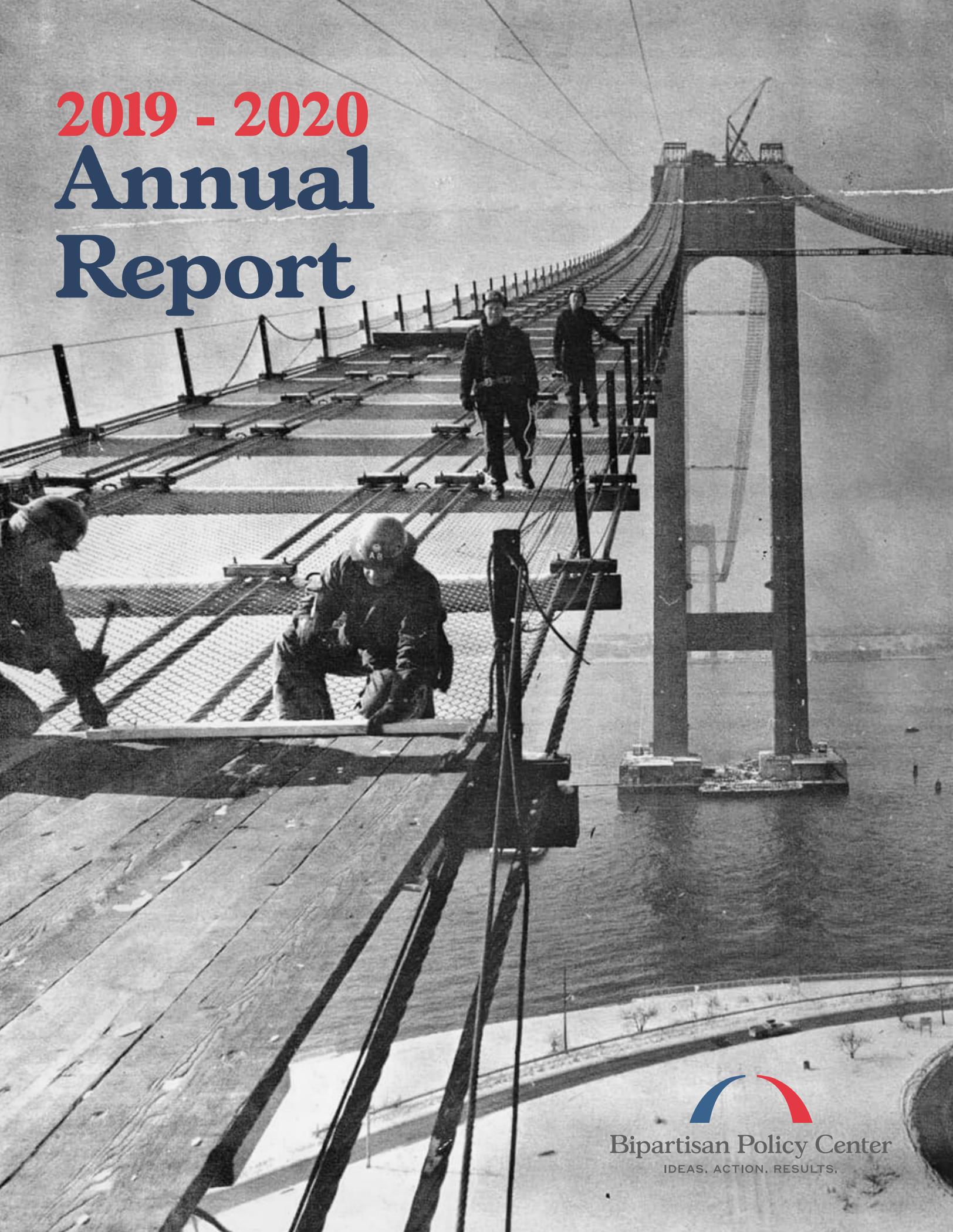


2019 - 2020 Annual Report



Bipartisan Policy Center
IDEAS. ACTION. RESULTS.

