

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

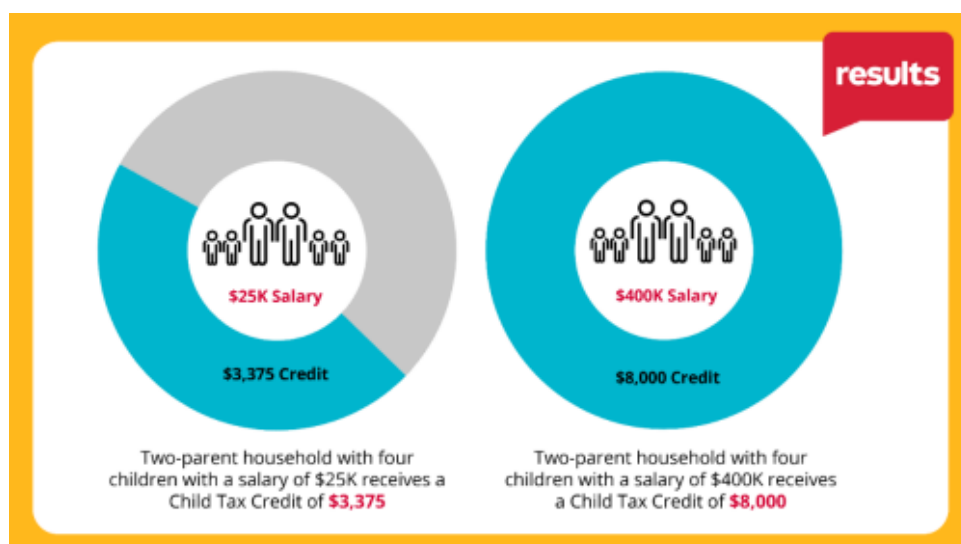
Two years ago, we found the solution to child poverty – the Child Tax Credit

Two years ago this month, the first Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments went out. In March 2021, President Biden and Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit to all families with low or no income and sent it as a monthly payment. After that first payment In July 2021, [3 million children were lifted from poverty](#). That number only increased as the payments went out each month for the rest of year.

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 just that. It also showed that we know how to end child poverty. [U.S. Census data shows](#) that the 2021 CTC payments helped cut child poverty by 46 percent.

Congress did not extend the expanded CTC and monthly payments past 2021. Families are again struggling to meet basic needs and children are falling back into poverty. [19 million children](#) whose families got the full CTC in 2021 now receive only a partial credit because their incomes are not high enough, including 2 million children whose families receive nothing (see graph for illustration).

Democrats and Republicans are divided over the CTC. While most Democrats in the House and Senate support returning the CTC to its 2021 levels, House Republicans' new tax plan includes no changes to the CTC. Instead, it prioritizes \$1 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations. With this divide, compromise will be needed to pass any tax legislation this year. Any such compromise must include a CTC expansion to families with low incomes.



OUTREACH ACTION SHEET

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 this year. Use the guide below to write your letters.

1. Dear Senator _____ or Dear Congressperson _____.
2. My name is _____. I am a constituent of yours from _____ and a RESULTS volunteer.
3. Two years ago, the U.S. figured out how to solve child poverty.
4. In July 2021, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) was increased and expanded to all low-income families and sent as a monthly payment.
5. Those payments helped cut child poverty by 46 percent, and gave parents the ability to cover rent, food, and utilities when they needed it most – monthly bill time.
6. The CTC expansion expired after one year. As a result, [19 million low-income children](#) are now excluded from the full CTC, including 17 million whose families qualify for the CTC but earn too little for the full benefit.
7. To illustrate, a two-parent family with four children earning \$25,000 annually gets less than half the CTC than a similar family earning \$400,000 annually.
8. No child deserves to grow up in poverty. Now we know they don't have to.
9. In any tax legislation this year, will you urge members of the tax writing committees to expand the Child Tax Credit to as many families with low incomes as possible?
10. Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response to my request.

Tips for your letters

- For questions, contact RESULTS staff at grassroots@results.org.
- Write three letters – one to your representative, one to each of your senators (find your member of Congress at: <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup>).
- You can hand-write or type your letters.
- Plan to deliver letters in upcoming lobby meetings or e-mail them to the tax aides in each office. Contact RESULTS staff for assistance.
- When you get a response, please let RESULTS staff know what they said.