite that, Republican politicians voted in lockstep against it.
- The American Rescue Plan is the most consequential piece of legislation for working families in modern American history. It is a historic response to the moment of crisis we face and will make a real difference in the lives of Americans by creating jobs, providing economic relief, and defeating this virus.

WHAT REPUBLICANS OPPOSED

- The American Rescue plan is bipartisan. Democrats voted for a package that enjoys broad support from Democrats, Republicans, and Independents across the country. Yet, not a single Republican supported it.
- Democrats voted to send \$1,400 checks to Americans bearing the brunt of the crisis – not a single Republican joined them.
- Democrats voted for a national vaccination program to get shots into people's arms – not a single Republican joined them.
- Democrats voted for aid for small businesses struggling to keep their doors open – not a single Republican joined them.
- Democrats voted for funding to keep educators on the payroll and to safely reopen schools – not a single Republican joined them.

DETAILS OF THE LEGISLATION

- **DIRECT PAYMENTS TO 85% OF HOUSEHOLDS:** ARP will send checks of up to \$1400 per person to 85% of American households – the single largest direct payment to date. A low- or middle-income family of four will get \$5,600 in direct checks.
- **INVESTMENT IN VACCINE DISTRIBUTION:** ARP will allocate \$20 billion for vaccine distribution, including \$1 billion for the CDC to launch a vaccine awareness and engagement campaign and \$7.5 billion to set up vaccination sites across the country.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENDED THROUGH SEPTEMBER:** ARP extends enhanced unemployment insurance for around 11 million Americans who would otherwise start losing benefits next week – and protects them from surprise tax bills.
- **TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR RENTERS, HOMEOWNERS:** ARP extends tens of billions of dollars in rental and homeowners assistance that will benefit lower-income, disproportionately Black and Brown, renters and homeowners.
- **\$39 BILLION FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:** ARP helps working and middle-class families struggling to juggle child care and work by providing money to reopen schools safely and get vaccines in arms, so kids and teachers can safely return to school and parents can go back to work. This includes the most significant investment in American child care since World War II.
- **66 MILLION KIDS WILL BENEFIT FROM CHILD TAX CREDIT:** ARP lifts 11 million people out of poverty and cuts child poverty in half, including through a historic expansion of the child tax credit that will benefit 66 million kids across our country.
- **EITC EXPANDED TO 17 MILLION WORKERS:** ARP expands the Earned Income Tax Credit to 17 million low-income workers.
- **HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS LOWERED, 100% OF COBRA PREMIUMS COVERED FOR LAID-OFF WORKERS:** Significantly reduces health insurance premiums for millions of American families. A family of four making \$90,000 could see their monthly premium come down by \$200 per month.

Standing with Washington Democrats and Calling Out Washington Republicans in Congress

Let's thank our Washington Democrats for voting to pass the American Rescue Plan! Be sure to criticize Washington Republicans for voting no on bringing relief to Washingtonians and Americans in this time of crisis!

Voting Aye: Democratic Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell (WA)

Voting Aye: Democratic Representatives Suzan Delbene (WA-01), Rick Larsen (WA-02), Derek Kilmer (WA-06), Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), Dr. Kim Schrier (WA-08), Adam Smith (WA-09), Marilyn Stickland (WA-10)

Voting Nay: Republican Representatives Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03), Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

- **THANK DEMOCRATS:** Contact Washington Democratic members of Congress to thank them for voting for direct payments to working people and more vaccines in arms.
- **CRITICIZE REPUBLICANS:** Contact Washington Republican members of Congress to criticize them for voting against direct payments to working people and more vaccines in arms.
- Remember to only call those who represent your congressional district or state. See below for a sample script. The number for the Capitol switchboard is: 202-224-3121.

Hi, my name is _____ from Washington and I'm calling to [PRAISE/CRITICIZE] [LAWMAKER NAME] for [SUPPORTING/OPPOSING] the American Rescue Plan.

SHARE YOUR STORY

- As you consider ways to amplify the plan, using your own personal experience is a powerful and effective way to highlight how it will have an impact on people's lives. You are the best person to share your own story.
- Telling people about yourself, how the ARP has improved your life or the life of someone close to you, and what drives you to continue fighting for Democrats is a really powerful way to help out. You have a platform and a voice on social media – use it for educating people about the ARP!

- Collect direct-to-camera (selfie!) videos from your friends and family on why the ARP matters — and be sure to include #HelpIsHere in your posts so we can find them.
- Post them on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Tag @WashDems if you do!

WRITE AN OP-ED

- Using the guidance in this document, write an op-ed or a letter to the editor highlighting key details and what they mean for you. An opinion piece is also a great opportunity to praise your member of Congress for supporting it, or criticizing them for opposing it.
- Some tips on writing an opinion piece:
 - Try to keep it short -- around 750 words for an op-ed and 250 for a letter to the editor.
 - Write it in the first person.
 - Make sure the topic of your piece and your opinion is clear.
 - When you're done writing, go to your local paper's website "contact us" page for information on how to submit your piece.