Letter from the President



A pandemic and a collective reckoning with generations of racial injustice: either crisis alone would have made for a memorable year. Combined, their effect has been seismic. An appetite for transformative change is in the air, but so is concern about our government's capacity to solve problems and deep anxiety about the future. In recent polls, eight out of ten Americans say the country is headed in the wrong direction. As the long days of summer begin to fade, our famously fractious but usually self-confident nation seems to lack one of its defining features: optimism that better times lie ahead.

Given how many people lost loved ones or livelihoods in 2020, our collective pessimism should not come as a surprise. But it's also true that the roots of our current discontent run deeper than the headlines of the last

few months. The pandemic and recent social unrest have exposed long standing fault lines and weaknesses in our economy and social fabric. Acknowledging and clearly diagnosing these pre-existing conditions is a prerequisite for healing what ails us.

The fact is that even during recent years of robust growth and record-low unemployment, many Americans had ample reason to worry making ends meet juggling multiple part time jobs, weathering an unexpected health issue or financial setback; the rising costs for housing, child care, and other life necessities; student debt, and broadly about their children's chances of achieving a stable, middle-class lifestyle. A year ago, the stock market was high and heading higher, but so was inequality. In September 2019, wage inequality in the United States reached its highest level since the federal government began tracking this data more than 50 years ago. And while American-style free-market capitalism has indisputably produced enormous gains, it was just as clear that those gains, far from being distributed evenly, were still leaving stark divides in health, education, wealth, and opportunity.

COVID-19 has revealed and exacerbated these divides. As BPC reported in June, Black Americans were not only more than twice as likely as their white counterparts to die from COVID-19, they were far more likely to have lost a job in the ensuing economic downturn. In a survey conducted by BPC earlier this year, 40% of Black households said they had experienced either "some" or "great" financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 compared to only 27% of white households. Likewise, 54% of Black households reported suffering from life-stressing unemployment, reduced hours, or pay cuts, in



contrast with 36% of white households. These findings reflect large, pre-existing gaps in wealth and income. In 2017, the median net worth of Black households— at just \$17,600—was only one-tenth that of white households, which had a median net worth of \$170,000.

The question in front of us today is not only how to rebuild the economy, but how to build back in ways that make America stronger, more resilient, and more just. Much of BPC's recent work speaks very directly to this challenge. Our framework for a pragmatic, bipartisan approach to economic recovery stresses three elements of a Working Families Agenda that are also central to addressing our nation's longstanding, systemic problems of racial and socioeconomic inequality:

- Helping children and families
- Promoting financial resilience and wealth creation
- Rewarding work and expanding opportunity

This annual report highlights some of BPC's recent achievements and initiatives to enhance economic security opportunity and fairness. The report also takes note of accomplishments in BPC's long-standing commitments to health care, energy/ climate, and strengthening democratic institutions.

The key to a functioning democracy is that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate and the election outcome is trusted and accepted by the American public. The weeks preceding and immediately following our upcoming elections pose a real and clear danger to these most basic elements of our democracy. BPC is laser focused on a series of initiatives to promote credible and trusted information about our election process with the ultimate purpose of seating a Congress and president who are legitimately empowered to govern a divided nation.

BPC's diverse initiatives are united in the purpose

of making government work better for people. The cataclysms of 2020 have demonstrated the importance of this principle, reminding Americans why capable governance and unifying leadership matter. BPC recognizes the deep divisions, anger and alienation that define our national politics. Our ambition is not to ignore these divisions, but to help our leaders competently govern a divided country. As policymakers and citizens seek ways to build a stronger, more inclusive America, BPC and its (c)4 partner, BPC Action, will keep a shoulder to the wheel, applying our signature brand of high ideals, hard-headed analysis, principled compromise, and aggressive advocacy to the equal and even greater challenges that lie ahead.



