



2021 End of Year Report

Bills Signed Into Law

11

Constituent Cases Closed

750

Constituent Savings

\$933,562.34

Grants Secured for IA-03

329

Total Grant Funding

\$114,164,206

Friends,

This year has proved to be a particularly busy year in Congress as we passed historic investments in our infrastructure and tax cuts for our working families that put billions back into Iowa's economy.

These investments and tax cuts have helped families across the nation. The policies I've supported have resulted in most families having between 40 and 70 percent more money in their bank account now than they did in 2019. And, with each round of Child Tax Credit payments, families with children are seeing higher balances in their accounts allowing for more economic freedom and opportunity.

As this year comes to an end, I want to share just how much these investments have meant to Iowans, our small businesses, veterans, and to our state and local governments. I also want to share pieces of legislation I introduced and led that have passed the House, and that have been signed into law.

In 2021, my team and I have been focused on helping the folks right here in Iowa's Third Congressional District. My office was able to obtain nearly \$1 million in taxpayer dollars for my constituents through our casework program.



Rep. Cindy Axne speaks with constituents at a town hall at American Legion Park in West Des Moines on June 7, 2021.

Some of my favorite moments of the year happened while I was meeting with lowans at my town hall events. Since I was sworn into Congress, I have hosted 73 Connect With Your Congresswoman town hall events. During my first term, the Town Hall Project named me the most accessible freshman member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I'm proud of that accomplishment because it's my job to represent my constituents and I can only do that if I meet with folks from across the sixteen counties of the Third District.

This year, I even brought some of my colleagues in Washington, D.C. to meet with lowans this year, including several members of President Biden's administration. First Lady Jill Biden, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, and USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small hosted meetings with me in Des Moines, Atlantic, Council Bluffs and other towns across central and southwest Iowa.

I attended several more memorable events this year, including the dedication ceremony to rename the post office in Clarinda. The post office was renamed to honor the "Mother of 4H" Jessie Field Shambaugh after a bill I wrote was signed into law early this year. I also attended the Iowa State Fair, met with business owners, farmers, veterans, law enforcement officials, and community leaders.

I'm so thankful for everyone I met this year, those who attended my events and those who wrote me letters and emails and left me voicemails. Those interactions help me do my job better, and I look forward to continuing to represent Iowa's Third Congressional District.

Have a Happy New Year,

Cynthia Axne



Rep. Cindy Axne flips pork at the Iowa Pork Producers stand at the Iowa State Fair on Monday, August 16, 2021.



Rep. Axne attends the renaming ceremony for the Clarinda post office. The post office is now named after the "Mother of 4H" Jessie Field Shambaugh. Rep. Axne introduced the bill to rename the post office, and was invited for a picture outside of the newly renamed post office with the Shambaugh family on May 24, 2021.

DELIVERING FOR IOWA

\$5 billion+ in Economic Impact Payments to more than 1.5 million Iowa households

\$2.97 billion in 2nd round Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loans to 111,964 Iowa small businesses

\$1.46 billion to support the State of Iowa's operations & COVID-19 health efforts

\$1.6 billion+ in Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 payments to Iowa farmers

\$1.1 billion for Iowa's universities, colleges, and schools

\$946 million+ in Child Tax Credit tax cuts for more than 98,000 families

\$774 million+ to help K-12 schools keep their students safe and their doors open

\$650 million to repair Iowa's roads, highways, and bridges

\$48 million+ for Community Health Centers to help vaccinate Iowans

\$210 million for water infrastructure and conservation practices

\$200+ million for child care and preschool funding

\$100 million to build new housing

\$300 million to expand broadband access across the state

\$30 million to combat workforce shortages

\$24+ million to support operations and improvements at Iowa's airports

\$8.5 million to support Iowa's Head Start programs

\$3 million to improve vaccine confidence in Iowa's rural areas

25,000+ Iowa jobs created

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

The American Rescue Plan Act: landmark COVID-19 relief legislation that helped put vaccines in arms, money in Iowans' pockets, and supported Iowa's small businesses and community health efforts.

- Over **4 million vaccine doses distributed in Iowa**, enabling 70% of Iowa's adults to be fully vaccinated after the first year of vaccine availability.
- **1.5 million Iowans received a direct payment of up to \$1,400** to help make ends meet during COVID-19 economic disruptions
- **Almost \$1 billion in expanded Child Tax Credit payments went to Iowa families**, providing up to \$300 per child every month to over 340,000 families.
- **Iowans saved \$2,100,000 on their health care premiums** through affordability provisions included in the American Rescue Plan.
 - Iowans with new or existing plans through the Healthcare.gov marketplace saw their premiums slashed by over 50%, for an average annual savings of \$876.
 - Between April and September of 2021, more than 15,000 Iowans signed up for new plans – roughly three times the new enrollment figures from 2019.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Bipartisan infrastructure legislation that is projected to bring Iowa more than \$5 billion in investments over the next five years, including:

