



# Advocacy Priorities for 2022

## California State Association of Counties

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### FEDERAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

**Infrastructure and Build Back Better.** On November 15, President Biden signed the long-awaited *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)* in law. The Act (P.L. 117-58), which represents a major portion of the president's economic agenda, will provide historic, multi-year investments in local roads and bridges, public transit, broadband, aviation, and water infrastructure. As the Biden Administration begins the process of implementing new programs and funding authorized by the law, CSAC will work closely with federal departments and agencies to ensure that California's counties are best positioned to capitalize on the programmatic reforms and investments of the IIJA.

Congress will continue to consider the *Build Back Better Act (BBBA)*, a \$1.75 trillion social program and climate resiliency investment package, after progress stalled in late 2021. Passage of the legislation (H.R. 5376) will ultimately depend upon securing the support of all 50 Democratic senators. CSAC will continue to engage on key issues and county priorities within the BBBA.

**Strengthening the Social Safety Net.** While the BBBA would provide significant funding for housing, child care, adult protective services, health care and other key program areas, it is also expected that there will be opportunities in 2022 to further strengthen programs that support indigent families, children, disabled, the elderly, persons experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable populations. CSAC will continue to focus on prioritizing investments in programs that support these populations.

**Climate Resilience.** Both the IIJA and the BBBA include much-needed investments designed to address the ongoing impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. In addition to working with federal agencies on key issues stemming from the implementation of the IIJA, CSAC will continue to work closely with members of the California congressional delegation who are pursuing additional investments and reforms to various disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response programs.

**American Rescue Plan Act Funding.** The federal response to COVID-19 and the associated economic consequences included significant flexible fiscal relief for counties. CSAC will coordinate information and advocacy with NACo and relevant federal and state agencies to ensure California counties can not only use ARPA funding to support recovery in their communities, but also leverage additional dollars to maximize local investments.