Jason Grumet

President, Bipartisan Policy Center

 @JasonGrumet

"THE QUESTION IN FRONT OF US TODAY IS NOT ONLY HOW TO REBUILD THE ECONOMY, BUT HOW TO BUILD BACK IN WAYS THAT MAKE AMERICA STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT, AND MORE JUST."





Areas of Impact

WHERE BPC PLAYED KEY ROLES DURING THE 116TH CONGRESS

Reflecting the best thinking from across the political spectrum, BPC and BPC Action respectively developed and promoted policy solutions that have improved the health, security, and welfare of Americans as well as enhanced the effectiveness of the federal government. In 2019/2020, key policy achievements include:

Increasing Access to Health Care

- Coronavirus Response: increased funding for public health programs and health care workers and expanded supplemental and special benefits for chronically ill and senior Medicare Advantage recipients
- Telehealth Expansion
- Opioid Treatment and Prevention
- Funding for public health infrastructure and public health departments
- Stabilize and transform rural hospitals

Helping Children and Families

- Coronavirus Response: increased funding for grants and programs to expand quality child care and provide financial assistance and support services to American families
- Funding for Child Care Development Block Grant and Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships
- Paid Parental Leave for federal employees

Moving Toward a More Inclusive Economy

- Coronavirus Response: over \$12 billion to support Americans experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, rent burdens, and economic vulnerability and 10 weeks of paid family leave and two weeks of paid sick leave to workers who previously did not have access to these benefits
- Improving retirement security for Americans
- Providing relief to Americans who are unemployed during the pandemic

Promoting Innovation

- Funding for energy innovation technologies to advance carbon capture and direct air capture military technologies

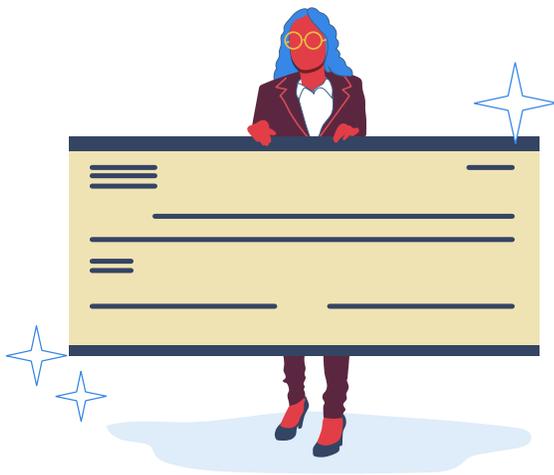
Strengthening Democracy

- Coronavirus Response: expanded flexible funding for states to enhance absentee voting or to prepare for a different type of in-person voting option
- Funding for Government Accountability Office and Congressional Research Office
- Formation of House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress
- Improving House technology, transparency, staff diversity and retention, and constituent accessibility and engagement

In the face of historic unemployment due to COVID-19, people need and want to work; the pandemic is making balancing family and work much harder than it already was. And businesses struggle to fully reopen amid fears of resurgence and liability. BPC has recommendations that Congress should adopt now to give struggling parents the support they need to safely get back to work and help revive businesses, including limited liability relief.



Here's BPC's Plan for COVID-19 Emergency Relief



Economic Relief – Reinstate supplemental Unemployment Insurance benefits through December at \$400 per week for a truer wage replacement; combined with a second round of direct relief checks to a broader swath of Americans, this will provide approximately \$600B in financial relief.

Child Care – As over 70% of child care providers are either closed or operating at severely reduced capacity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, eliminate barriers to work for parents by providing \$26.5B in critical funding to support child care providers.



Paid Leave – As businesses reopen, help workers return to their jobs sooner and stay employed by giving them the flexibility they need to care for themselves and their families during the crisis by extending the existing emergency paid leave provisions through the end of June 2021; expand coverage to new parents; and raise the 500-employee cap to cover more lower-income workers who are most in need.

