



Policy & Legislation: On the Horizon



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
POLICY & PLANNING DIVISION REPORT | APRIL 26, 2021

Legislative and Budget Priorities for 2021



SECTION 1: ANNUAL WORK PLAN

- Policy & Legislative Goals
- Performance Metrics
- State & Federal Advocacy Letters



SECTION 2: FEDERAL NOTES

- American Rescue Plan
- American Jobs Act
- Federal Budget Outlook



SECTION 3: STATE & LOCAL BUDGET

- Governor's Budget and May Revise
- County Measure X



Policy & Legislation Work Plan

GOAL 1

**State Legislative Policy and
Budget Analysis**

GOAL 2

**Federal Legislative Policy and
Budget Analysis**

GOAL 3

**Partner Engagement and
Communications**

GOAL 4

Federal COVID-19 Relief

Performance Outcomes



400 bills



25 letters



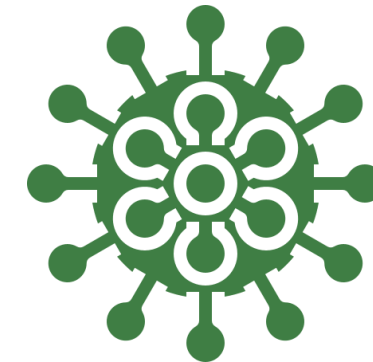
responding to legislative changes



90% meeting participation



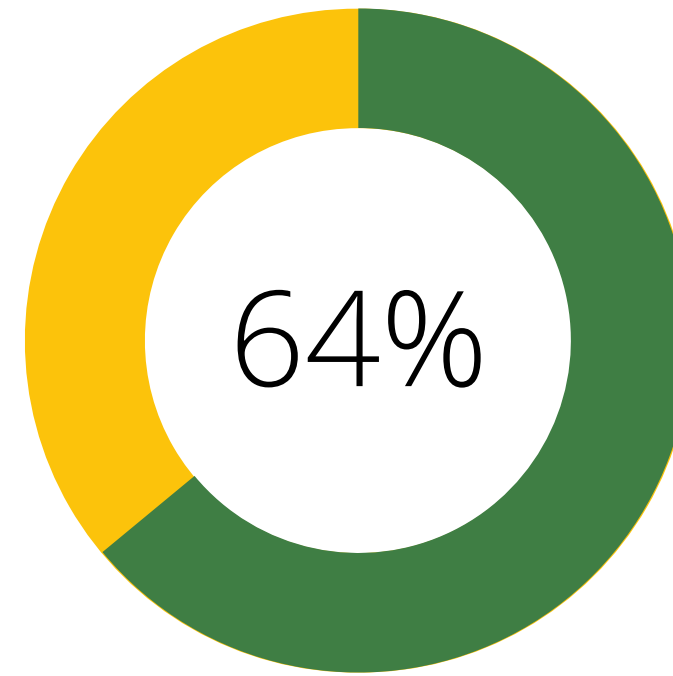
communications



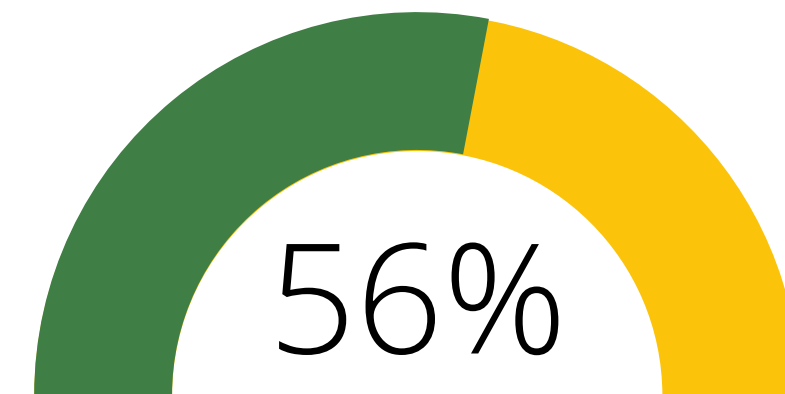
