

How can we make the most of the American Rescue Plan resources?

High-quality postsecondary education is the ticket to long-term economic opportunity.



Nearly every job created since the 2008 recession requires some postsecondary education or training.



Adults with postsecondary credentials are more likely to be employed and to earn more than individuals who did not attend college.

Unfortunately, the path to economic mobility is already riddled with potholes for far too many Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous students and those experiencing poverty. The pandemic has turned those potholes into sinkholes, dramatically decreasing the number of students enrolling in postsecondary education and training.

Drops in Direct Postsecondary Enrollment

↓ **7%** overall
 ↓ **11%** at high schools with large low-income populations

Drops in FAFSA Completion

↓ **5%** overall
 ↓ **8%** at high schools with large Black and Hispanic populations

The passage of the American Rescue Plan is a tremendous opportunity for communities to rebuild. As they plan for how to spend these funds, district and state leaders should *invest forward* by prioritizing support for students' pathways to postsecondary and career success.



Build college and career momentum early in high school.



Acquire knowledge, experiences, and relationships necessary for career success.



Earn college credit and/or stackable credentials before graduation.



Directly enroll in postsecondary education or training programs that lead to credentials with labor market value.