LOOKING AHEAD

BPC's Working Families Agenda

The United States is dealing with two separate yet interconnected crises—the coronavirus pandemic and the deep racial inequities rooted in much of American society. As the country grapples with the health and economic fallout from these issues, BPC is building the foundation for durable solutions for a more just, secure, and prosperous future.

Health Care

Even before the pandemic, our nation struggled with high health care costs, limited access to care, and low quality. COVID-19 has further highlighted the vulnerabilities and fragile nature of the nation's health care system. It also has exacerbated existing health care disparities as we see the disproportionate impact COVID-19 is having on communities of color and people of lower economic means. Furthermore, across the country, helpline calls for people with mental health and substance use issues are increasing at an alarming rate due to COVID-19. This pandemic is not only disproportionately affecting communities of color but also exposing racial and ethnic disparities in access to mental health care.

BPC's Health Program has worked tirelessly to develop a series of policy recommendations to address these issues and identify a path forward to improving health care in the United States. This past year saw major bipartisan recommendations from our Future of Health Care Initiative and our Rural Health Task Force. BPC also convened a Behavioral Health Task Force to address our nation's current crisis calls for a health care system that is better prepared to integrate primary and behavioral health care.

- [Future of Health Care Report and Recommendations](#)
- [Confronting Rural America's Health Care Crisis](#)
- [Behavioral Health Integration Launch](#)
- [Opioid Report](#)
- [Loosening COVID-19 Social Distancing Interventions: Lessons Learned from Abroad Report](#)

Children and Families

All children deserve positive early childhood experiences and a strong foundation that will prepare them to learn, grow, and succeed regardless of income, race, or language of origin. However, the United States falls short of these ideals. Families of color, low-income families, and families from historically marginalized communities have less access to high-quality care and learning than their peers. Compounding this issue is the fact that early care and learning providers are struggling to make ends meet. This state of affairs has placed families—both low- and middle-income—in an impossible position, often forcing them to choose between high-quality care and learning for their children and other basic necessities.

BPC developed a blueprint for action based on a set of common-ground principles that prioritize the needs of American families and allow all children to reach their full potential.

- [The Future of Working Families: How We Care for Our Children](#)

- [Nationwide Child Care Poll: Child Care Costs Impact Families' Employment, Savings, and Future Planning](#)
- [The Need for Paid Leave Amidst Historic Unemployment and Caregiving Responsibilities](#)
- [Unpacking the Finances of the Sandwich Generation: Key Takeaways from BPC's Survey of Family Caregivers](#)
- [The Families First Coronavirus Response Act: What it Does for American Workers Who Desperately Need Paid Leave](#)
- [A Guide to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act: What Workers and Businesses Need to Know](#)
- [America Needs a Child Care Plan](#)
- [Three Changes Congress Should Make Now to the Emergency Paid Leave Programs](#)
- [It Doesn't Have to Be All or Nothing: How Unemployment Insurance Could Support Work and Continue to Provide Financial Relief](#)
- [Reopening America: Protecting Public Health and Rebuilding Economic Strength](#)
- [COVID-19 Sparks Huge Shifts in American Financial Well-Being: Poll Finds Openness to Change Racial Inequities Have Long Existed in the Economy. A New BPC Survey Shows COVID-19 Made Them Worse.](#)
- [The Next Phase for CFPB: A Keynote Address from Director Kathy Kraninger](#)
- [Keynote Conversation with Randal Quarles, Federal Reserve Vice Chair with Special Patriot Award Ceremony Recognizing Alice Rivlin](#)
- [A New Course for Higher Education: Strengthening Access, Affordability, and Accountability COVID-19 May Deplete Social Security Trust Funds This Decade](#)

Toward a More Inclusive Economy

The United States is grappling with economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently experiencing record levels of unemployment and vanished savings. Many Americans are faced with difficult decisions of paying rent or buying food, and the reality is that Black and Latino families are feeling the brunt of this recession. People of color struggled more economically, even when unemployment was at single-digit historic lows; they will have more ground to cover in the eventual recovery.

