



Democrats Deliver for Rural America

Americans shouldn't have to leave their hometowns to find opportunity and create a good life for their families. Senate Democrats and the Biden Administration have made historic investments in rural America to create jobs, lower costs, and improve the lives of rural families.

Keeping Rural Communities Strong

- **High speed internet:** Democrats delivered a historic investment in high-speed internet infrastructure for rural communities and tribes because of their belief that every American, no matter where they live, should have access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet.
- **Affordable health care:**
 - The new Rural Emergency Hospital designation will support struggling hospitals and train the next generation of health care providers to serve rural communities.
 - Telehealth investments are bringing health care providers to people where they are, when they need health care.
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics are now in small towns nationwide, serving people close to home with mental health and addiction treatment.
 - People in rural areas are seeing lower prescription drug costs, starting with \$35/month insulin.
- **Clean water:** Democrats' investment in water and wastewater infrastructure will eliminate lead pipes, provide critical access to sanitation, ensure access to affordable clean drinking water, and reduce drought.
- **Lower energy costs and a stronger grid:** Rural households spend a disproportionately high share of their income on energy bills — about 40% more than their metropolitan counterparts. Thanks to historic investments, Americans could see at least a \$300 per year reduction in energy costs.
- **Support for our veterans:** Almost a quarter of all veterans in the United States return from active military careers to live in rural communities. Democrats established a national recruitment and hiring plan for rural VA clinics and medical centers to improve healthcare service for rural veterans. Improving access to toxic exposure screenings will help protect our men and women who have served from long-term health complications.

Keeping Farmers Farming and Good Jobs in Small Towns

- **Support for Farmers to deal with weather disasters and tackle the climate crisis:** Democrats delivered nearly \$20 billion for popular voluntary conservation programs to support farmers efforts to manage risk and address greenhouse gases.
- **More competition to lower costs and strengthen supply chains:** Agricultural industries have seen major consolidation. For example, four large meatpackers account for 85% of beef slaughter. Democrats invested \$1 billion to expand independent meat processing capacity so farmers have more market options and fairer prices. More competition for producers' goods creates jobs and a strong food supply chain.
- **New fertilizer supply chains:** Democrats invested \$900 million to increase innovative domestic fertilizer production to lower costs for farmers, create new and good paying jobs in rural communities, and reduce dependency on foreign supplies of fertilizer.
- **Local and regional food systems:** Democrats are investing in local and regional food systems, which adds value for both agricultural producers and consumers, and spurs economic activity locally — helping communities that have been left behind and supporting good-paying jobs throughout the supply chain.
- **Rural electric cooperatives:** Democrats championed the largest investment in rural electric cooperatives since the New Deal, which will expand clean, affordable, and reliable energy in rural communities and create more than 90,000 good paying jobs.
- **Bioeconomy investments:** More than 4.6 million American jobs depend on the biobased products industry, and Democrats are continuing to invest in and grow this emerging sector of the economy.
- **Rural-led economic development:** The Rural Partners Network, started by the Biden-Harris Administration, is transforming the way the federal government partners with rural communities to spur inclusive, sustainable economic growth. Launched in April 2022, federal staff are now supporting 36 community networks in 10 states and Puerto Rico.

Keeping Families Fed

- **Summer meals for kids:** Democrats secured the first permanent investment in child nutrition in more than a decade by establishing a nationwide summer EBT program with more flexible meal delivery options. This will feed 29 million children across the country and improve access in rural communities by establishing flexibility for alternative meal delivery options like grab and go, mobile delivery, and backpack programs.
- **Food assistance:** Democrats are leading the fight to make sure food assistance is available for Americans when they face tough times. 80% of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is provided to American seniors, people with disabilities, veterans and families with children.