

2026 U.S. Poverty Laser Talk

Improve the Child Tax Credit with the Stronger Start for Working Families Act

Engage: The Child Tax Credit (CTC) has supported parents and children for decades. This bipartisan provision has been our most reliable way to provide parents with the tools they need to meet their children's basic needs.

Problem: Yet, 19 million children whose parents work in low-wage jobs are excluded from all or part of the credit.

Inform: Currently, parents earning \$400,000 receive the full \$2,200 credit per child, while parents earning as little as \$25,000 per year can receive less than half. The Stronger Start for Working Families Act would mitigate this discrepancy. Instead of the current \$2,500 per year minimum income threshold, the bill allows parents to earn their CTC from their first dollar of income. This would provide a much-needed financial boost for families working in low wage jobs. Millions of these families would get an extra \$375 in their tax returns each year.

Call to Action: As families continue to struggle to afford basic needs, Congress can and must help. Will you cosponsor the bipartisan Stronger Start for Working Families Act?

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