- **\$3.4 billion in highway aid**
- **\$432 million for bridge replacement and repairs**
 - Iowa will also be able to fund bridge repairs through grants from a \$12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program, and \$16 billion dedicated for major revitalization projects
- **\$638 million to improve water infrastructure**
- **\$305 million for public transportation in Iowa**
- **\$120 million for airport infrastructure and upgrades**
- **At least \$100 million for expanded broadband internet coverage**
 - with additional funding determined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mapping unserved areas nationwide
- **\$15 million to protect against cyberattacks**

Derecho Assistance: Legislation that provides \$10 billion to cover damage to crops caused by the 2020 derecho and other natural disasters from 2020 and 2021.

Coronavirus Unemployment Benefits Tax Relief Act: Legislation to provide tax relief for Americans who lost their jobs and utilized unemployment benefits last year – allowing millions of workers to focus their benefits on covering essentials during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and recession.

- *Nationally, the IRS has issued more than **11.7 million tax refunds totaling \$14.4 billion** so far, and that does not include those who had not yet filed taxes when the American Rescue Plan passed.*
- *This is estimated to have helped more than 100,000 Iowans who lost work during 2020 save an average of more than \$1,100 on their taxes.*

Treatment in Place Act: Legislation to provide fair reimbursements for firefighters, emergency medical services (EMS), and other medical first responders.

Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans' Mental Health Act: Legislation to expand mental health care for rural veterans that was signed into law.

Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act: Legislation that requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) publish each federal agency's congressional budget justification online and make it publicly available.

VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021: Legislation that will make critical improvements to victim services programs that receive grant funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

Congressional Gold Medal for Corporal Daegan Page: Legislation to award Corporal Daegan Page of Red Oak the Congressional Gold Medal.

Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act:

Legislation that requires the VA to implement a program to provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Renaming Clarinda Post Office in Honor of 'Mother of 4-H' Jessie Field

Shambaugh: Honoring Jessie Field Shambaugh, the former school superintendent from Page County and longtime Iowa educator known to many as the 'Mother of 4-H.'

BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

The Build Back Better Act: comprehensive bill that will cut taxes and lower costs for Iowa's working families through investments in child care and universal pre-K, skills training, lowering prescription drug costs and expanding Medicare, and clean energy technologies like biofuels

- Caps families' child care costs at 7% of their income for families earning up to 250% of Iowa's median income – more than 90% of Iowa's families
- Guarantees universal access to preschool for three- and four-year-olds
- Makes the largest-ever investment in combating climate change and investing in clean energy
- Lowers prescription drug costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices for drugs prescribed at both the doctor's office and the pharmacy, capping the monthly cost of insulin at \$35, capping out-of-pocket drug costs for Iowa seniors at \$2,000 a year, and imposing penalties on drug companies that increase prices faster than inflation.
- Increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$550 to support the 48,120 students in Iowa who rely on Pell to complete secondary and vocational education.
- Expands Medicare to cover hearing services for more than 600,000 older Iowans.
- Provides up to 4 weeks of paid leave for workers or parents dealing with personal or family-related medical issues.
- Delivers better care for older Iowans and people with disabilities by expanding Medicaid coverage for home care services, with a \$150 billion investment in care to help Americans who are struggling to meet their home care needs (four hours of care per week costs on average \$5,800 annually) and those who are still on waiting lists for services.
- Paves the way for more than \$400 million of investments in affordable housing for Iowa, crafted with the help of Rep. Axne through the House Financial Services Committee, and to build or repair 1 million homes nationwide.

Biodiesel Tax Credit Extension Act of 2021: Legislation to extend the successful biodiesel tax credit an additional 4 years through 2026 was passed by the House as part of the Build Back Better Act.

Renewable Fuel Infrastructure and Market Expansion Act: Legislation to provide USDA \$1 billion for deploying biofuels infrastructure across the country passed by the House as part of the Build Back Better Act.

Ocean Shipping Reform Act: Legislation to address congestion at U.S. ports and protect Iowa agricultural exports from supply chain disruptions.

National Apprenticeship Act of 2021: Legislation to expand the successful Registered Apprenticeship program and create nearly 1 million new apprenticeship opportunities over the next five years.

Strategy and Investment in Rural Housing Preservation Act: Legislation that will help ensure lowans in rural communities have access to affordable housing by preserving existing housing options for families.

Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act: Legislation that would require public corporations to disclose their financial reporting on a country-by-country basis so Americans can see how they are abusing tax havens or offshoring jobs.

Workforce Investment Disclosure Act: Legislation that would require public companies to disclose basic human capital metrics, including workforce turnover rates, skills and development training, workforce health and safety, workforce engagement, and compensation statistics.

Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021: Legislation that would restore protections under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) to create a level playing field for workers who file age discrimination claims.

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act: Legislation to improve workplace protections and accommodations for pregnant workers.

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021: Legislation that would restore the power of the Voting Rights Act and protect the right to vote for millions of American voters.

Women's Health Protection Act of 2021: Legislation to make explicit in federal law the right for a woman to make her own reproductive health care choices.

Equality Act: Legislation to ensure key protections under federal civil rights law are fully extended to LGBTQ Americans.

Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021: Legislation to protect workers' basic right to organize and negotiate for higher pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

Projects and Programs

Veterans History Project: The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. This year, Drake University journalism students interviewed 11 Iowa veterans whose stories were submitted to Rep. Axne's office and then given to the Library of Congress to be included in the library's collections.

Congressional App Challenge: The Congressional App Challenge is a congressional initiative aimed at engaging middle and high school students with STEM education and computer science. Students work together in teams throughout each congressional district in the country to develop and launch a real-world web application. Winning teams have the opportunity to have their applications displayed on the U.S. House of Representatives website and in the U.S. Capitol building. **This year, a team of four high school students from West Des Moines Valley School created the winning app in Iowa's Third Congressional District, called Devs Do Good, that helps connect students passionate about computer science with local nonprofits to address their technical concerns.**

Grants: Rep. Axne's office offers assistance to stakeholders throughout the congressional district who seek assistance in finding available federal grant opportunities. **This year, Rep. Axne's office helped secure 329 grants worth a total of \$114,164,206 to Iowa's Third Congressional District** to help better our communities. Rep. Axne's office also provides assistance to stakeholders seeking federal grants by writing Letters of Consideration on behalf of the applicant stakeholder to the federal agency administering the grant.

Congressional Art Competition: Rep. Axne ensures high school students in Iowa's Third Congressional can put their talent on display by participating in the High School Congressional Art competition. **This year, a panel of seven local judges chose a winning piece by Eli Clayton, a senior at Bondurant-Farrar High School in Polk County. Eli's acrylic and oil painting titled "Lost in Translation will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.**

Service Academy Nominations: In 2021 Rep. Axne appointed five students from Iowa's Third Congressional District to the U.S. military service academies. Rep. Axne's

Service Academy Nomination Committee, which included eight judges, interviewed seventeen applicants and recommended who should represent the Third Congressional District.

Valentines for Vets: Rep. Axne's leads an annual effort to get cards to veterans on Valentine's Day. In 2021, her staff helped children at the Willkie House in Des Moines, which is one of the oldest African-American community based organizations in Des Moines, create Valentine's Day cards for the Disabled American Veterans organization.

Iowan of the Week: Each week, Rep. Axne submits a statement to the Congressional Iowan detailing the work and efforts of the people within Iowa's Third Congressional District who are helping make Iowa and their communities a better place to live. These efforts include anything from helping their neighbors to founding new organizations. This year's honorees featured an Olympian, veterans, police officers, teachers, laborers and members of minority communities.

Letters: Rep. Axne replied to 122,912 letters related to specific issues related to her work in Congress between January 1 and December 1, 2021. The top five issues letters addressed to Rep. Axne's office this year were transportation, health care, the environment, Congress and elections, and taxes. On average, Rep. Axne replied to those who reached out via letter within 8 days. Rep. Axne also sends a variety of letters expressing congratulations and well-wishes to her constituents. This year, she sent out well over 800 personal letters to her constituents.

Casework: Rep. Axne's office helps constituents navigate the IRS, Social Security and other federal offices – and has saved her constituents nearly \$1 million this year. Additionally, her team continues to assist Afghans in need of assistance. Her office has contacted and provided assistance for over 200 Afghans since August and is working closely with the coalition, #AfghanEvac, which is made up of over 40 partner organizations with the goal of evacuating Afghans in need. So far, Rep. Axne's office has been able to welcome five Afghans to the United States, where they are currently receiving necessary medical care.

Here's what Rep. Axne's constituents had to say about the help they received in 2021:

“I applied for my three children's passports in January...but when I hadn't heard back by the end of June, I asked Rep. Axne for help.

***[Rep. Axne's] office was able to secure our passports** by mid-July, ensuring our family could travel together as planned.”*

–Jennifer M., from Ankeny

“Social Security had not been paying our family full benefits for several months, and I heard nothing when I appealed.

***Rep. Axne secured my significant backpay** and my full monthly benefits were restored.”*

–Joyce B., from Des Moines

*“**Rep. Axne stood with me to secure health insurance** for one of my neighbors.*

After Rep. Axne's staff reached out, they connected us with a health specialist who dug into the case. Now she can get the health care she needs!”

–Jennifer H., Red Oak

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