Throughout our nation's history, crises have led to change and today is no different. BPC sees an opportunity to rebuild the economy in a way that benefits everyone and not just the wealthy few. In our Blueprint for Empowering Working Families, we urge Congress to make it easier for Americans to build emergency savings, enact a permanent family leave policy, and enhance tax credits for working families. We will come out of this recession, but we must strengthen the economic security and resiliency of all our working families to do so.

- [A Conversation with Janet Yellen and David Malpass](#)

Promoting Innovation

The BPC Energy Project has focused its attention on the current COVID-19 and economic crises and is putting forward a set of materials that policymakers can consider when focus shifts from rescue to recovery.

With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reverberating throughout the U.S. economy, policymakers are considering stimulus measures to drive job creation while addressing longer-term challenges—particularly the transition to clean energy sources. The American Energy Innovation Council has developed a framework that points to new approaches for an innovation-focused climate strategy that can also drive economic growth.

- [BPC Energy Stimulus and Recovery Policies](#)
- [AEIC Scaling Innovation Project](#)
- [Advancing Clean Energy and Climate Objectives](#)
- [Recommendations for DAC Research, Development, and Demonstration](#)

Strengthening Democracy

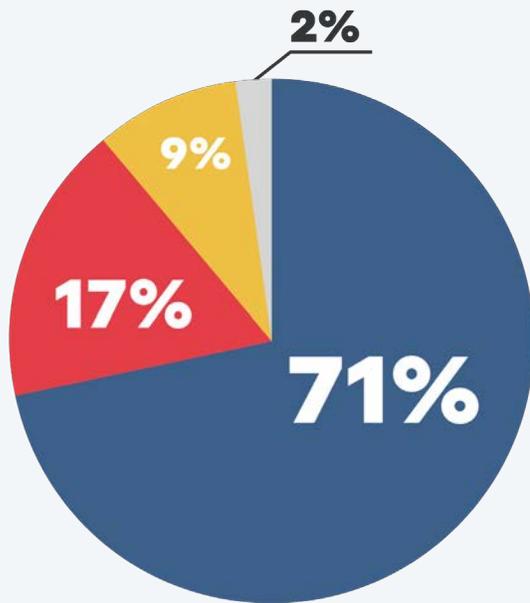
Free, fair, and secure elections are critical to the health of democracy, and voting is the most important expression of a citizen's democratic rights. Through our election legitimacy initiative and Task Force on Elections, we have worked closely with local and national policymakers to enact sustainable reforms that improve the voting experience for a diverse electorate.

Given the country's deep policy and political disagreements, it is critical for Congress to operate with respect, decency, and civility in order to address the nation's most pressing challenges. BPC's American Congressional Exchange offers members of Congress a unique opportunity to get outside of the strict confines of the Capitol to build lasting relationships with their peers. Members are paired on a bipartisan basis with a focus on districts that differ geographically, culturally, and politically. The bonds formed on these trips are fundamental to improving the legislative process.

- [Election Lines report](#)
- [Logical Election Policy](#)
- [Accessing the Vote During a Pandemic](#)
- [ACE Trips](#)
 - [California Democrat and Nebraska Republican Meet Online to Talk Food Security](#)
 - [South Carolina Democrat Visits a Kentucky Republican: Where the River and Family Ties Run Deep](#)
- [Congress's Mid-Year Review: Amendment Drought Persists, Committees Off to Slow Start](#)
- [Graveyard Senate? Impeachment-Obsessed House? Or Just Dysfunctional?](#)
- [Modernizing Congress: Lessons from State Legislatures](#)
- [Promoting Civility, Collaboration, and Bipartisanship in Congress—Jason Grumet Testimony](#)

