



Fact Sheet: Biden's Build Back Better Agenda Will Improve Health Services For Post-9/11 Vets

Build Back Better Agenda Includes \$18 Billion to Improve Veterans Health Infrastructure

Twenty years after the attack on 9/11, the final American soldiers engaged in the War in Afghanistan have returned home. But the war has taken a toll on American soldiers and their families, who struggle to receive the medical and mental health care they need and deserve. The Build Back Better agenda will address the urgent need for better veterans' care.

The War in Afghanistan has taken an unfathomable toll on American soldiers and their families.

- During the war, more than 775,000 troops deployed to Afghanistan, many of them more than once.
- More than 2,300 US soldiers have died in action, while a further 20,660 US soldiers have been injured in action.
- It is estimated that 11% of veterans from the war in Afghanistan suffer from PTSD.

Inadequate VA infrastructure has prevented veterans from receiving timely lifesaving medical services, resulting in backlogs of disability claims and veteran suicides.

- It is not uncommon for veterans to die waiting for benefits as the VA claims backlog builds. In 2020, the backlog reached 200,000 disability claims.
- A report showed an alarming trend: from October 2017 to November 2018, 19 veterans killed themselves on VA campuses after receiving inadequate care.

President Joe Biden's Build Back Better agenda would help veterans receive vital medical services faster.

- The budget resolution contains \$18 billion for new construction projects to provide better facilities for VA medical care.
- The plan includes \$3 billion to immediately enhance campuses so that **veterans can better access high-quality health care more quickly.**
- The plan also includes \$15 billion to totally replace 10 to 15 of the most neglected medical centers with new state-of-the-art facilities.