

# What the heck is going on?

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**Hi!**

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# What is Congress doing?

Congress is working on another big spending bill to help the country recover from the pandemic.

The bill will pass in the next month or so.

The bill will probably be about \$3.5 trillion dollars.



# What is Congress doing?

A lot of different things are included in the bill!

Important things for the disability community are in this bill.

Money for services is in this bill.



## Words you might have heard

**“Build Back Better”**: This is President Biden’s plan for what should happen. Most of the plan is in the bill, but not all of it.

**“Reconciliation”**: This is the process Congress is using to pass the bill.

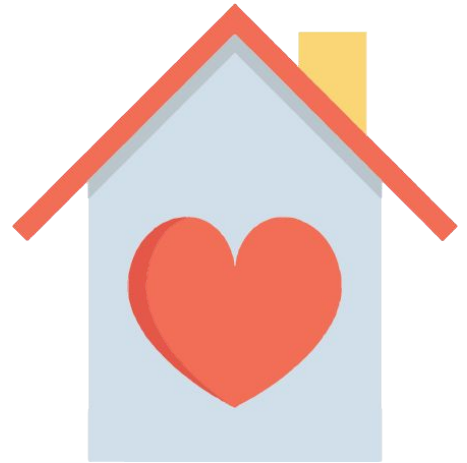
**“COVID recovery package”**: This means the bill.

**“Better Care Better Jobs Act”**: This is a separate bill that would get more money for services. It might become part of the big COVID bill congress is working on now.

## Money for services

The The BBB framework proposes \$150 billion toward the Medicaid **HCBS** program over 10 years including a 6% **FMAP** bump for **HCBS** services

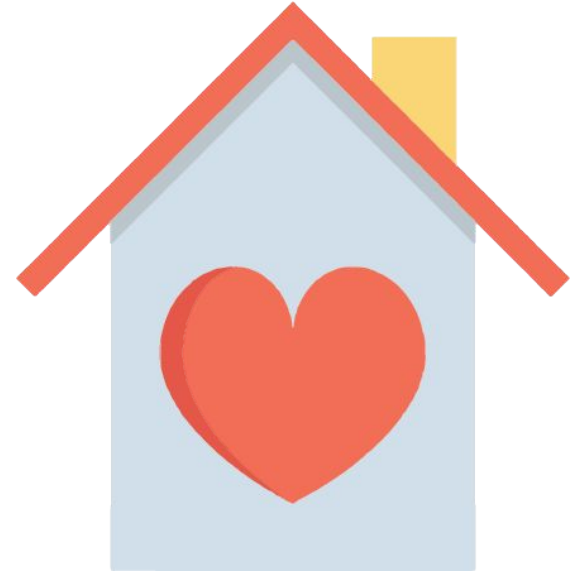
Biden presented an outline of a \$1.75 trillion **Build Back Better** ... with increases to the federal medical assistance percentage (**FMAP**) President Biden said he wants \$400 billion for services for people with disabilities.



# Money for services

This money would help states:

- End waiting lists
- Hire more workers
- Pay workers better
- Give more people services
- Give better services



## **But we might not get enough money**

But right now, the bill only has \$190 billion for services.

This is less than half what the President wanted. It's not enough to do all of the things that were part of the plan.

We need to tell Congress to spend more money!





# Other disability things in the bill

Making SSI better

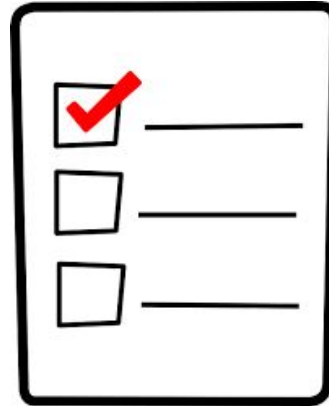
Helping states end subminimum wage

Getting health care to more



# What are the steps?

1. **The House committees each share their part of the bill**
2. The House votes on the bill
3. The Senate changes the bill, and votes on it
4. The House has to agree with the Senate



# What can you do?

It is important for people with disabilities to be in touch with your legislators.

Describe the services you get.

Congress wants to know what programs are working and how they impact your life.



**Questions?**