

September 15, 2020



March to Common Ground

BIPARTISAN COVID RELIEF FRAMEWORK



Overview

- ❖ Having seen no progress on a new COVID-19 relief package in four months, and in recognition of Americans' increasing suffering, the Problem Solvers Caucus (PSC) has developed a comprehensive, bipartisan framework to meet the nation's needs for the next 6-12 months, that can pass both chambers of Congress and be signed into law by the President.
- ❖ **Our objective is to inspire negotiators to return to the table.**
- ❖ The framework was developed by a PSC working group that spent six weeks listening to constituents throughout the country, and was developed through robust debate, deliberation and conversation among caucus members and key stakeholders.
- ❖ The framework has been approved for endorsement by over 75% of the PSC membership, consisting of 25 House Democrats and 25 House Republicans.
- ❖ The PSC is committed to demonstrating cooperative, bipartisan leadership at a time our country needs it most.



Testing and Healthcare \$100 b

Problem

- ❖ The covid-19 virus continues to spread through the country. Reducing transmission through rapid and reliable testing and tracing, and ensuring quality treatment for all those effected must be our foremost priority to limit human and economic suffering and get our country back on the road to recovery.

Solution

- ❖ \$25 billion for testing and contact tracing
- ❖ \$30 billion for healthcare provider support including but not limited to tele-health expansion
- ❖ \$45 billion forgiveness of Medicare loans to providers (not to reduce Medicare Trust Fund)

Support for Individuals & Families \$316 b

Problem

- ❖ Because of covid-19, fixed costs for individuals and families are often exceeding the ability to pay for food, rent, loans, and other necessities.

Solution

- ❖ 15% WIC plus-up through March 2021 \$1 b
- ❖ 15% SNAP plus-up through July 2021 \$10 b
- ❖ \$1,200 direct stimulus checks + \$500 per child + dependent adults (retroactive) \$280 b
- ❖ Rental assistance for the most needy and other rent stabilization programs, and/or eviction moratorium through Jan 2021 \$25 b
- ❖ Student loan forbearance through December 31, 2020



Unemployment Assistance \$120 b

Problem

- ❖ The covid-19 virus has caused significant damage to the US and world economy, resulting in lay-offs, furloughs, and an impediment to returning to work. Americans who've been displaced from their jobs due to covid-19 need federal support to pay their bills and put food on the table for their families until they can get back to work. It's important to provide such support without a corresponding economic incentive to remain unemployed.

Solution

- ❖ \$450/week for 8-week transition period
- ❖ Followed by up to \$600/week, and up to, but not to exceed 100% of previous wage
- ❖ 13 weeks from mid October, 2020 - through January, 2021



Small Business & Non-Profits \$290 b

Problem

- ❖ Most small businesses who received PPP loans have exhausted those resources, and many of them and their millions of employees are hanging in the balance. Furthermore, many small businesses in distressed communities and owned by entrepreneurs of color were unable to obtain loans through the original program.

Solution

- ❖ \$240 billion for PPP (2nd loan, flexible use, full transparency, simplified forgiveness, prioritize distressed businesses)
 - ❖ \$145 billion remaining from PPP to be re-appropriated
 - ❖ \$ 95 billion in new money (\$11 b for CDFIs, \$17 b for small/community banks, \$17 b for mid-size banks, \$50 b for EIDL)
- ❖ \$50 billion for Targeted Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC)
- ❖ Rectify Main Street Lending Program



Schools and Child Care \$145 b

Problem

- ❖ All schools, colleges, and universities, whether re-opening or conducting remote or hybrid learning, are in need of resources to protect the health of students, teachers, staff, and visitors, and to ensure access to the equipment necessary for effective teaching. Child care providers have been especially hard hit by the impact of covid-19 and are in need of support to stay open and ensure that parents returning to their jobs have access to care for their children.

Solution

- ❖ \$15 billion for child care providers, flexible and immediate (\$10 billion for provider relief and \$5 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grants)
- ❖ \$100 billion for K-12 schools for virtual, hybrid, and/or in-person learning
- ❖ \$30 billion for higher education institutions



State & Local Aid \$500.3 b

Problem

- ❖ State and local governments have been severely impacted by covid-19 - both by incremental and unplanned direct costs, and by the loss of tax and fee revenue integral to the provision of services and payment of employees. Funds cannot supplant any liability that existed prior to the pandemic.

Solution

- ❖ Allow \$130 billion remaining from CARES Act for flexible use on documented **past state & local covid expenses**
- ❖ \$130 billion in new money for documented, **future state & local covid expenses (through 2021)**
- ❖ \$120.3 billion in new money for documented **local general revenue shortfalls (through 2021)**
- ❖ \$250 billion in new money for documented **state general revenue shortfalls (through 2021)**
- ❖ Tribal and territorial governments allocation



Election Aid \$400 million

Problem

- ❖ Secretaries of State are in need of resources to ensure the November election is conducted safely, securely, and as efficiently as possible. Needs include poll workers, temporary staffing, polling location PPE, and communication to voters about where, how and when to vote.

Solution

- ❖ \$400 million to states for incremental election costs



Broadband, Agriculture, USPS, & Census \$52 b

Problem

- ❖ Covid-19 has precipitated a need for comprehensive access to the internet, additional support for the agriculture sector, additional resources for the United States Postal Service, and a modest extension of the Census.

Solution

- ❖ \$12 billion for broadband hot spots in underserved communities
- ❖ \$25 billion for agriculture and aquaculture producers and processors
- ❖ \$15 billion for the USPS and elimination of the full pre-funding requirement
- ❖ Modify statutes to allow extension of Census and ensure an accurate count



Worker & Liability Protections

Problem

- ❖ Covid-19 has created the need to ensure workers, customers and students are protected from transmission, and businesses, schools, and institutions are protected from frivolous lawsuits

Solution

- ❖ Enhanced protections for entities which follow enhanced OSHA guidelines
- ❖ Robust enforcement of worker safety



Automatic Boosters / Reducers

Boosters (based on covid hospitalization metrics and vaccine progress) +\$400 billion

- ❖ Automatic 3-month UI enhancement in February 2021, if warranted - based on metrics: \$120 billion
- ❖ Automatic stimulus checks in March 2021, if warranted - based on metrics: \$280 billion

Reducers (based on covid hospitalization metrics and vaccine progress) -\$200 billion

- ❖ PPP: - \$60 billion
- ❖ State & local: - \$130 billion
- ❖ Rental assistance: -\$10 billion

Cost

Potential 2021 “boosters” :

\$400 billion

New money :

\$1,523.7 trillion

Previously appropriated “CARES” money :

\$130 billion

Potential 2021 “reducers” :

\$200 billion