



NETWORK LOBBY FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Building Anew with a Just Recovery Package

As people of faith, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice affirms the need for a just and equitable recovery for families and communities across the nation, particularly those who have suffered from a long history of systemic racism and racial exclusion. We are grateful to the Biden administration for proposing bold, once in a generation legislation that invests in shared prosperity and a brighter future.

Our communities need public investment in housing, paid family and medical leave, health care, and broadband technology that is racially, economically, and environmentally just. Rooting our economy in solidarity means bringing well-paying jobs to working families and prioritizing support for communities marginalized by our existing systems and structures as we build anew.

**As NETWORK Lobby calls for the swift passage of these plans that are essential to our communal recovery, we support the following key provisions for inclusion moving forward:**

- Make the new **Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit expansions permanent** and ensure all immigrants, regardless of legal status, can access the Child Tax Credit and human needs programs.
- Establish a **pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants** including Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and essential workers.
- Enact a set of **federal standards for Unemployment Insurance** (UI) including mandatory 26 weeks of benefits, adequate replacement wage levels (i.e. 75% of wages up to 2/3 of the state's average wage), and ensure that unemployed workers' access to benefits is racially equitable.
- Ensure any **national paid family and medical leave program** has progressive wage replacement, job guarantees and anti-retaliation language, inclusive definitions of family, and centers women of color in all decisions to ensure racially equitable access.
- Provide resources for multi-year **rental assistance** and address the ongoing unmet need for **affordable housing** by building affordable housing units.
- Make the **broadband subsidy** permanent to increase access to health care and other critical needs in communities across the country.
- **Close the Medicaid coverage gap** for non-expansion states and provide Medicaid to people who are incarcerated. Finance health expansions by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

820 First Street NE, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20002

202-347-9797 | [info@networklobby.org](mailto:info@networklobby.org) | [networklobby.org](http://networklobby.org)

[f](#) NETWORKLobby [t](#) @NETWORKLobby [i](#) @network\_lobby

# NETWORK Lobby Principles of a Just Recovery



## Recovery Must Raise Revenue for Investments to Benefit the Common Good

Everyone benefits from public investments, so we all share economic responsibility. Congress must responsibly finance a recovery package so all communities can thrive and have access to essential services.

- Roll back rules allowing U.S. corporations to pay lower taxes on offshore profits than those earned in the U.S.
- Raise the corporate tax rate to at least 28%.
- Eliminate loopholes that let the wealthy pay a lower tax rate on their investment profits than workers pay on their wages.
- Eliminate the loopholes that let the wealthy avoid paying taxes on the profits from assets they inherit.
- Restore the top individual tax rate to 39.6%, its rate before the 2017 Republican tax cuts.
- Strengthen IRS enforcement and information technology to ensure the wealthiest people and corporations cannot cheat the tax code.

## Recovery Must Ensure Comprehensive Benefits, Living Wages, and Paid Leave

We must respect the dignity of work by ensuring workers have access to good paying jobs, the opportunity to join a union, and equitable scheduling practices. Paid family and medical sick leave is a necessity for workers and their families across the country. These benefits are essential to furthering workplace justice and equity.

- Pass the Protecting the Right to Organize Act and enforce Davis-Bacon prevailing wage guidelines to allow workers to unionize and collectively bargain.
- Require companies receiving procurement contracts use taxpayer dollars to support good jobs in the U.S., including a commitment to pay at least \$15 per hour, provide paid leave, and maintain fair overtime and scheduling practices.
- Provide a pathway to citizenship for all for all undocumented immigrants including DREAMERS, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders and essential workers.
- Make the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit permanent so no worker is taxed into poverty, and make the expanded Child Tax Credit permanent to better support children and their families.

## Recovery Must Provide Funds to Build and Repair Affordable Housing and Broadband

There is widespread bipartisan support for safe and affordable housing. Investments in affordable housing create local jobs, tax revenue for local government, the creation of community amenities like libraries, parks, and foster an environment that can attract developers to build quality schools, supermarkets, and banking centers, thereby breaking down the devastating effects of systemic racism. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic proved that broadband is an absolute necessity for healthcare and other critical needs in communities across the country. Broadband should be a utility, as every aspect of life requires access to the internet, like social services, health care, education, unemployment benefits, and more.

- Increase federal investment in new affordable and accessible housing construction, rehabilitating existing housing stock, and provide local government funding to make targeted affordable housing decisions — including homes for low-income Americans, minority communities, the missing middle, formerly incarcerated individuals, veterans, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

- Include \$70 billion for public housing repairs, new construction, and increased funding for Tribal Communities.
- Provide resources for multi-year rental assistance to help struggling families stay housed. A policy available to lawmakers right now is allocating universal housing vouchers based on a community's demand for affordable housing.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development should protect source of income in statute to prevent discrimination.
- Make the broadband subsidy permanent to guarantee service everywhere and prevent digital redlining.
- Implement neighborhood block level speed maps to provide high-quality service to all users, whether they live in cities, suburbs, or rural communities.

## Recovery Must Create Equitable Access to Health Care

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how critical it is for everyone to have access to quality, affordable healthcare. It also revealed long-standing health disparities in Black, Brown, and Native American communities that are the result of a long history of systemic racism. Congress must end the stark racial divides in our nation by expanding Medicaid and other healthcare programs to ensure everyone has access to care, reduce the rate of maternal mortality, especially for Black women, and eliminate broader racial and socioeconomic disparities.

- Close the Medicaid coverage gap in non-expansion states by providing coverage for the first time to about 2.2 million people living below the poverty line in the 12 states.
- Close the Medicaid coverage gap in funding to the U.S. territories.
- Require state Medicaid programs to cover incarcerated individuals 30 days before release to facilitate better care transitions.
- Make all lawfully present immigrants eligible for Medicaid and CHIP.
- Allow Medicare to negotiate with drug companies.

## Recovery Must Address Environmental Inequalities

Low-income, rural and Black and brown communities are disproportionately made vulnerable to inadequate infrastructure, poor water quality, and toxic and hazardous waste. These communities increasingly suffer from exposure to climate change-driven disasters. The recovery package must prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable communities to address and protect against environmental disasters and care for the earth.

- End fossil fuel tax subsidies.
- Ensure the environmental justice is key consideration in where, how, and what to build. Adaption must be equity-based, with protecting the most vulnerable families and communities at the center of all decision-making.
- Guarantee clean, safe drinking water as a right in all communities, repair water pipelines and sewer systems, upgrade treatment plants, and integrate efficiency and water quality monitoring technologies. Protect our watersheds and clean water infrastructure from natural disasters by developing green infrastructure and natural solutions.

*“We need economies that give to all access to the fruits of creation, to the basic needs of life: to land, lodging, and labor.”*

**-Pope Francis, November 26, 2020**