

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

Tax time is a good reminder that Congress needs to expand the CTC again

It's tax season and millions of Americans are busy filing their taxes for Uncle Sam. However, many families with low-incomes will see a higher tax bill or small refund this year. That's because the [expanded Child Tax Credit \(CTC\)](#) is no longer available.

In March 2021, the CTC was expanded to all-low-income families and the credit amount was significantly increased from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for children under 6). Families received half of their CTC as a monthly payment from July-December 2021 and the other half as a lump sum payment in 2022 when they filed their taxes.

The expanded CTC was nothing short of remarkable. 19 million low-income children who previously qualified for a only a partial CTC – or no CTC at all – were now eligible for the full credit. As a result, [U.S. Census data shows](#) that in 2021, child poverty dropped an astounding 46 percent, mainly due to the expanded CTC's monthly payments. That year, the CTC alone lifted [5.3 million people](#) out of poverty, including 2.9 million children. Parents spent their CTC on necessities such as food, rent, utilities, and clothes for their kids. It proved that when you give parents the resources *and* freedom to provide for their families, they do.

Sadly, the Senate let the payments expire in December 2021 and Congress did not reinstate the expanded CTC in 2022 (despite relentless advocacy by RESULTS volunteers!). This means that when parents file their 2022 federal taxes this year, [they will receive a lower CTC or none at all](#). Families who receive the credit as a tax refund will get at most half of what they received from the expanded CTC. This amounts to a massive tax increase on struggling families.

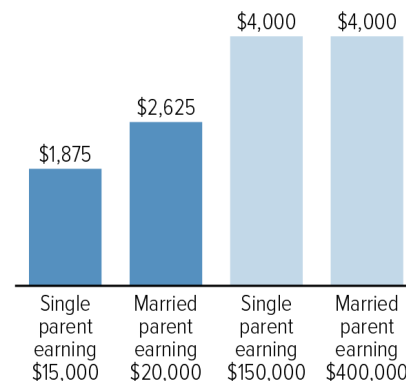
Getting the 2021 CTC reinstated in this Congress will be challenging. But that does not mean we cannot make progress to reduce the number of children and families experiencing poverty under the current CTC.

Write letters to your members of Congress about the Child Tax Credit

Write letters to them urging them to expand the CTC in any tax legislation they consider this year. Use the talking points below to write your letters.

Families With Low Incomes Receive Smaller Child Tax Credit Than Families With Higher Incomes

Child Tax Credit for a family with two children under current law (2022)



Source: CBPP calculations

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1. Start your letter with “Dear Senator _____” or “Dear Congressperson _____”.
2. Introduce yourself with your name, where you live, and that you are a RESULTS volunteer.
3. Remind them that in 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit with monthly payments helped cut child poverty by 46 percent– the largest one-year reduction in history.
4. Tell them that the monthly CTC payments gave parents the freedom and flexibility to cover rent, food, and utilities when they needed it most – monthly bill time.
5. Explain that because the 2021 CTC has now expired, 19 million children are no longer eligible for the full CTC, many of them eligible for nothing.
6. Yet, [17 million of these 19 million children](#) come from families who are working. And of the remaining 2 million children, most are being raised by grandparents, people with disabilities, mothers in the first year after birth, or students.
7. Far too many families are needlessly struggling to make ends meet. If the expanded CTC proved anything, it is that the CTC can provide meaningful financial relief to them while lifting millions of children out of poverty.
8. Ask your members of Congress to prioritize tax policies for lower-income Americans. Will they urge congressional leaders to expand the Child Tax Credit to cover all low-income children with monthly payments in any tax legislation this year?
9. Thank them for their time and tell them you look forward to their response to your request.

Tips for your letters

- For any questions you have, contact RESULTS staff at grassroots@results.org.
- Write three letters – one to your representative, one to each of your senators.
- If you don’t know who your members of Congress are, look them up at: <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup>.
- You can hand-write or type your letters.
- Once finished, plan to deliver letters in lobby meetings for our Set the Agenda campaign (<https://results.org/set-the-agenda>).
- If you cannot attend a lobby meeting, e-mail the letters to the tax aides in each office. If you don’t know that person’s name, contact RESULTS staff for assistance.
- When you get a response, please let RESULTS staff know what they said.