

# RESULTS

the power to end poverty

September 2019 RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Webinar

***New Poverty Data Highlights Need to Help Workers and Families***

Login at: <https://results.zoom.us/j/873308801> or dial (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 873 308 801.

*RESULTS is a movement of passionate, committed everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. Poverty cannot end as long as oppression exists. We commit to opposing all forms of oppression, including racism, classism, colonialism, white saviorism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, and religious discrimination.*

*At RESULTS we pledge to create space for all voices, including those of us who are currently experiencing poverty. We will address oppressive behavior in our interactions, families, communities, work, and world. Our strength is rooted in our diversity of experiences, not in our assumptions.*

*With unearned privilege comes the responsibility to act so the burden to educate and change doesn't fall solely on those experiencing oppression. When we miss the mark on our values, we will acknowledge our mistake, seek forgiveness, learn, and work together as a community to pursue equity.*

*There are no saviors — only partners, advocates, and allies. We agree to help make the RESULTS movement a respectful, inclusive space.*



Find all our anti-oppression resources at: <https://results.org/volunteers/anti-oppression/>

# **Maureen Bowling**

## **RESULTS Lexington, KY and Expert on Poverty**



# Welcome from Joanne Carter Executive Director, RESULTS



# Building on 2015 EITC/CTC Success



These changes prevented 16 million people from falling into or deeper into poverty.

# Guest Speaker: Chad Bolt

Tax aide, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

- Former Associate Policy Director at Indivisible
  - Worked to help their 6,000 local groups to better understand and take action on health care, tax, and infrastructure issues
- Former legislative analyst at CFED (now Prosperity Now) Legislative Analyst
  - Handled tax policy, tax time, and appropriations issues for the Federal Policy team
- Legislative Assistant for former Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
  - Handled economic and foreign policy issues





# Lobbying Tips

- **Use stories**
  - Aides can use stories to make the case for leadership
  - Members of Congress use them highlight
  - Tough to say no when someone shares how an issue impacts them
- **Make a crisp, clear ask** that is public and measurable
- **Follow up is vital** – top problem is someone who makes a good case in a meeting and then you never hear from them again

# The Working Families Tax Relief Act

## THE WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ACT WOULD:

- ✓ Expand the EITC for families with kids;
- ✓ Deliver a meaningful EITC for the first time for workers who don't have kids at home;
- ✓ Make the Child Tax Credit fully refundable; and
- ✓ Create a new Young Child Tax Credit for families with kids under 6

**THESE POLICIES WOULD BENEFIT 46 MILLION FAMILIES.**



# U.S. Poverty Campaigns Update



Meredith Dodson  
[mdodson@results.org](mailto:mdodson@results.org)

## RESULTS

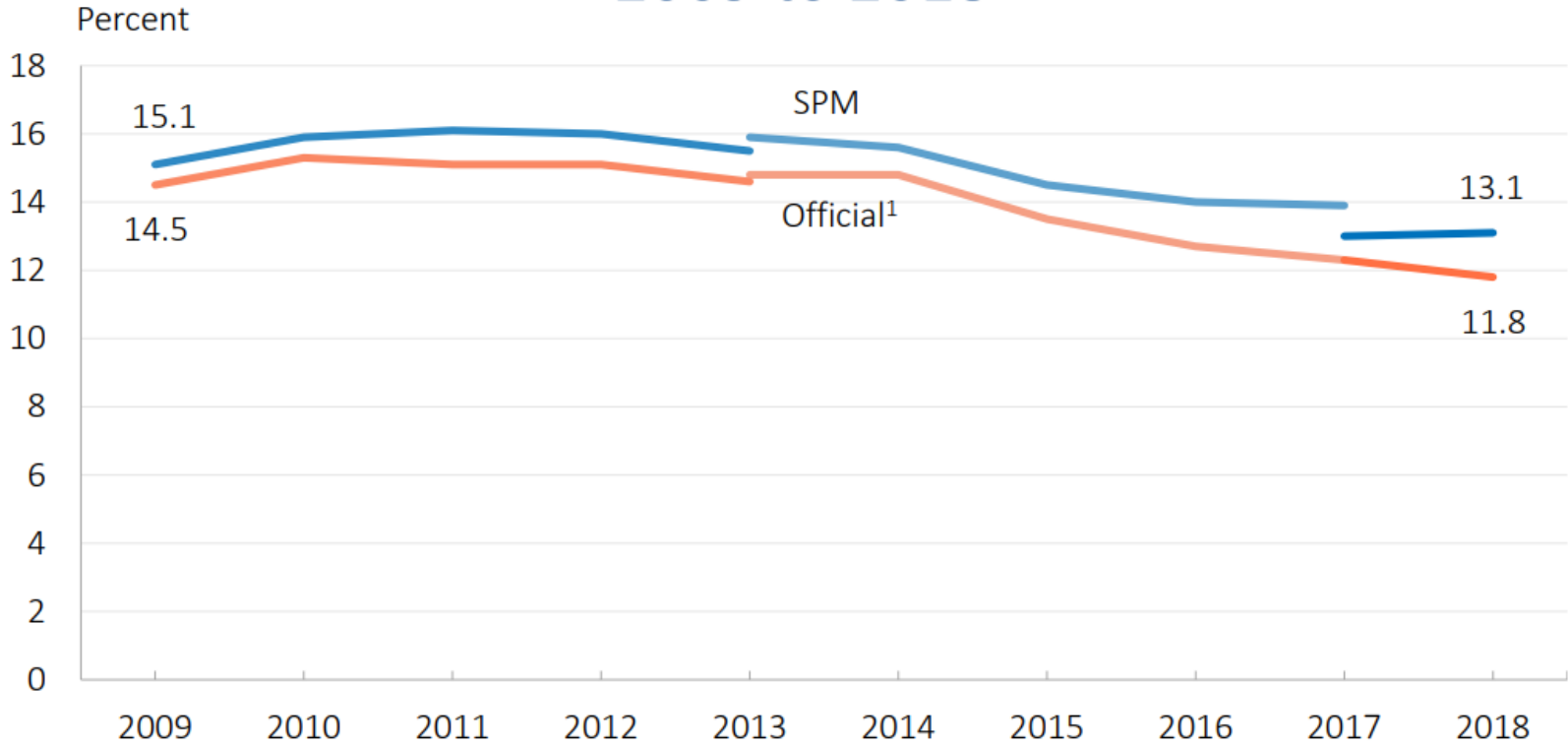
New U.S. Census data shows that

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1 in 8 Americans is still living below the poverty line.