BRING YOUR COMMUNITY INTO THE FOLD

- We need you to share this guide with those in your network, to help us educate people all over this country about the American Rescue Plan. There's no one better to talk to your community than you.
 - Share this with people in your community and network

SIGN UP FOR TEXT AND EMAIL UPDATES

- Go to wa-democrats.org to sign up for email updates to keep up with the latest from the Washington State Democrats. Make sure you are following us on social media @WashDems!

Share on Social Media!

POST ON TWITTER, FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

- And be sure to follow and retweet [@WashDems](#) and [@Tinapo](#) for content amplifying the American Rescue Plan.

SAMPLE POSTS

- Help is here. @POTUS' American Rescue Plan will send struggling Americans \$1,400 direct payments, invest in a national vaccination strategy, and help safely reopen schools.
- Biden and Democrats kept their promise. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, direct checks and resources for vaccinations are on the way. #HelpIsHere
- Democrats, Republican, and Independent voters overwhelmingly support @POTUS' American Rescue Plan. Democrats got to work to make it a reality, while Republicans voted to leave families high and dry. #HelpIsHere
- While Democrats were working to send working families \$1,400 checks and make the necessary investments to get more Americans vaccinated, Republicans were playing political games. #HelpIsHere

Creative Assets

PRAISE FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Below you will find what Washington State Democratic leaders have said in praise of the American Rescue Plan to use if helpful as you amplify the plan.

[Tina Podlodowski](#): “Democrats deliver for the people @washdems. Not a single Republican voted for the American Rescue Plan. Elections matter. @DNC @DemStateParties”

[Senator Patty Murray](#): “As a former pre-school teacher, mom, and grandmother, I’ve long fought to make sure every family can find and afford child care—because I know how hard the job is & how critical child care is. The American Rescue Plan makes historic investments in our child care system.”

Senator Maria Cantwell: “Millions of hardworking Americans lost their jobs this past year through no fault of their own. The #AmericanRescuePlan extends unemployment benefits, provides \$1400 stimulus checks, and will help American families as we continue to fight this pandemic.”

Rep. Suzan DelBene: “Democrats in Congress just approved a historic relief bill that meets the scale of this crisis in record time & now sends it over to @POTUS to sign. To everyone still struggling during this pandemic: Help is on its way.”

Rep. Derek Kilmer: “Proud to support the #AmericanRescuePlan - which will help us beat back this virus, enable kids to get back to school safely, support our local businesses, and provide a hand to folks that are trying to keep a roof over their heads, feed their families, and pay their bills.”

Rep. Pramila Jayapal: “To everyone across America who organized, made phone calls, sent texts, knocked on doors, got people registered, and voted: YOU made this bold relief package possible.”

Rep. Adam Smith: “The #AmericanRescuePlan includes critical funds for communities and cities across Washington's 9th district. The funds will help our cities and counties respond to the #COVID19 public health emergency, bolster economic recovery, and support essential workers. #WA09”

Rep. Kim Schrier: “The #AmericanRescuePlan just passed the House and is on its way to @POTUS. This bill is the bold action we need to get our economy reopened, children back into classrooms, and every American vaccinated.”

Rep. Marilyn Stickland: “The #AmericanRescuePlan is headed to the President's desk! This is the rescue operation we need to protect jobs, end this pandemic & save lives. This survival package will mean millions for #WA10, and includes critical funding I secured for local & tribal gov'ts #HelpIsOnTheWay”

Rep. Rick Larsen: “As @POTUS said tonight, the #AmericanRescuePlan meets the moment - it gets more vaccines in arms, money in people's pockets, helps districts safely reopen schools & gets people back to work.”

Constituency Fact Sheets

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|---|---|
| <u>The American Rescue Plan</u> | <u>Native Communities</u> |
| <u>AAPI Communities</u> | <u>Women</u> |
| <u>Black Communities</u> | <u>Latino Communities</u> |



Washington State Fact Sheet

The Need for Action in Washington

The pandemic and the associated economic crisis have had a severe impact on Washington. The need for action is clear:

- Since the pandemic began, more than 345,000 people have been infected with COVID-19 and more than 5,000 people have died.
- The unemployment rate is 6.3%, up from 4.1% before the pandemic.
- Since February 2020, more than 208,000 fewer people are employed.
- 413,000 adults – 8% of all adults in the state – report not having enough food to eat. This includes 219,000 adults living with children, or 11% of all adults living with children, who report that the children in their household do not have enough to eat.
- An estimated 228,000 renters or 12% of renters are not caught up on rent.
- An estimated 1.4 million adults or 26% of all adults statewide report having difficulty covering normal household expenses.

The Effect of the American Rescue Plan on Washington

President Biden's American Rescue Plan will provide Washington with:

- \$4.5 billion in state fiscal relief
- \$2.7 billion in local fiscal relief
- More than \$1.8 billion in relief for K-12 schools
- Economic impact payments of up to \$1,400 per person (above the \$600 per person provided in December) for more than 4.4 million adults and 1.6 million children. This is 80% of all adults in the state and 77% of all children in the state.
- Additional relief of up to \$1,600 per child through the Child Tax Credit to the families of 1.4 million children, lifting 66,000 children out of poverty • Additional relief of up to nearly \$1,000 through the Earned Income Tax Credit to 360,000 childless workers, including many in frontline jobs
- Marketplace health insurance premiums that are \$1,117 lower per month for a 60-year old couple earning \$75,000 per year.