2019

Financials



Revenue

Total **\$22.2 million**

Institutional Foundations 71%

Corporate 17%

Individuals and Family Foundations 9%

Other 2%

■ Institutional Foundations ■ Corporate ■ Individuals and Family Foundations ■ Other

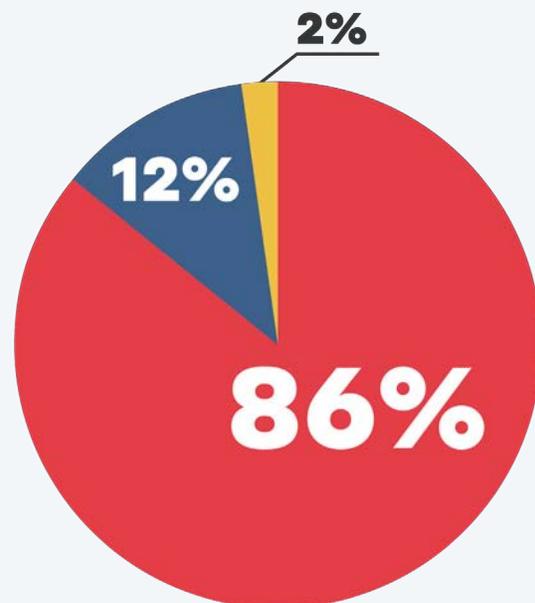
Expenses

Total **21.2 million**

Program 86%

Development 12%

Management & General 2%



■ Development ■ Program ■ Management & General



Event Highlights 2019



Energy Innovation: Fueling America's Economic Engine featuring Secretary Rick Perry



Dole Series on Leadership: A Conversation with Lonnie Bunch

January 17

February 1

February 22

A Keynote Address from HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II





Dole Series on Leadership: From National Security to Congress-A Conversation with Freshman Congresswomen
featuring Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), and Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)

July 7

July 11

October 16

Dole Series on Leadership: Overcoming Challenges and Embracing Diversity-A Conversation with Oscar Munoz

The Future of AI featuring Reps. Bill Foster (D-IL) and Will Hurd (R-TX)



F U N D E R S P O T L I G H T



BPC's ability to launch new projects and respond to changes in our nation's priorities depends greatly on our diverse and dedicated group of funders. Over the past year, thanks to the Overdeck Family Foundation, BPC's Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) was able to launch the Family Voices Project, and to lay the groundwork for a quick response when crisis hit.

Through its Family Voices project, the ECI is collaborating with a diverse and representative group of parents to center the needs of families and ensure their voices are included in policymaking, research, and practice related to early care and education. The aim is to develop a new parent base to assist with developing and building consensus around the vision for a stronger care system in the United States.

Through multiple roundtables and surveys focused on what parents look for in child care, it has become clear that ahead of credentials and affordability, parents view trust as the most important factor in choosing child care. While trust seems like a necessary part of any care arrangement, too many families in the United States are forced to make untenable tradeoffs between priorities. Through the ECI, with support from partners like the Overdeck Family Foundation, BPC is advancing policies that will improve early learning facility infrastructure, boost work force stability, expand parent options (for example, through home-based care), and increase the availability of quality child care options across the United States.

Drawing on the work of its informal steering group, a series of focus groups, and nationwide polling, the Family Voices project will inform BPC's recommendations on federal investment and early care and education reforms as the nation works to build back a more stable child care system following the pandemic.

Family Voices: Child Care in Crisis

After COVID-19 hit, forcing many child care programs to close and parents to balance work and child care in new ways, the Family Voices project allowed the ECI to quickly respond by conducting a nationwide poll of working parents with children under the age of five. The data helped BPC understand the drastic and ongoing disruption to child care needs and priorities during the pandemic and explore potential policy responses. It will also allow BPC to track the longer-term impact on the child care landscape in the United States.

Project: Family Voices, BPC's Early Childhood Initiative

Goal: To give parents a greater voice in strengthening the early care and education system in the United States, ensuring that they are engaged, and have a key part to play in policymaking, research, and practice

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