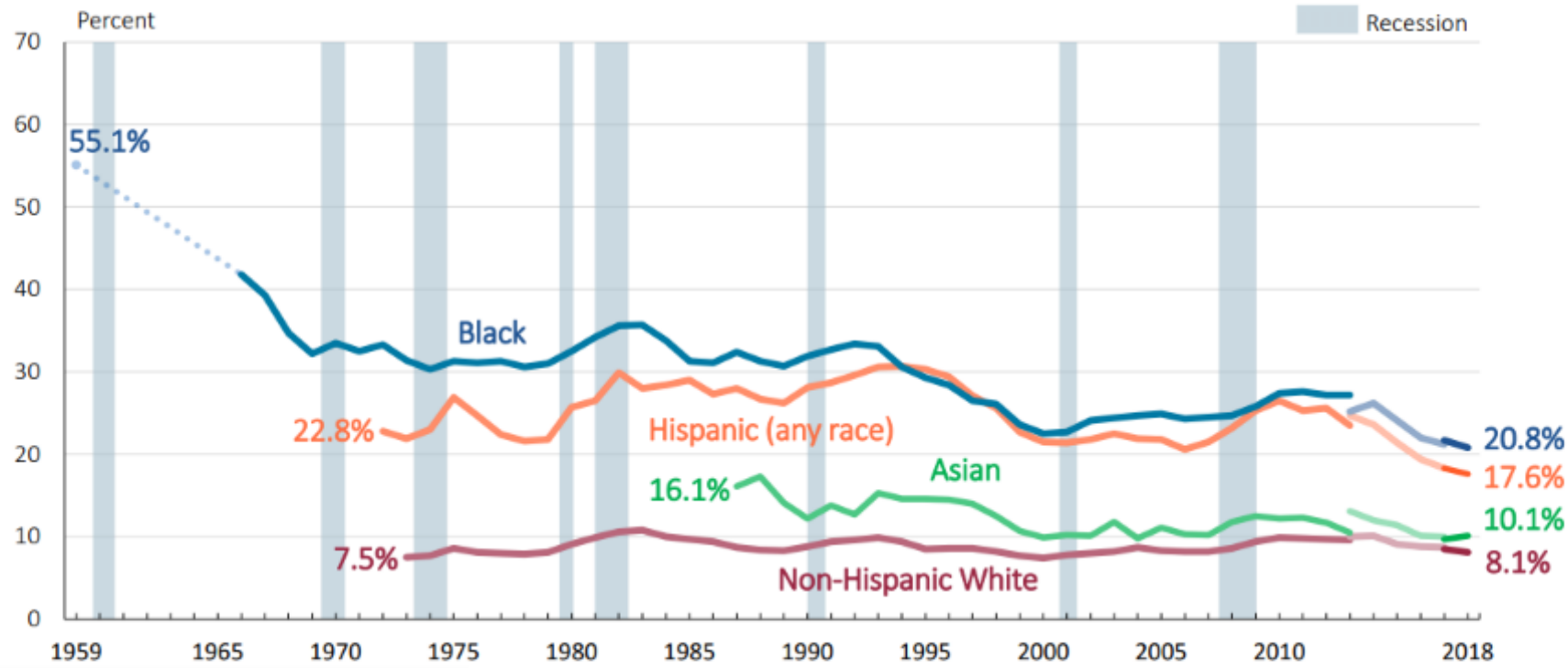
# Census Poverty Data Out Today

## Poverty Rates Using the Official Measure and the SPM: 2009 to 2018



# Key: Racial Disparities

## Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2018



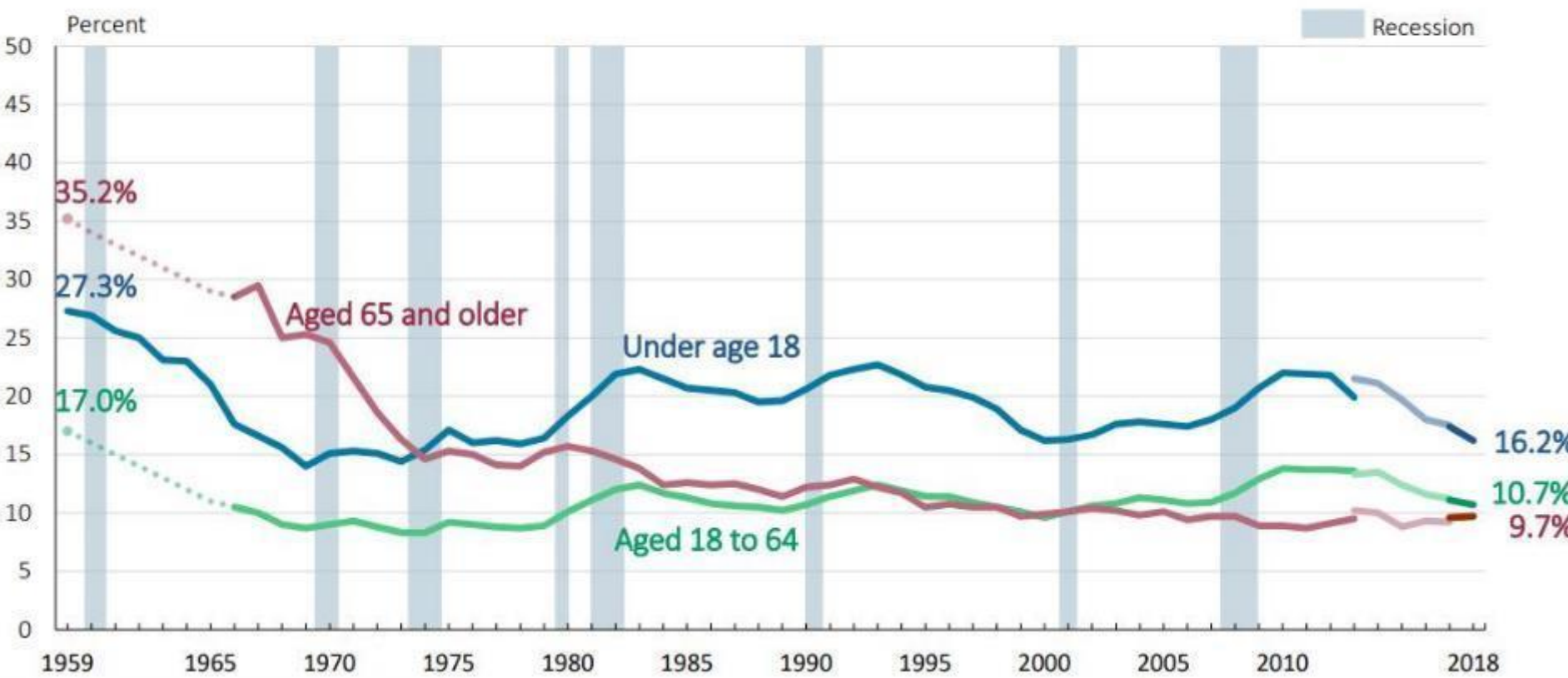
U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated CPS ASEC processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