COVID-19 Relief

Tracking State Legislation Progress

*Goal to Actual, as of April 26, 2021



Bills Tracked



Position Letters



Leg. Meetings Attended

Advocacy Letters on Issues Impacting Human Services

State & Federal Legislation

- HR 6646: America's Workforce Act
- SB 107: Simplify CalFresh Applications
- AB 383: Older Adult Mental Health Administrator
- SB 494: Tax Credits for Hiring Homeless
- AB 413: Reduce & Prevent Foster Youth Homeless
- AB 636: Financial Abuse of Elder Adults
- AB 808: Children's Continuum Pilot
- HR. 8/S. 1446: Bipartisan Background Checks
- AB 22: Childcare and Universal TK
- FFPSA Part 1 State General Fund Request
- Adult Protective Services State General Fund Request
- Cash Assistance for CW Family Reunification Families



GOAL 2

Federal Legislative Policy, Budget Analysis and Decision Making Support for the Department



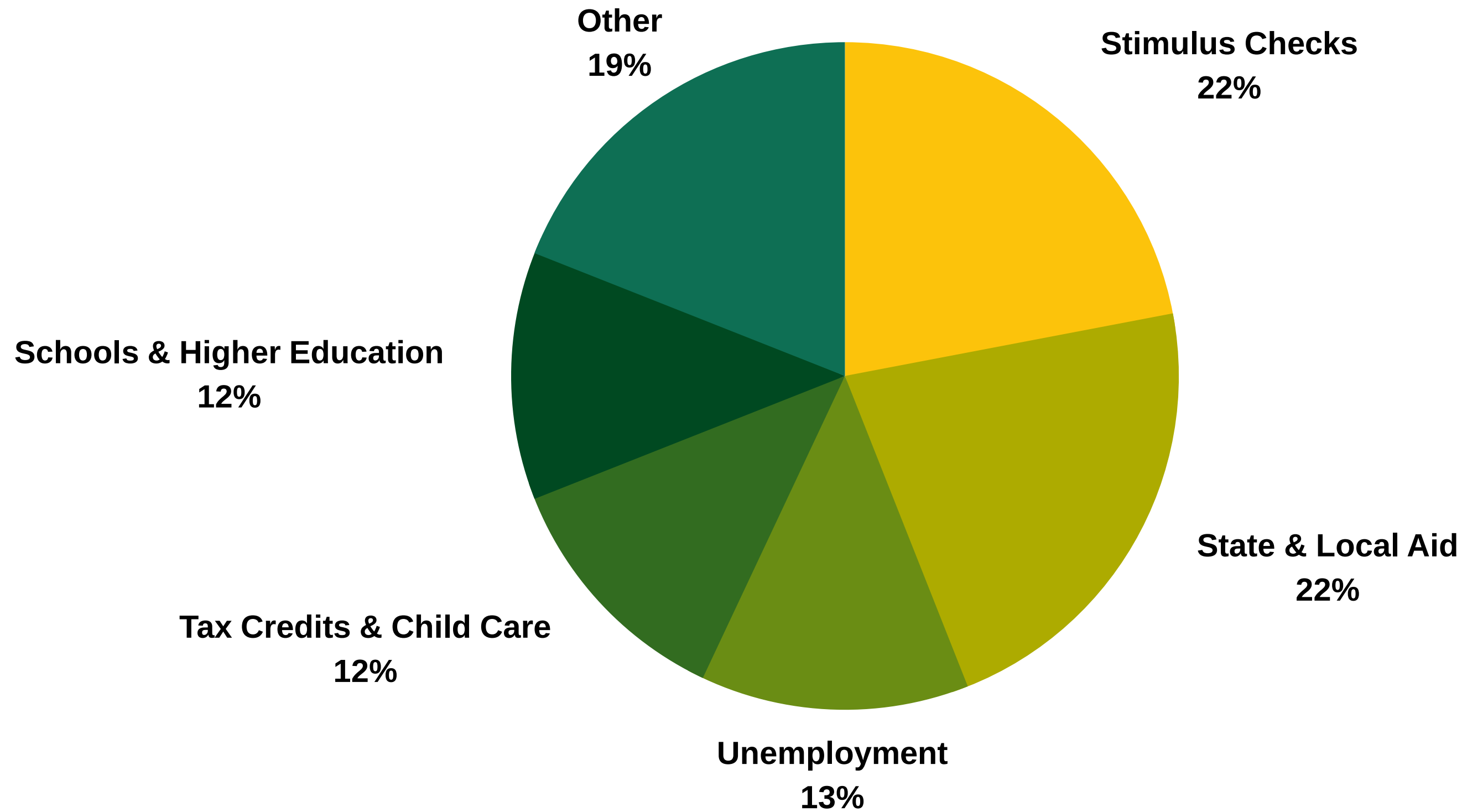
Priority Issue Areas Funded in American Rescue Plan of 2021 (H.R. 1319)

