

ACTION SHEET ([Word version](#))

Tell Congress to extend the Child Tax Credit this year

In 2021, Congress cut child poverty by more than a third by [expanding the Child Tax Credit \(CTC\)](#) to reach the lowest income families. Researchers at Children’s Health Watch note that the [CTC payments reduced hunger and improved health](#) in families who received them. Unfortunately, the expanded CTC was only temporary and ended in January 2022. A majority of senators opposed including a broader set of investments such as the CTC in the [reconciliation bill](#) passed last month. Now our attention turns to other opportunities to expand the CTC later this year.

After the November election, Congress will pass a large tax and spending package that may include extending tax breaks for corporations. This legislation must include an expansion of the CTC. It is unacceptable for Congress to pass tax breaks for big corporations while leaving the lowest-income people behind.

A post-election tax and spending bill will need 60 votes in the Senate to pass, which means it will need broad bipartisan support. Fortunately, the CTC was created by and has been expanded multiple times with bipartisan support. With your advocacy, it can happen again, but we need a groundswell of support for the CTC in the coming months. Your letters to Congress can build that support.

Tell your senators and representatives to help struggling families

Build momentum for expanding the CTC later this year by using the talking points below to write letters to your senators and representatives. Urge them to prioritize an expansion of the CTC that prioritizes the lowest-income families in any year-end tax package. Coordinate with other RESULTS advocates so that someone (likely your RESULTS group’s congressional point person) communicates directly with key tax aides in each office, while others write or [use our online alert](#) to email Congress.

Make the most of this important time by also inviting others to take those actions *with* you. Use our [Action Workshop Agenda \(Word version\)](#) to host a letter-writing or letter to the editor-writing meeting. Also, invite people to attend campaign events where you ask a question of candidates, reach out to like-minded allies in the community, and talk to people one-on-one about why you do this work. Harness the power of relationships and shared values to invite people into this work.

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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 many families in your community are struggling to make ends meet, facing higher costs for food, rent, and gas. *If comfortable, share a personal story on how higher costs are impacting you/your family.*
4. Note that the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments helped millions of American families weather tough economic times, while also cutting child poverty by more than one-third.
5. Share how the CTC helped strengthen families and reduce child poverty by helping them stay housed, put healthy food on the table, and stay employed.
6. Mention that the expanded CTC was successful because families with low- or no incomes got the full credit, and that payments were made monthly. The monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most, monthly bill time, and allowed families to choose how best to use it.
7. Ask them to prioritize effective policies that strengthen families and fight child poverty by expanding the CTC in any tax legislation this year, including families with the lowest incomes and resume the monthly payments as soon as possible.
8. Specifically, tell them you oppose Congress passing any more tax breaks for large corporations unless they include support for families.
9. Ask them to share that expanding the CTC is a top priority with House or Senate leadership.
10. Thank them and tell them you look forward to a prompt response to your request.
11. Sign your name with your contact information.
12. Send the letters your members’ of Congress closest local office (<https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup>).

Looking for more resources? See [RESULTS Fall Campaign page \(https://results.org/fall2022\)](https://results.org/fall2022) and our [new Blog post](#) on making the conservative case for the CTC.