I&P-13

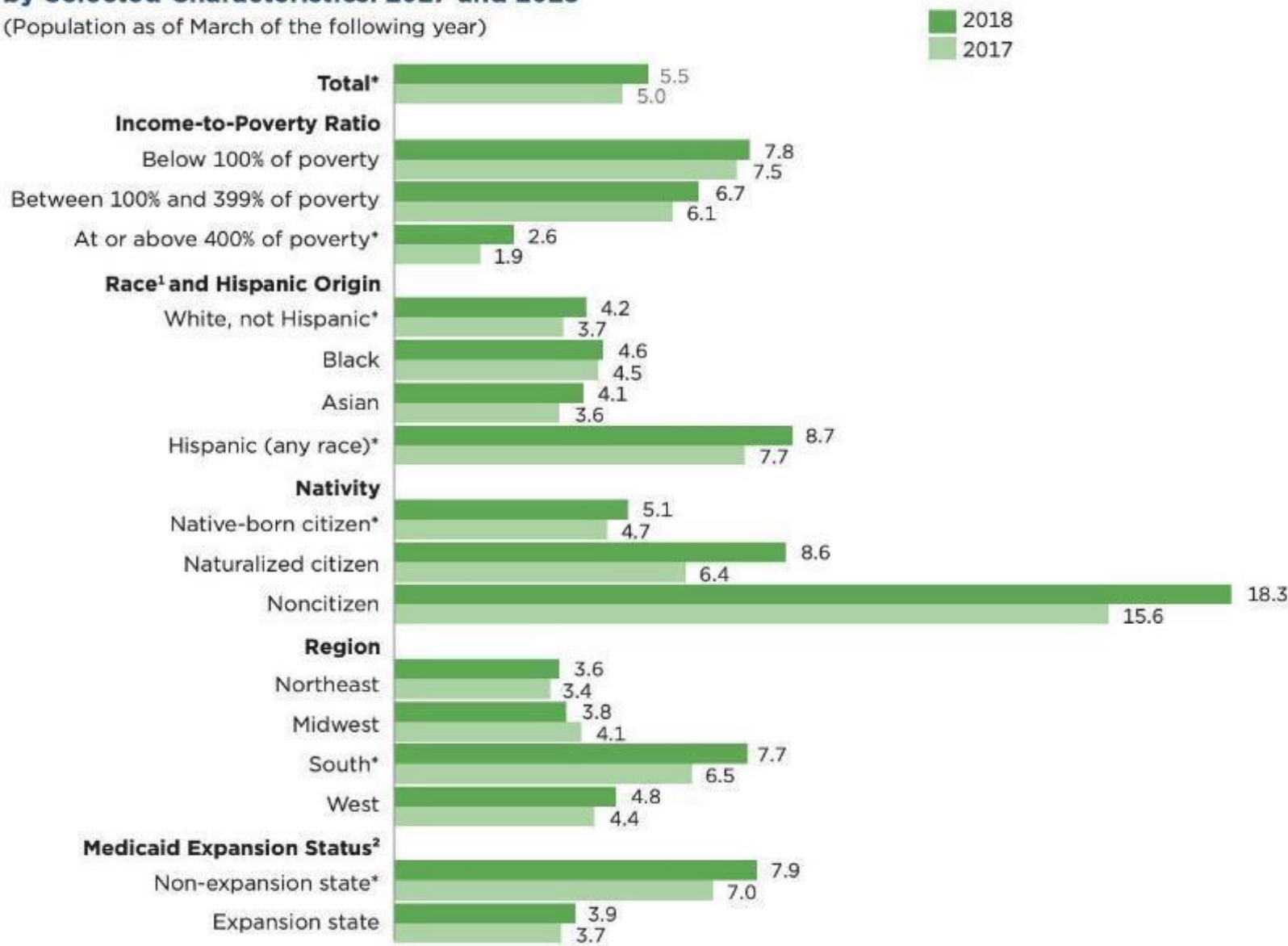
# Poverty by Age

## Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2018



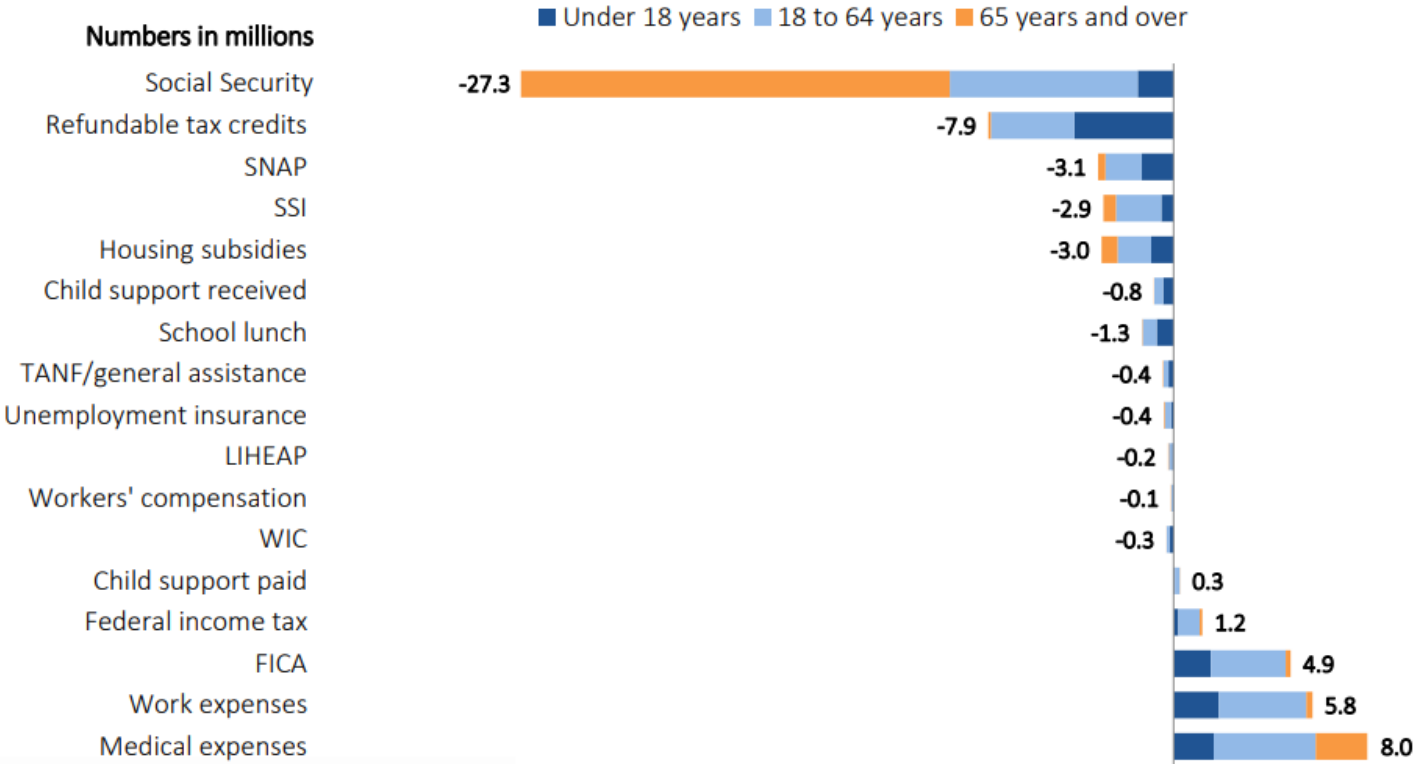
# Policy Decisions Matter

Figure 5.  
**Percentage of Children Under the Age of 19 Without Health Insurance Coverage  
by Selected Characteristics: 2017 and 2018**  
(Population as of March of the following year)



