

ACTION SHEET ([Word version](#))

Ask lawmakers about the CTC at August meetings and town halls

While the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is not included in the [pending reconciliation package](#), it is becoming increasingly likely that Congress will try to pass a tax bill after the election. Negotiators [may begin tax discussions as early as this month](#). We want to make sure the CTC is part of any final bill. To do so, we must push members of Congress now to include the CTC in any tax legislation later this year. August recess meetings and town halls are a terrific opportunity to ask lawmakers and candidates for office to support the CTC. Use the exercise below to draft a personalized EPIC Laser Talk to use at events in your area.

Draft your personalized CTC Laser Talk

Use the acronym, EPIC, to help you remember the basics of the Laser Talk: E for Engage your audience, P for state the Problem, I for Inform about the solution, and C for your Call to Action. As you craft your own meeting/town hall question using this format, remember that people best relate through stories. Stories will move people to action more than facts alone. Thus, while the examples below are more generic, share your own personal experience and values in your question if possible.

E = ENGAGE Your Audience. Get your listener's attention by sharing your story about why this issue is important to you. Keep this opening statement to one sentence if possible.

Example: *In the midst of the pandemic, I'm pretty inspired that, with the expanded Child Tax Credit, Congress found a way to dramatically and efficiently reduce poverty for children.*

P = State the PROBLEM. Now discuss what obstacles stand in the way of realizing these shared values. Be specific and try to keep this brief as well (one or two sentences).

Example: *But Congress let the expanded CTC expire last December. Now families are facing higher rent, food, and gas prices which is causing additional financial strain and stress.*

I = INFORM about Solutions. Now talk about the solution to the problem you presented. Share a story about how your solution helped you, people you know, or a specific group your care about, e.g., low-income children. If you have facts to support your story, share them here.

Example: *The 2021 expansion of the Child Tax Credit (called CTC for short) with its monthly payments is the most significant investment in families in a generation. It lifted nearly 4 million children from poverty each month payments went out. Families used their CTC payments to buy food, pay rent, and cover utilities. It's common sense – when families have more money in their*

ACTION SHEET

pockets, their kids do better. Congress is talking about giving tax breaks for big corporations later this year! Before rich CEOs get anything, Congress should first prioritize families by expanding the CTC and resuming the monthly payments.

C = CALL TO ACTION. Close your Laser Talk by making a specific call to action, i.e., what do you want the listener to do? Present the action in the form of a yes or no question.

Example: *Last, year, American families got a much needed boost and millions of kids were lifted out of poverty from the CTC. We can and must do it again. Will you prioritize expanding the Child Tax Credit for all low-income families, including monthly payments, in any tax legislation later this year?*

Delivering Your Laser Talk

Any good musician, actor, or athlete knows never to perform without practicing first. It's no different with public speaking. We encourage you to practice your laser talk alone until you feel comfortable. Listen to how it sounds and if something is off, change it. Also, practice with others and seek their feedback. The goal is not to sound perfect, but to feel right. Good Luck!

For additional examples of CTC and other laser talks, visit <https://results.org/volunteers/laser-talks/>. Also, feel free to reach out to RESULTS staff (grassroots@results.org) for help.

Finding events during the August recess

Members of Congress will be on recess from early August through Labor Day. If you have not met face-to-face with your representative or senator this year, request a meeting today (contact [RESULTS staff](#) if you need help). Lawmakers and candidates in the 2022 election may also be holding town hall events you can attend online or in-person to ask a question. Here are tips for finding events:

- Locate the websites of your elected officials or candidates and subscribe to their newsletters via e-mail.
- Check your local paper and other local media sources for events.
- Contact your members of Congress or local campaign office regularly to ask if they have any public events scheduled. Go to <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup/> to find congressional contact info.
- Search <https://townhallproject.com> for events near you.