- **Extension of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**
- **Stimulus Relief Checks**
- **Expansion of EITC and Child Tax Credit**
- **Emergency Rental Assistance and Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs)**
- **Investing in high quality child care and early education**
- **Strengthening nutrition programs, SNAP and Pandemic EBT**
- **Expanding Medicaid health care coverage**
- **Boosting State & Local Government funding**
- **Flexible funds to school districts**
- **Investments in broadband and access to technology**



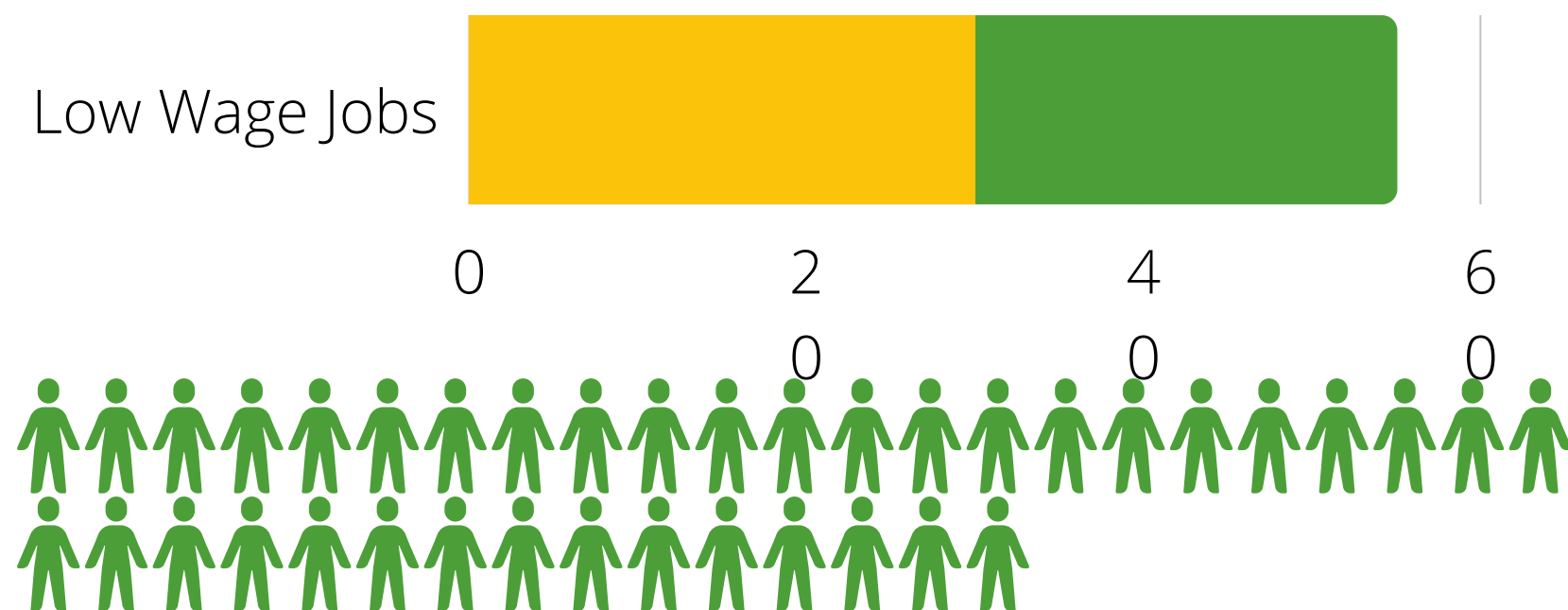
American Rescue Plan Budget

\$1.9 Trillion Federal COVID relief package



Unemployment Rate and Jobs

In February 2021 there were still 9.5 million fewer payroll jobs than in February 2020.