# And: Anti-Poverty Policies Work!

## Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2018



U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

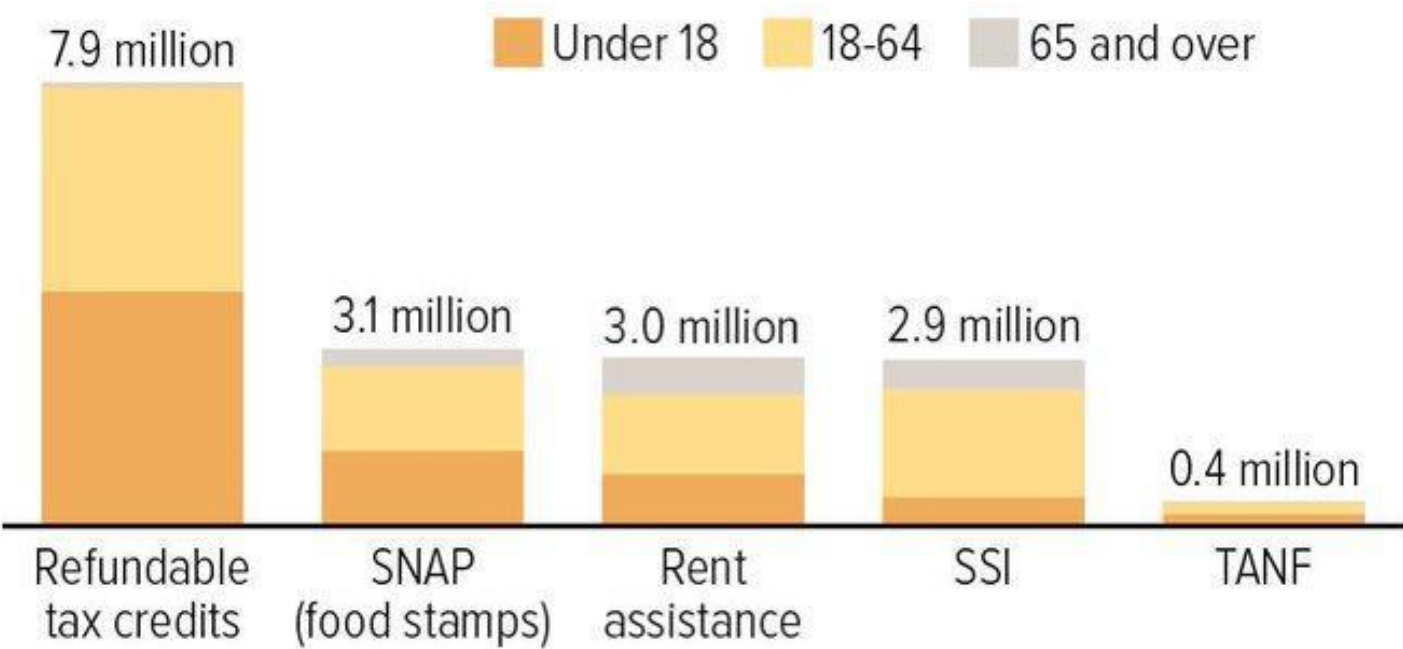
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.



# And: Anti-Poverty Policies Work!

## Key Federal Programs Lift Millions Out of Poverty

People lifted above poverty line in 2018, by age



Refundable tax credits = Earned Income Tax Credit and refundable portion of Child Tax Credit; SSI = Supplemental Security Income; TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Note: Reflects the Supplemental Poverty Measure, which counts major non-cash and tax-based assistance as well as cash assistance. Figures would be even higher if they included corrections for underreporting of government benefits in survey data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Impact: Working Families Tax Relief Act

The Working Families Relief Act's expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit would boost incomes across races, helping:

- 24 million white families;
- 9 million Latino families;
- 8 million Black families; and
- 2 million Asian-American families

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And... cuts child poverty nationally by 28 percent!

# 16 Million Women of Color

TABLE 3

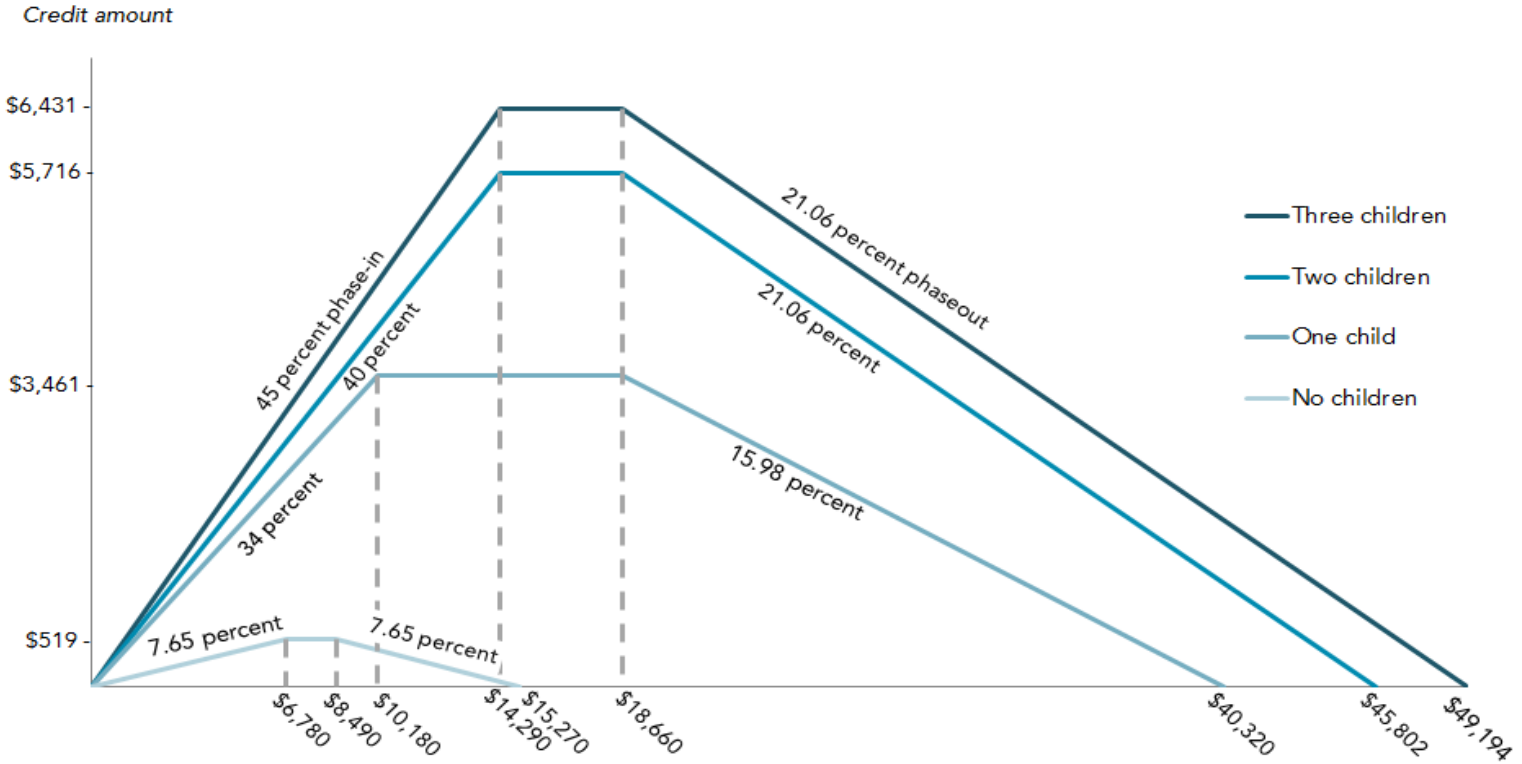
## Women (Filers and Spouses) Benefiting From the Working Families Tax Relief Act

