

ACTION SHEET [\(Word version\)](#)

The Child Tax Credit is the tool families need

American families are facing rising costs—for [rent](#), food, gas, and more – but luckily there’s a solution. Rumors are that senators are working to pass new economic recovery package next month. While it will look different from the *Build Back Better Act* (BBB) passed by the House last year, our job is to make sure that an extension of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is part of it. With families paying more for food, gas, and rent, we must remind senators that the CTC is the perfect tool to help. [Here is why](#):

Extending the CTC would offset rising costs for food, rent, and fuel. [Moody's research](#) shows inflation is costing American families an extra \$296 per month, with a [steep rise in rents](#) fueling it. The 2021 CTC monthly payments averaged \$444 per month per household. The math is simple; if you want to help families with higher costs, extend the CTC.

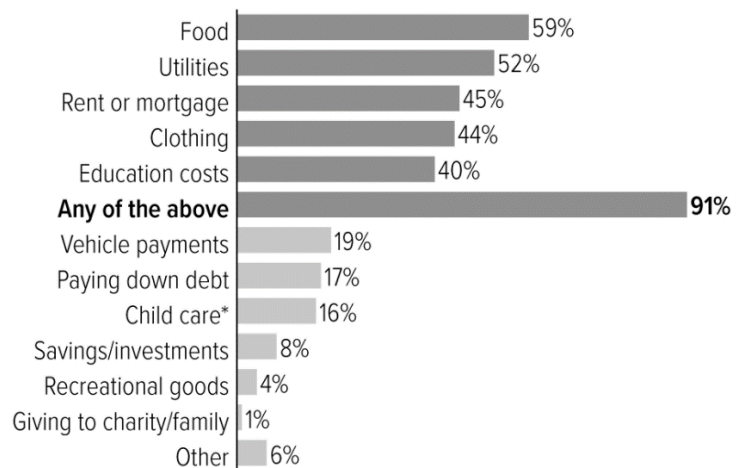
Families spent their CTC payments on basic needs. Families who received CTC payments in 2021 spent the money on [food, utilities, housing, clothing, and education](#). This is due in part because the payments targeted those most in need of help ([see chart](#)).

The CTC does not cause inflation. There is no evidence that the increased CTC in 2021 contributed to rising costs. [As noted by CBPP](#), the expanded CTC would contribute “little or no inflationary pressure.”

The CTC payments lifted millions of children out of poverty. Each month CTC payments went out last year, [3-4 million children were kept from poverty](#) each month. Once the payments stopped, [3.7 million children fell back below the poverty line](#).

Families With Low Incomes Spent Expanded Child Tax Credit on Basic Needs, Education

Percent of households with incomes below \$35,000 who spent their credit payments on:



*Percent of households with child(ren) under age 5.

Tell your senators and representatives to help struggling families

The expanded CTC is the right tool for this moment. Use the talking points below to write letters to your senators and representatives. Urge them to include a CTC extension in any

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economic or reconciliation package. Also, invite Action Network members, potential new volunteers, and other anti-poverty allies to write letters as well. Use our [Action Workshop Agenda \(Word version\)](#) to host a letter-writing meeting. The more letters you generate, the bigger impact you have. Plan to deliver all your letters in upcoming lobby meetings in the next few weeks, or share directly with Congressional staff by early May. If you have questions, please contact [Jos Linn](#).

Child Tax Credit letter talking points

1. Start your letter with “Dear Sen. _____” or “Dear Rep. _____”.
2. Introduce yourself with your name, home city, and that you are a RESULTS volunteer.
3. Remind them that higher costs for food, rent, and gas are straining family budgets. *If comfortable, share a personal story on how higher costs are impacting you/your family.*
4. Tell them that in 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit – and in particular, the monthly payments – provided much needed relief to low-income families, many for the first time ever.
5. Explain that families used their CTC payments to buy food for their families, pay the rent, cover utilities, and buy clothes. For many, it made the difference between getting by and falling behind. *If you received CTC payments, share how the CTC payments helped your family.*
6. Also tell them that the 2021 CTC went to all low-income children, even those with little or no family income. As a result, child poverty dropped by 35 percent and the CTC payments kept nearly four million children from poverty each month.
7. Explain that the payments have stopped at the same time families are struggling with higher prices. Also, 3.7 million children fell back into poverty in January 2022.
8. Tell them that the perfect solution to higher costs is to extend the CTC as soon as possible.
9. Urge them to tell House or Senate leadership to extend the Child Tax Credit with permanent full refundability and the monthly payments in any economic legislation this year.
10. Thank them and tell them you look forward to a prompt response to your request.
11. Sign your name with your contact information.