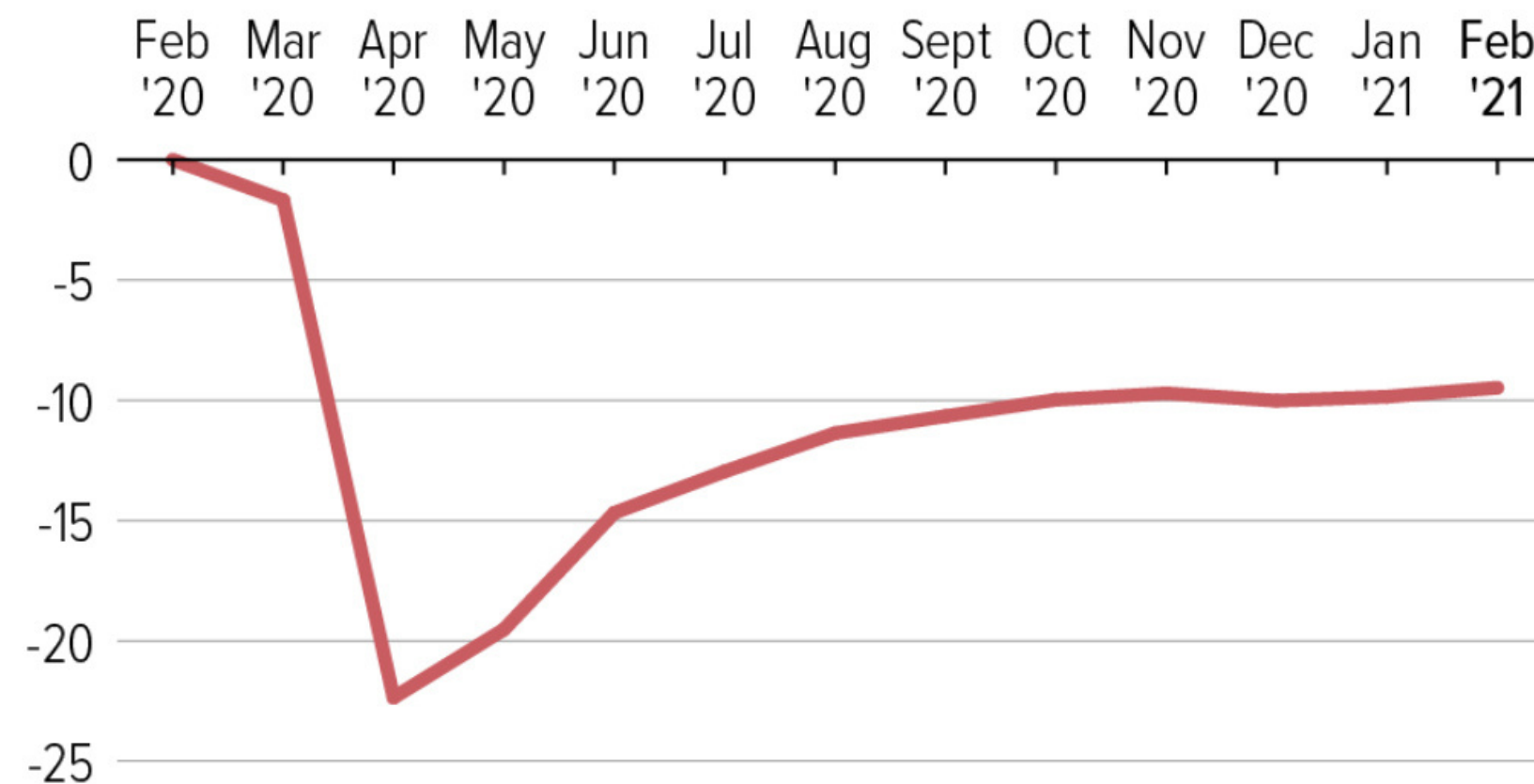


38 million

Unemployed or living with a family member unemployed

Job Deficit Still Nearly 10 Million After February Gains

Change in nonfarm payroll employment since February 2020, in millions



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

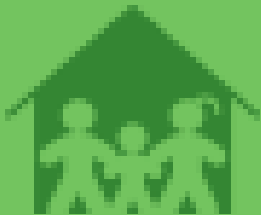
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of adults found it difficult to cover usual household expenses