	Women Receiving an Increase in EITC or Child Tax Credit	Average Tax Credit Increase	Share of Women in Racial and Ethnic Group Receiving a Tax Credit Increase
White, non-Latina	17,310,000	\$1,200	22%
Latina	7,820,000	\$1,500	41%
Black, non-Latina	5,770,000	\$1,900	38%
Asian and Pacific Islander, non-Latina	2,090,000	\$900	26%
Native Americans, non-Latina	390,000	\$1,900	41%
Other, non-Latina	560,000	\$1,600	36%
Total	33,950,000	\$1,400	28%

Source: CBPP estimates based on March 2018 Current Population Survey data.

# The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

FIGURE 1  
Earned Income Tax Credit  
2018

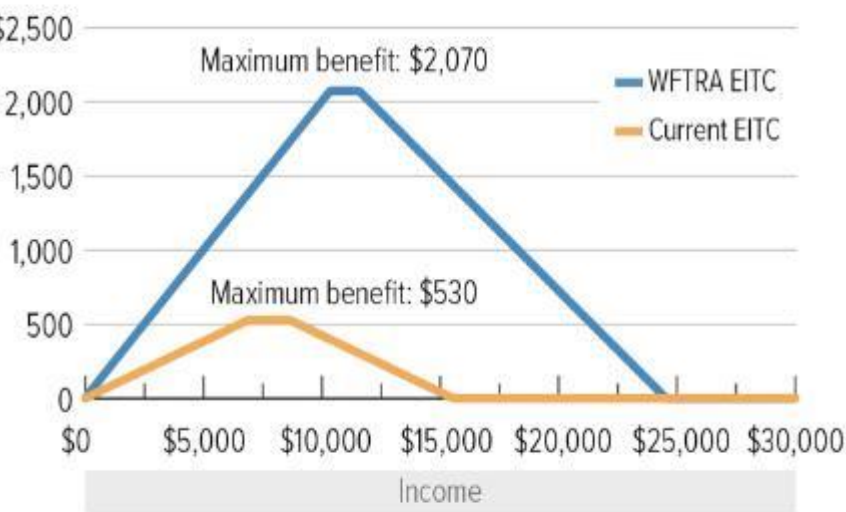


**Source:** Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center (2018). Internal Revenue Procedure 2018-18, Internal Revenue Service.  
**Notes:** Assumes all income comes from earnings. Amounts are for taxpayers filing a single or head-of-household tax return. For married couples filing a joint tax return, the credit begins to phase out at income \$5,690 higher than shown.

# Expanding the EITC

## Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) Would Boost Childless Workers' EITC

Earned Income Tax Credit for single childless worker, 2019



Note: Assumes all income is from earnings (as opposed to investments, for example).  
Source: Internal Revenue Service and CBPP calculations

## Childless Adults Taxed Into Poverty; Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Proposal Would Help Address Problem

A single childless adult with poverty-level wages in 2019 (\$13,340) owes \$1,135 in income taxes and payroll taxes (employee share).

**Current law**

Under current law, she receives an EITC worth just \$172.

**Federal taxes push her \$963 into poverty.**

**Working Families Tax Relief Act**

Under a proposal from Senators Brown, Bennet, Durbin, and Wyden, her EITC would rise to \$1,797, more than offsetting her federal tax liability.

**After taxes, she would be \$662 above the poverty line.**

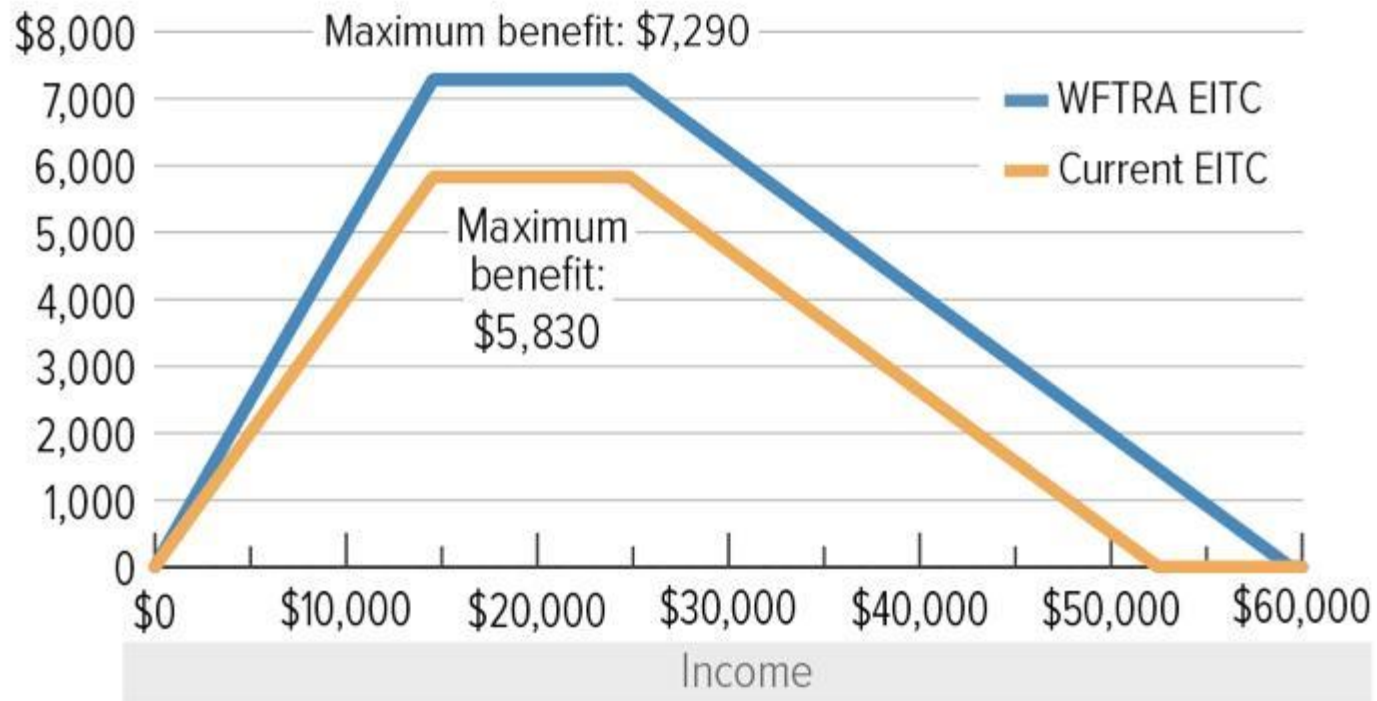
Source: CBPP analysis of Internal Revenue Code and the Working Families Tax Relief Act.



