

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

Expand the Child Tax Credit now

Almost three years ago, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to all families with low income and sent it to them as a monthly payment. As a result, child poverty dropped by 40 percent. Sadly, Congress let that expansion expire at the end of 2021. Since then, child poverty has dramatically increased.

RESULTS volunteers have been advocating for Congress to expand the CTC since the 2021 expansion expired. After thousands of calls, letters, and meeting, Congress has responded. In January 2024, tax leaders announced a bipartisan agreement to expand the CTC for 16 million low-income children. Here is what it does:

- It expands the refundable portion of the credit to \$1,800 in tax year 2023, \$1,900 in tax year 2024, and the full \$2,000 in tax year 2025 and indexes it to inflation.
- It allows families with low income to receive the same credit for all of their children. Under current law, only wealthier families receive the CTC on this “per child” basis.
- It allows families to calculate their CTC using the higher of their current year’s earnings or their previous year’s earnings. This will maximize the credit for them.

[Estimates from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) show that 16 million children who currently don’t receive the full CTC will benefit in the first year alone, including 400,000 children lifted from poverty.

This deal is clearly a compromise. Compared to the 2021 CTC expansion, this expansion falls well short. It leaves too many children in poverty and we must still work to expand the CTC to all low-income children. But in a contentious, divided Congress, this agreement is progress and puts us in a stronger position to seek a full expansion when Congress debates major tax issues in 2025.

Passing this expansion is now our priority.* With tax season beginning this month, Congress must pass it *as soon as possible* so families can claim the new CTC on their 2023 taxes. We don’t care how they pass it, only that they do.

Use the talking points below to ask your members of Congress to support the new CTC expansion and work to pass it now.

**Lawmakers may try to improve the expansion as the legislation progresses, which RESULTS fully supports. However, Congress should still pass it even if no changes are made. Conversely, RESULTS opposes any efforts to reduce the expansion.*

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

If you need help knowing what to say, use the talking points below as a guide 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. I am writing to urge you to support the new bipartisan tax package that expands the Child Tax Credit.
4. Since 2021, child poverty has dramatically increased because millions of families with low income lost access to the full CTC. This proposal helps get us back on track by allowing millions of these families to receive the same credit benefits as wealthier families.
5. Estimates are that this proposed expansion would benefit 16 million children in families with low-income, including lifting 500,000 children above the poverty line.
6. *[Perhaps share how an expanded CTC would help your family].*
7. While this agreement falls short of providing the CTC to all children experiencing poverty, it is meaningful progress toward that goal.
8. It is imperative Congress pass this legislation, and pass it quickly so families can claim the new CTC on their 2023 taxes.
9. Will you stand with low-income children and families by supporting this new CTC expansion and telling congressional leadership to pass it this month?
10. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to receiving 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.