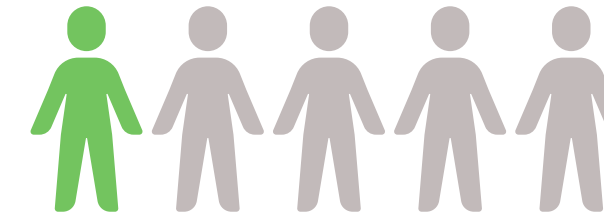
Families with children



Black families



Latino families



1 in 5

adults living in rental housing with unpaid rent



\$3,000

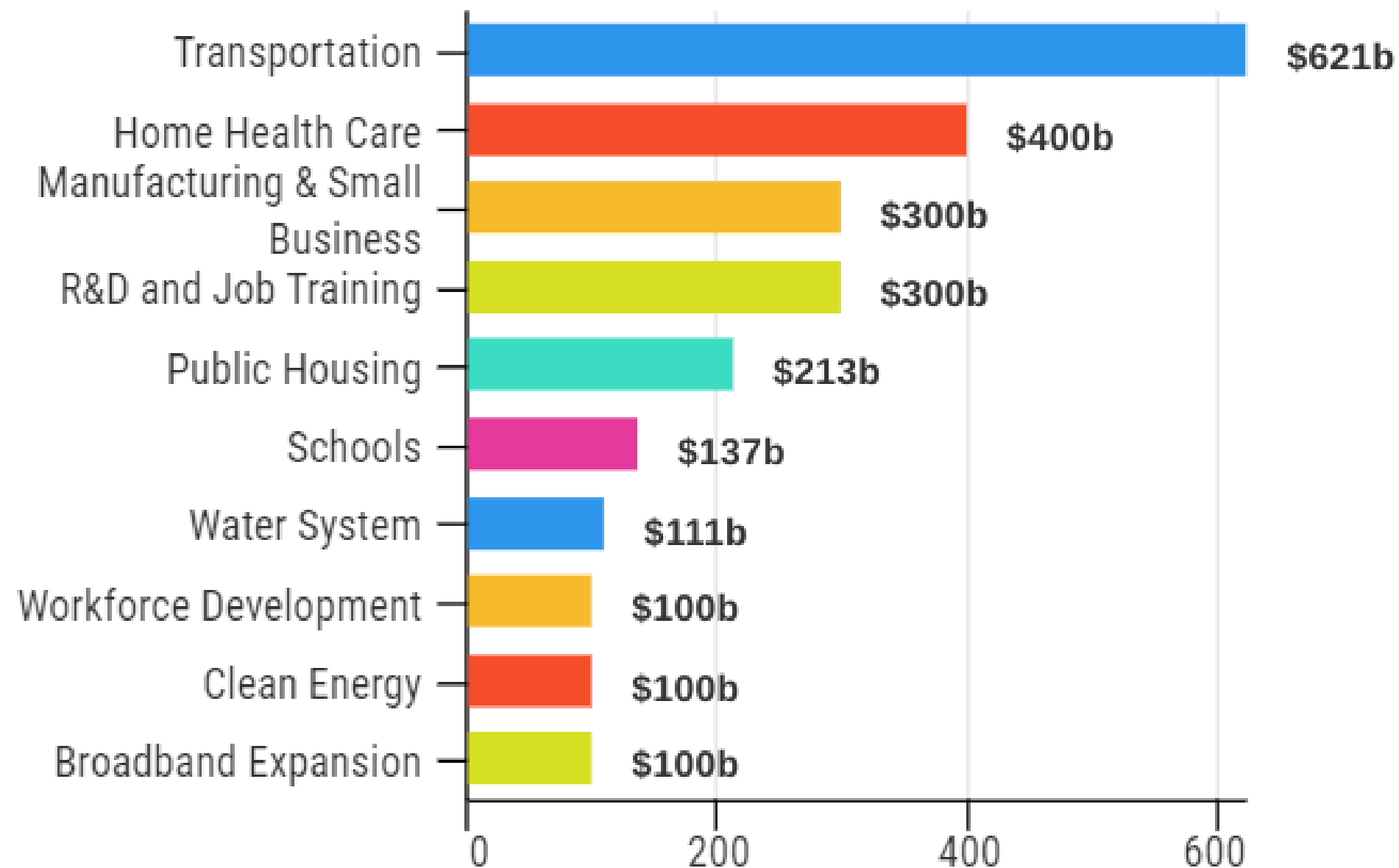
per child in Child Tax Credit & expansion of EITC



