



**The National LGBTQ Anti-Poverty Action Network** (“The Network”) calls on congressional leaders to take bold action in implementing solutions in COVID recovery legislation to address issues of poverty for LGBTQ communities that predated 2020 and have been exacerbated by higher rates of severe health risks and job loss during pandemic.

The Network is a coalition of over 100 national, state, and local organizations working in the LGBTQ, anti-poverty, and anti-hunger movements to increase awareness about and action on LGBTQ poverty.

As detailed in [our letter](#), The Network asks Congress to enact comprehensive solutions to the intersecting crises of public health, housing, economic uncertainty, and racial injustice that afflict LGBTQ people, and invest in priorities that can help LGBTQ communities build back better, including:

- **Supporting LGBTQ families by expanding tax credits**, streamlining access to benefits, expanding housing assistance, investing in schools and in childcare as a public good, and expanding nutrition support.
- **Advancing LGBTQ inclusive nondiscrimination protections** in any recovery legislation to ensure LGBTQ people have fair access to the resources allocated to address health and economic consequences of the pandemic.
- **Investing in LGBTQ small businesses** in the proposed \$31 billion in programs to support small businesses including incubators and innovation hubs, and creating an office in the SBA for LGBTQ small businesses.
- **Investing in home and community-based services** that can support disabled and elderly LGBTQ individuals so they can get in-home aid to help them stay healthy in their homes.
- **Investing in LGBTQ workers** by promoting LGBTQ competent and affirming training policies and procedures in workforce development programs, supporting employment nondiscrimination enforcement, strengthening unions, worker centers and worker co-operatives, and investing in a subsidized jobs program.
- **Enacting LGBTQ inclusive paid family and medical leave** that includes time off for gender-affirming care and to care for chosen family.
- **Expanding affordable housing and homeownership opportunities** for LGBTQ people and other underserved communities.
- **Investing in data collection** to expand and enhance sexual orientation and gender identity data collection and to test and implement intersex status data collection in federally funded surveys.
- **Expanding digital infrastructure** to expand broadband coverage and reduce the cost of internet service across the country.

Congress should also raise revenues through progressive tax policies, such as increasing the top income tax rates and corporate tax rate, taxing wealth like work, and increasing IRS funding to ensure the wealthy and big corporations pay the taxes they owe.