

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

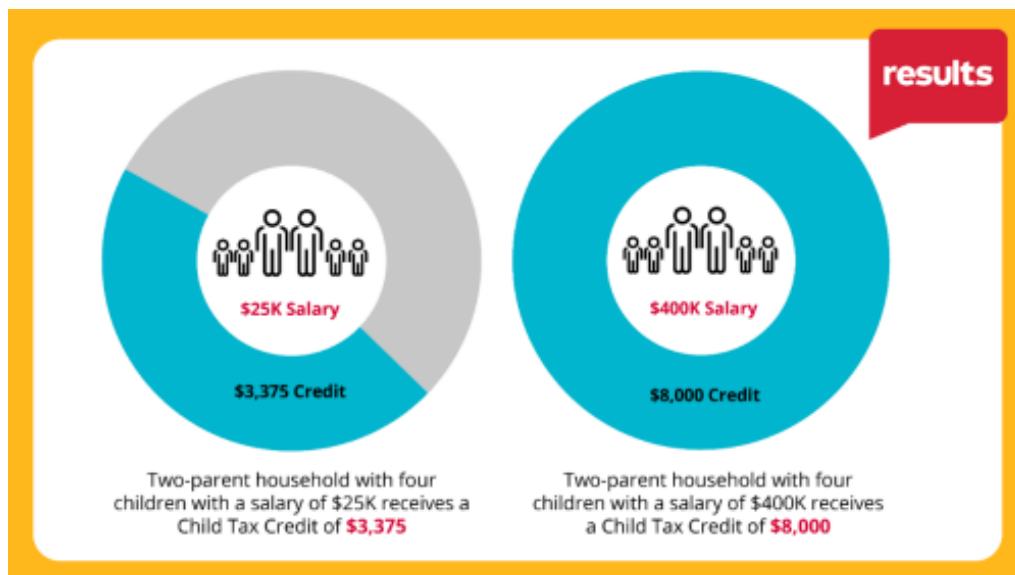
Census data confirms need for CTC

In September, the U.S. Census released its [annual poverty data for 2022](#). The news was shocking. The data showed that child poverty rate more than doubled, from 5.2 percent in 2021 to 12.4 percent this year. 2021 had been the lowest recorded child poverty rate in history.

Why the dramatic poverty increase between 2021 and 2022? The expiration of pandemic-related aid, primarily the expiration of the 2021 expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC). In 2021, the CTC was expanded to include families with very low or no income, the credit amount was increased, and it was sent in monthly payments. This change is why the 2021 Census data showed the largest single drop in child poverty in the history of the Supplemental Poverty Measure. With the expiration of those changes in 2022, [3 million children fell back into poverty](#).

This data makes it perfectly clear that Congress must expand the CTC again. While RESULTS supports reinstating the 2021 CTC expansion, that is unlikely to pass in this Congress. But, there is bipartisan momentum to make improvements to the CTC by the end of 2023. Any improvements made to the CTC this year must prioritize families with the lowest incomes (see graph below). An expanded CTC that does not reduce poverty is unacceptable.

Media is a powerful tool in influencing members of Congress. Use the talking points on the next page to write a letter to the editor urging your members of Congress to expand the CTC in any tax legislation this year and to reject any tax bill that does not.



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Write letters to the editor on the Child Tax Credit

- *If possible, reference a recent article talking about poverty, the new Census data, budget cuts, or issues related to children.*
- Recent Census poverty data shows that child poverty more than doubled between 2021 and 2022.
- This was not an accident. It was a policy choice when Congress failed to extend the 2021 Child Tax Credit expansion and monthly payments. *If you received the 2021 CTC monthly payments, tell how it helped your family.*
- As a result of this choice, 3 million children are now in poverty who don't have to be. Our children deserve better from us.
- Congress is looking to pass a corporate tax bill this year. Any bill they consider must include an expansion of the CTC for families with low income.
- For example, 17 million children whose parents work in low-wage jobs do not qualify for the full credit. Meanwhile, wealthy couples making \$400,000 per year get the full amount. This is not right.
- I urge our representatives and senators (*mention them by name*) to prioritize reducing child poverty by expanding the Child Tax Credit to families with low income in any tax legislation this year.

Tips for your letters

- For questions, contact RESULTS staff at grassroots@results.org.
- For letters to the editor (LTEs), shorter is always better.
- LTEs are generally 150-250 words. Check your newspapers' website for the word limit (if any) and edit accordingly.
- Check the newspaper for how to submit the letter. Some provide an e-mail address and/or an online form to send letters. You can also send letters through the RESULTS website using one of our media actions (<https://results.org/action-center/>).
- You can also use the above talking points for letters written directly to your members of Congress.