# Expanding the EITC

## Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) Would Increase EITC for Families With Children

Earned Income Tax Credit for married couple with two children, 2019



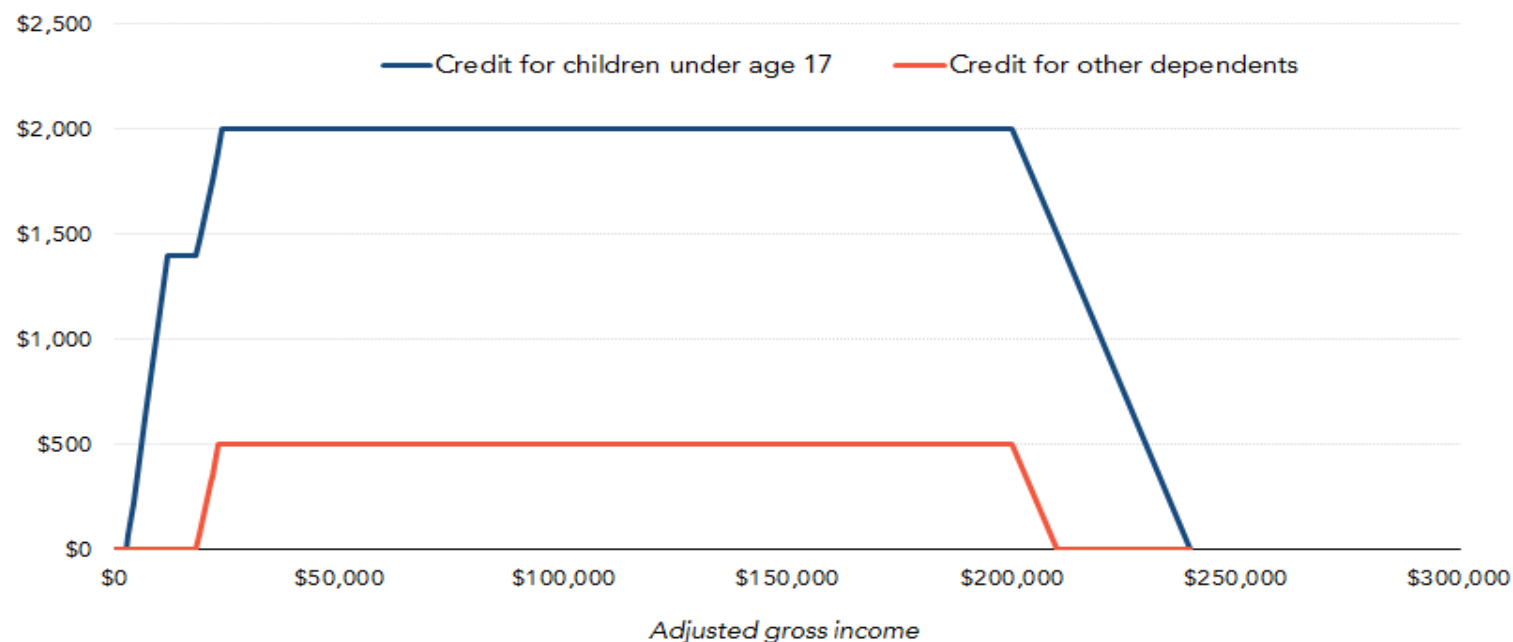
Note: Assumes all income is from earnings (as opposed to investments, for example).

Source: Internal Revenue Service and CBPP calculations



# The Child Tax Credit (CTC)

**FIGURE 1**  
Child Tax Credit, Single Parent  
For one child, tax year 2018



**Source:** Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center calculations.

**Notes:** Assumes all income comes from earnings, and child meets all tests to be a CTC-qualifying dependent. Credit for married parents begins to phase out at \$400,000 of income. Only citizen children qualify for the \$2,000 CTC for children under 17. Noncitizens under age 17 who meet the dependency tests of eligibility can qualify for the credit for dependents over age 17.

# CTC in the 2017 Tax Law

## Low-Income Families Get Little or Nothing From 2017 Tax Law's Child Tax Credit Increase

Compared to prior law, 2019

Single mother with two children earning \$14,500 (full-time, minimum wage)

\$75

Married couple with two children earning \$24,000

\$800

Married couple with two children earning \$100,000

\$2,000

Married couple with two children earning \$400,000

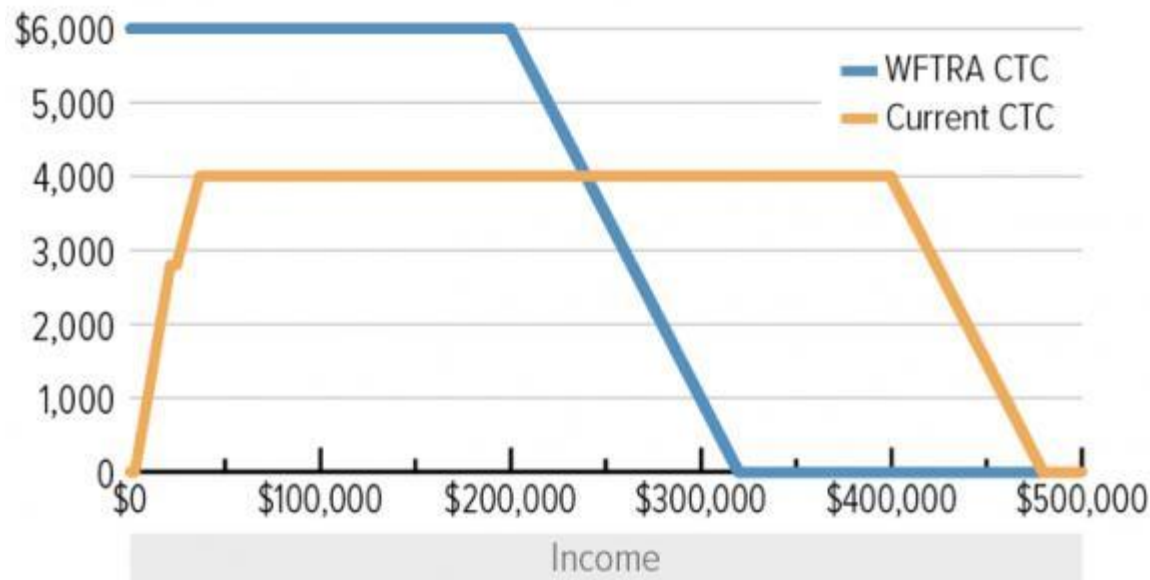
\$4,000

Source: CBPP analysis

# Expanding the CTC

## Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) Expands Child Tax Credit for Very Young Children

