

How Policies Enacted by Congressional Democrats and President Biden Are Benefitting Guam Residents

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In the 117th Congress, Congressional Democrats and President Biden have enacted a number of laws and policies—including the American Rescue Plan, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, CHIPS and Science Act and student loan relief—that will lower costs for residents in Guam, support businesses and promote economic growth. This fact sheet provides data on the effects of these policies in Guam.¹

Spurring job growth

- As of the first quarter of 2022, **2,110 jobs** have been created in Guam since President Biden came into office.
- Investments from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act will support continued job growth in clean and secure energy, construction and manufacturing, among other sectors.

Growing manufacturing jobs and improving supply chains

- As of August 2022, **140 manufacturing jobs** have been created in Guam since President Biden came into office. The strong economic recovery, thanks to the American Rescue Plan and other legislation, has helped manufacturing recover more than all the jobs lost nationwide during the pandemic recession.
- The CHIPS and Science Act made a historic investment in American manufacturing, innovation and supply chains. In particular, the Semiconductor Industry Association projects that investments in domestic semiconductor manufacturing will [create](#) around **1.1 million jobs** nationwide as new semiconductor plants are built, including about **247,200 manufacturing jobs**. These investments are projected to create **280,000 permanent jobs**.
- By boosting [domestic manufacturing](#), especially of essential goods such as semiconductors,

¹ JEC estimates have been rounded.

the CHIPS and Science Act reduces Guam businesses' reliance on fragile global supply chains. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act further strengthens supply chains over the long term, boosting the Guam economy and the U.S. economy overall.

Boosting clean energy jobs

- In 2021, **800 workers** in Guam were employed in clean energy and emerging sectors of the economy, and an **additional 4,300** worked in occupations that will be increasingly in demand as the United States transitions to cleaner, more secure energy.
- The Inflation Reduction Act will support more clean energy jobs and expand workforce training for these industries in Guam and around the country. The law also made **\$15 million** in funding for climate technical assistance available to Guam and other U.S. territories. This is in addition to the **\$57 million** already invested in Guam by the bipartisan Infrastructure Innovation and Jobs Act.

Lowering prescription drug costs

- Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, many of the **18,900 seniors** in Guam eligible for Medicare prescription drug coverage will soon be able to pay less for their medications.
- Among other provisions that will help Guam's seniors, the Inflation Reduction Act puts an annual **\$2,000 cap** on seniors' out-of-pocket drug costs and ensures that Medicare beneficiaries do not pay more than **\$35 per month** for insulin. Additionally, the law lets Medicare negotiate with drug companies to [keep down prices](#) on some of the most expensive prescription drugs and forces pharmaceutical companies to pay a penalty when the prices they charge Medicare rise faster than inflation.

Providing relief to student borrowers

- The Biden administration is providing up to **\$20,000** in [debt cancellation](#) to Pell Grant recipients and up to **\$10,000** for all other student loan borrowers with incomes below \$125,000 (\$250,000 for married couples). Based on data from the Department of Education, **6,900 borrowers** in Guam will be eligible for immediate student loan relief, with **4,500, or 65%**, of these borrowers qualifying for \$20,000 in relief because they received Pell Grants when they were students.
- Many borrowers will also pay less going forward thanks to the administration's changes to income-based repayment plans, which will cap monthly payments for many low- to middle-income borrowers and increase the number of people who will pay \$0 per month. This relief will benefit many Guam residents with student loan debt, including those who did not complete their degree.
- This relief will also help narrow the racial wealth gap nationwide. People of color, especially Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, hold disproportionately more debt than their white peers and are more likely to have received Pell grants, making them eligible for more relief. Pacific Islanders are more likely to take out a loan for a bachelor's degree than any other racial or ethnic group.