

Note on Leave-Behind Materials for Congressional Meetings

All materials for your actions are linked below and can be found in the "Lobbying" section of the [RESULTS website](#).

Key U.S. Poverty Request

Prioritizing Affordable Housing for Low-Income Renters

The COVID-19 pandemic has made our housing crisis far worse. Even before this economic and public health crisis, millions were struggling to afford housing, especially renters of color.

According to [Harvard researchers](#), since 1960 renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents are up 61 percent. Economist Mark Zandi estimates renters already owe over [\\$50 billion in back rent and fees](#), which puts a tremendous burden on tenants *and* landlords who cannot meet their own financial obligations when no rent is coming in (nearly one-half of whom are individual owners or so-called "mom and pop" landlords).

Congress took an important step by passing a bipartisan package in December 2020 with \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance, but more is needed. **Congress should work quickly to pass a strong COVID relief bill that includes at least \$30 billion in emergency rental assistance** targeted at low-income renters most at risk of eviction. In addition, Congress must move **bold policies to address our underlying housing crisis by ensuring all eligible low-income renters get federal housing assistance** – we will push for this to be a priority in later recovery legislation, along with supporting efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing for low-income renters via the National Housing Trust Fund.

HOUSE and SENATE Requests:

- Will you tell leadership to pass a strong COVID relief package with at least \$30 billion in emergency rental assistance?
- Will you support dramatically expanding housing assistance for low-income renters in 2021 to ensure that all eligible low-income renters get federal housing assistance?

Background Documents:

- [Congress Must Provide Rental Assistance](#)

Targeted U.S. Poverty Request

Expand Tax Credits for Low-Wage Workers and Families

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the unemployment rate will remain above 9 percent well into 2021, but temporary changes to the federal tax code could provide a much needed boost to workers and families early next year. **Congress should expand Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers who do not claim dependents and extend the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) to children in all low-income families**, just like middle- and higher-income families currently receive.

Over 5 million low-wage workers who are not raising children at home are taxed into (or deeper into) poverty each year. Expanding EITC could provide a crucial boost to younger workers and others who do not claim dependents. Moreover, one in four children (27 million total) in low-income families do not receive the full Child Tax Credit. Increasing the CTC and expanding it so all low-income families receive the full credit – on a monthly basis – could reduce child poverty by 40 percent.

Congress can act swiftly to make these important policy changes for 2021 in a strong COVID relief package, and then make those changes permanent in later recover legislation

HOUSE and SENATE Requests

- Will you tell congressional leaders to prioritize low-income people by expanding the EITC and CTC for low-income workers and families?

Background documents

- [Prioritize Tax Credits for Low-Wage Workers and Families](#)

Key Global Poverty Requests

Fully Fund the Global Fund's COVID Response and Fight Malnutrition

For over a year, the coronavirus has threatened near universal disruption around the world. But it is the communities facing poverty, already pushed to the margins, which face the greatest risks. As a leader in global health and development, the United States must urgently respond to contain and mitigate the impact COVID-19 and protect hard-fought gains in global health in low-income countries.

The \$4 billion Congress appropriated for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in the December relief bill is crucially important, but just one part of the comprehensive response needed. COVID-19 vaccines are an important part of the solution, but they will not be available in most lower-income countries for many months and possibly not widely available for years, and the extreme economic crises caused by this pandemic is not slowing down. **A new World Bank estimate suggests that COVID-19 will drive over [150 million](#) people into extreme poverty by 2021.**

Providing resources to programs that successfully impact poverty and have demonstrable track-records for improving health outcomes will be critical in the fight against COVID-19 and its effect on those most at-risk.

As Congress considers COVID relief funding, we urge support for the priorities below as part of an next package of at least \$20 billion to stop coronavirus and mitigate the secondary impacts and economic shocks that deepen poverty.

HOUSE and SENATE Requests:

- As you reach out to leadership, will you support at least \$20 billion in foreign aid in any next COVID-19 relief legislation, including at least:
 - \$4 billion for the Global Fund
 - \$2 billion to address hunger/ famine-relief, with at least \$500 million to address the crisis of malnutrition and wasting.

Background Documents:

- [Global Response Vital to Fight Pandemic](#)