Credit for a married couple with two children under age 6, 2019



Note: Assumes all income is from earnings (as opposed to investments, for example). About 92 percent of families with children would receive the same CTC or a larger CTC as under current law.

Source: CBPP analysis of IRS and Census data

# Chance to Expand EITC/CTC This Year

In June, the House Ways and Means Committee passed temporary expansions of both the EITC and CTC in a broader “Extenders” tax package.

The Economic Mobility Act (H.R. 3300), includes:

- Expansion of the EITC that would raise the after-tax incomes of 16 million childless adults – including 5 million taxed into poverty
- CTC changes that would benefit more than 42 million children under age 17.

Momentum going into the fall: in part because of your great work over the years, key conversations in DC

*KEY POINT: We are not pushing Congress to do a tax bill; we are urging them to prioritize the EITC and CTC if they do one*

# September 2019 U.S. Poverty Action

## Get media on expanding the EITC and CTC



Jos Linn  
[jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org)

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ose two



Patriot Day events planned in central Ohio in observance of 9/11



Former Ohio State student health director says 'I did the best I could' handling complaints abo...



Westerville company part of NASA mission



Delaware, Ohio, won Saturday crash on R Columbus

### Letter: Ensure tax code supports working men, women

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Posted Aug 30, 2019 at 4:10 AM



As we approach Labor Day, meant to honor workers, I am writing in response to the newspaper's coverage of the economy. In 2017, Congress passed a massive tax cut for wealthy Americans and big corporations. Meanwhile, the federal tax code taxes more than 5 million low-wage workers not raising children at home into — or deeper into — poverty.

Congress should prioritize tax policies for working people and families. The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit are pro-work, pro-family financial lifelines for people working in low-wage jobs. Together, they lift more than 8 million Americans above the poverty line.

Congress may consider yet another tax bill with lots of benefits for businesses, and they must not ignore working families again. Expanding the EITC and CTC would ensure our tax code supports workers and families struggling to make ends meet. I urge our members of Congress to uphold the principle that no business tax breaks should be extended or expanded without also expanding the EITC and CTC in the same bill.

Working people should be able to support themselves and their families and our tax code should ensure that they can.

Virginia Vogts, Columbus

# September 2019 U.S. Poverty Action

## Get media on expanding the EITC and CTC

- <https://results.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-09-U.S.-Poverty-Action-Generate-Media-on-the-EITC-and-CTC.pdf>
- Build on the 30+ tax policy letters you've already gotten published
- Remember the 3 components of a powerful LTE
  - **Local and timely hook**
  - **Why it matters**
  - **Call to action**
- But write it in reverse order
  - **Call to action**
  - **Why it matters**
  - **Local and timely hook**



# September 2019 U.S. Poverty Action

## Get media on expanding the EITC and CTC

Read your local paper for possible hooks

- *“Missouri gives millions in college aid, but little goes to KC students needing it most”* ➡ We can also invest in low-income students at a much earlier age through the EITC and CTC.
- *“A wealth tax wouldn’t make things any more fair for everyone”* ➡ Tax cuts in 2017 went primarily to the wealthy, but now we have a chance to help those who need it.
- *“After giving Chiefs fans a scare, Patrick Mahomes shows he’s as much grit as flash”* ➡ Let’s reward the “grit” workers in low-wage jobs demonstrate every day to support their families.

Join **Use Local Media to Move Legislators into Action** training this

Thursday, Sept. 12 at 8:30pm ET. Join at <https://results.zoom.us/j/422081397> or dial either (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 422 081 397#.

# September 2019 U.S. Poverty Action

## Use your media work to inspire others

- Using media action to engage others in advocacy
  - Ask someone to submit a letter to at least one of our local publications on the EITC/CTC
  - Ask someone to bring together a group of their friends, colleagues, club members for a letter to the editor writing workshop (offer to help train the group)
  - If someone has already been published, ask them to try to get a letter in another publication in your area or state to help influence more lawmakers on the EITC/CTC
  - Ask someone to hunt for hooks in your local media outlets and feed them to your RESULTS group to help get 10 letters submitted this month
- Please join our training webinar **"Wow, I got published!" Making Media a Transformational Experience** on Thursday, September 19 at 8:30 pm ET for more tips on using media to engage others. Join at: <https://results.zoom.us/j/586201507>, or dial either (929) 436-2866 or 669-900-6833, meeting ID: 586 201 507#.