4.1 million

children lifted out of poverty

Key Priorities in Proposed American Jobs Plan



Federal Budget Outlook FY 2021-2022

- Early \$1.5 trillion "skinny budget" in discretionary appropriations
- \$769 billion or 16% increase in non-defense spending
- 40% increase in funding high poverty schools & Title I grants
- 23% increase for Dept. of Health & Human Services, including Child Care Development Block Grant and Head Start
- Leaves out entitlement programs e.g. Medicare & Social Security
- Complementary to American Jobs Plan



Governor's State Budget and County Measure X





Governor's Budget FY 2021-2022

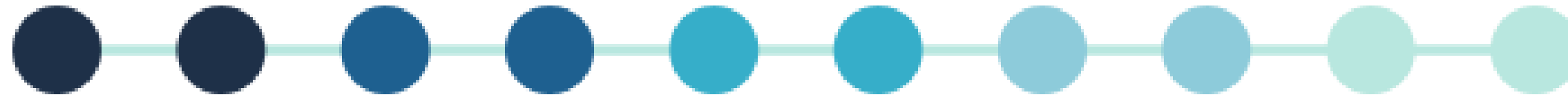
- **On January 28, Governor Newsom released his State Budget to Legislature**
- **\$272 billion plan to address immediate COVID response and equitable, inclusive economic recovery**
- **Areas of focus:**
 - **COVID 19 Vaccinations**
 - **Golden State Stimulus**
 - **Economic Recovery & Job Creation**
 - **Safely Reopening Schools K-14**
 - **Early Education & Child Care**
 - **Health Care Affordability & Aging**
 - **Housing & Homelessness**
 - **Emergency Response & Climate Change Action**

California's Fiscal Outlook: FY 2021-2022

- **State economy has undergone rapid but uneven recovery**
- **Data on tax collection & public benefits expenditures consistent with positive economic picture**
- **Likely significant one-time budget windfall of \$26 billion**
- **State faces an operating deficit beginning 2021-22**
- **Budgets for schools and community colleges more positive**
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Restore Budget Resilience - use half of windfall (\$13 billion)**
 - **Address One-Time Pandemic Needs**
 - **Begin Multiyear Effort to Address Ongoing Deficit**



County Measure X Tax Revenue



1

In November 2020, Contra Costa approved a sales tax increase of a half percent on all goods (excluding food and medicine).

2

\$91 million in annual revenue with \$22 million in one-time funding to County General Fund

3

In February 2021 the BOS approved a 17-member Measure X Community Advisory Board (CAB) to advise on budget recommendations.

4

Funds regional hospital & community health centers, fire protection, safety net services, behavioral health, child care, homelessness & housing services

5

CAB has 95% share of advisory decision making, 5% will go to special interest bearing account.

6

Proposals requested for CAB review & planning, May through June 2021

Equitable Economic Recovery

Early Education:

- Increased capacity for Head Start and Early Head Start (and related staff)
- Matching grants to community providers to allow for increased sliding scale spots for families

Economic Development:

- Technical assistance to very small businesses

Workforce Development Board:

- Technical assistance and support for companies to create paid internships



Thank You

Building Brighter Futures Together...



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