

September 2021

The logo for RESULTS, featuring the word "results" in white lowercase letters on a red speech bubble background.

U.S. Poverty Monthly Action [\(Word version\)](#)

Push Congress for a strong recovery bill

Leaders in Congress are working on a new economic recovery proposal they hope to pass in the next few weeks. This legislation is a once in a generation opportunity to significantly reduce homelessness, boost incomes, and cut child poverty in half.

On housing, House leaders have proposed \$90 billion toward long-term rental assistance, including significant investments for the Housing Choice Voucher program. While this amount falls short of universal assistance for all who are eligible, it is a critical step forward in ending homelessness and providing federal housing assistance to all who need it.

On taxes, our goal is still permanent extensions of the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provisions, including full refundability of the CTC so that children whose families have little or no income can still qualify. We also want Congress to undo changes made in 2017 to prevent immigrant children from receiving the CTC. But for the new increased CTC, which will be extended through 2025, the House proposal has mirrored our requests.

These investments are a tribute to the hard work RESULTS volunteers have done the last few months in lobbying Congress for these resources. Now we need to make sure they are included in the final package.

Now is the time to Act!

Action over the next few weeks will be critical. Please contact your representative and senators with the following requests:

Please tell key committees and leadership to pass a bold recovery package that:

- 1. Makes the 2021 EITC/CTC provisions permanent, particularly full refundability for the Child Tax Credit for very low- or no-income families**
- 2. Includes at least \$90 billion in rental assistance, with significant investments in Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) targeting the lowest-income households**

Tailor this draft message to your representatives and senators urging them to invest in these key anti-poverty measures. Please be sure to personalize the messages below to your audience before sending them. Share this message with others and urge them to e-mail their members of Congress too.

I am pleased that Congress is working to pass a recovery bill this fall, and urge you to prioritize bold measures that prioritizes reducing poverty and addressing our affordable housing crisis.

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Access to affordable housing is critical for the well-being of families, yet millions struggle to keep a roof over their heads. People with stable housing earn more, are healthier, and do better in school. Please support a strong package and include at least \$90 billion in funding for rental assistance, including the highest possible investment in Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs), targeting extremely low-income households, children, families, and people with disabilities.

In addition, it is critical that Congress not let the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provisions expire next year. They need to be made permanent in the recovery bill, especially full refundability of the CTC, so children in families with little or no income get the full value of the credit. Congress can easily finance these investments by making the wealthy and corporations finally pay their fair share of taxes.

Please contact House and Senate leadership today urging them to include these policies in the final economic recovery bill. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Take targeted action with key aides

In addition to general message above, reaching the housing and tax aides with these requests is also important. Members of Congress will be under enormous pressure to cut key provisions from the recovery bill. Repeated contacts to aides about our housing and the tax credit priorities can prevent them from being watered down or cut.

If you are the RESULTS point person for a member of Congress, please personalize and send these messages to housing and tax aides as soon as possible. See resources below the sample messages to include in your correspondence.

E-mail housing aides about Housing Choice Vouchers

Dear _____,

Access to affordable housing is critical for the well-being of families, yet millions struggle to keep a roof over their heads. When COVID-19 hit, millions of Americans were already one crisis away from eviction and homelessness, but federal housing assistance programs are grossly underfunded, leaving three out of four eligible renters not getting help.

As Congress works to pass an economic recovery bill, it must include significant investments in rental assistance, in particular the Housing Choice Vouchers program. These investments should target extremely low-income households, children, families, and people with disabilities. In doing this, we can get millions stably housed, dramatically reduce homelessness, and start to undo the legacy of racial discrimination in housing. Congress can easily finance this investment by making

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the wealthy and corporations finally pay their fair share of taxes and giving the IRS the tools for strong enforcement.

Will your boss contact leadership along with the House Financial Services Committee/Senate Banking Committee and urge them to include at least \$90 billion in rental assistance funding in the recovery bill, including the highest possible investment in Housing Choice Vouchers? Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.

E-mail tax aides about the CTC and EITC

Dear _____,

I am pleased that Congress is moving forward with a strong recovery bill. As part of that package, it is imperative that Congress make the recent changes to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit permanent.

The new CTC monthly payments are already having a huge impact. Columbia University researchers estimate that after one payment in July, [3 million children were lifted above the poverty line](#). In addition, the expansion of the EITC for workers not raising children will help 17 million low-wage workers make ends meet, including millions of young workers just entering the workforce.

It is essential that Congress not let the new EITC and CTC provisions expire next year. They need to be made permanent in the recovery bill, especially full refundability of the CTC, so children in families with little or no income get the full value of the credit.

Congress can easily finance these investments by making the wealthy and corporations finally pay their of taxes and giving the IRS the tools for strong enforcement.

Will your boss contact leadership along with the House Ways and Means Committee/Senate Finance Committee, and urge them to make the EITC and CTC expansions permanent this year including full refundability of the CTC for families with little or no income? Also, please restore eligibility for the CTC to immigrant children with ITINs. Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.

Resources to help in your correspondence

Please attach a copy of the RESULTS [Housing Request Sheet](#) and [CTC/EITC Request Sheet](#) to your e-mails. Also, the resources below can be helpful in bolstering your message.

- Child Tax Credit [video testimonials](#) from RESULTS Experts on Poverty

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- [Niskanen Center research](#) on the poverty and economic impacts of the new CTC payments (could help with more conservative offices)
- [Video](#) on the benefits of EITC in rural areas (Center for Rural Strategies/Rural Assembly)

Finally, urge others to e-mail or call members of Congress now using our [housing online alert](#) and [tax credit online alert](#).