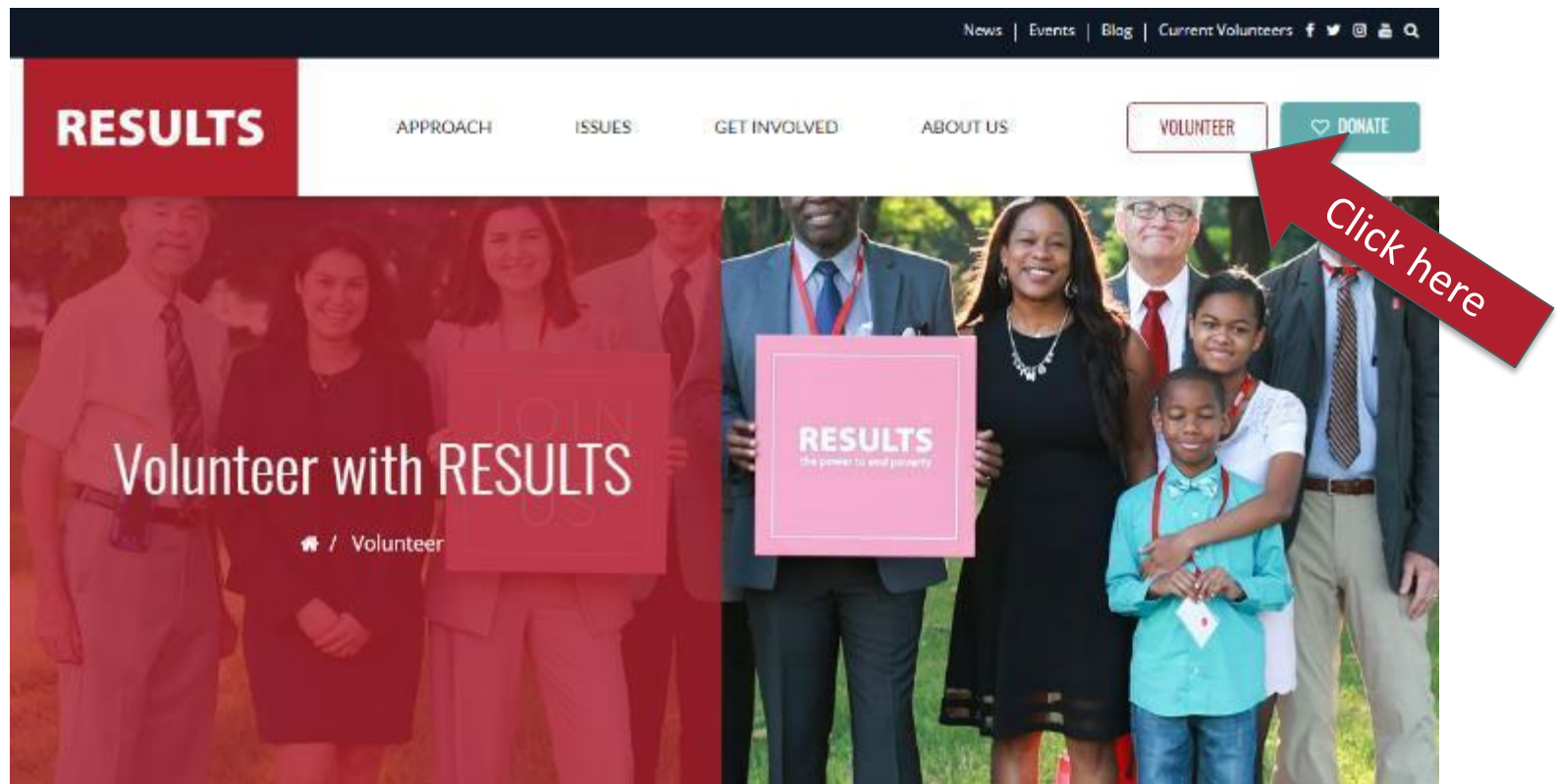
# Advocacy and Organizing in Practice

## Yara Levin, RESULTS St. Louis



# New to RESULTS?

Thank you for joining us this evening. If you'd like more information about RESULTS and how to get involved, go to [www.results.org](http://www.results.org) and click "Volunteer".





# Find All Your Need on the “Current Volunteers” page

Find action alerts, lobbying resources, monthly actions, weekly updates, national webinars, and more!

**RESULTS** APPROACH ISSUES GET INVOLVED **VOLUNTEER** DONATE

**Current Volunteers**  
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**Federal Campaigns** **Campaigns**

**Media Action: Continue U.S. commitment to the Global Fund**  
 At the height of the AIDS crisis, the world came together to fight back, pooling its resources and creating the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Now almost two decades later, its success has been nothing less than remarkable. Since 2002, the Global Fund...

**Call Today! Urge Congress to Fund Priorities that Reduce Poverty and Save Lives**  
 Congress is making important decisions right now about funding priorities for the next budget. Sadly, policies that help alleviate poverty in the U.S. and around the world could get ignored. But with your help, we can avoid that outcome. Help set the agenda by telling...

**Media Action: We Must Address the Housing Crisis**  
 Families looking for affordable housing are in crisis. Since 1960, renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents have risen by 61 percent -- and only 37 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households...

**Ask Your Senators to Prioritize Global Health and Education**  
 As Congress looks at its spending plan for 2020, it's your turn to tell them what they should prioritize. Smart investments in health and quality education programs in the world's poorest places can dramatically change the futures of women, children, and other...

**Congress Must Address the Affordable Housing Crisis**  
 Millions of low-income working families struggle because of our affordable housing crisis. Since 1960, renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents have risen by 61 percent -- and only 37 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely...

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 Weekly Updates

# SAVE THE DATE

## June 20-23, 2020

RESULTS International Conference  
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC

Join us and celebrate 40 years of RESULTS!



Featuring speaker  
**Professor Muhammad Yunus**, winner of the  
Nobel Peace Prize



# Announcements

**Fall Planning.** Let us know how many people you would like to add to your local RESULTS group by the end of the year. Fill out your group's fall planning form [here](#).

**Thursday, September 12: Use Local Media to Move Legislators into Action training webinar, 8:30pm ET.** Join at <https://results.zoom.us/j/422081397> or dial either (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 422 081 397#.

**Tuesday, September 17, U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET.** Join at: <https://results.zoom.us/j/324294681> or dial by phone at (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 324 294 681.

**Thursday, September 19, Webinar: Wow, I got published! Making Media a Transformational Experience, 8:30 pm ET.** Join here: <https://results.zoom.us/j/586201507>, or dial either (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 586 201 507#.

Find other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).

# Final Action: Search Your Paper for a Local Hook

Get started on your letters to the editor about expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

**Go to your local paper's website and search the headlines for a hook.**

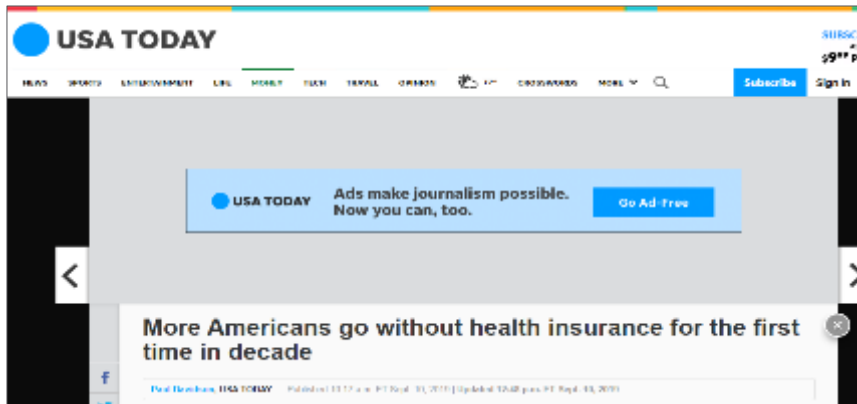
Have they posted anything about the Census data yet? Is there another story you'd like to use?

When you find your hook, **use the September Action or our online letter to the editor action to draft and submit your letter to the editor.**

Be sure to mention your members of Congress by name.

When you get published, please let us know at

[www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSmedia](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSmedia).



**Thank you for being on tonight's webinar!**

We'll link to the **recording and audio transcript** of the webinar on our [National Webinars page](#) tomorrow.

The next U.S. Poverty National Webinar is a joint U.S. and Global Poverty webinar on **Tuesday, October 1 at 8:00pm ET.**



**Happy  
fall!**

# Appendix

More data on the impact of the  
Working Families Tax Relief Act

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