

The Children's Defense Fund – New York joins Beat the Odds[®] Scholars & Youth Advocates, Families, and Child Advocacy Organizations in Urging the Senate to Save the Child Tax Credit

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New York, N.Y. – The Children's Defense Fund – New York stands alongside its Beat the Odds[®] Scholars & Youth Advocates, New York families, and its partner child advocacy organizations in urging the Senate to immediately pass the Build Back Better Act so that families will continue to receive the transformational expanded monthly Child Tax Credit payments. Today, millions of families across our State and throughout our nation will receive their December Child Tax Credit payment, much as they have been every month since July of this year. If the Build Back Better Act is not passed, it could be the last of these monthly payments our families receive – potentially causing the nearly half of children nationwide who have been lifted out of poverty this year to be plunged back into financial hardship while simultaneously widening our nation's immoral racial and economic inequities. CDF-NY joins with its child poverty-fighting partners to demand that our elected leaders take bold action by making the Child Tax Credit permanent, fully refundable and fully inclusive with a simple message: *Now that you have lifted our families up, do not let them down.*

"Although my story of poverty is my own, many others have similar or even more dire situations," said **Kiara Atkins, Children's Defense Fund - New York Beat the Odds[®] Scholar and Youth Advocate.** "In my district, New York's 15th Congressional District, we have the highest child poverty rate in the nation. Children and youth shouldn't have to fret about food or housing insecurities. Our focus should be getting an education, being children and young adults, and thriving so we can become the future leaders of our communities. We, the children of today, can't possibly become the leaders of tomorrow if we're perpetually stuck in this never-ending cycle of poverty! The expanded child tax credit is a down payment on ending child poverty and an investment in our nation's tomorrow."

"The cost of living is expensive and there's always an extra unexpected dollar needed from month to month," said **Melanie Diaz, Educational Alliance community member.** "As a mom, I know the reality is that women are often not paid enough to cover the cost of raising their families and running their households. This extra income allows me to manage my budget while also setting aside savings for things like summer camp and emergencies. Every family deserves the chance to do that for their children."

“With the way that prices and rents have gone up, money doesn’t go as far as it did 10 years ago. That makes it harder to save for emergencies or for your children’s future,” said **Jessie Lee, Educational Alliance community member**. I am lucky that I have a job and I can put this money directly into my children’s savings accounts every month—this is for their safety. But some families need this money as a safety net while they look for work or a home. Every family deserves to not have to worry about feeding their family today or saving for their children’s future.”

“New York’s 15th Congressional District - which is situated in the Bronx - carries the nation’s highest child poverty rate. Additionally, New York has the 16th highest child poverty rate in the nation and has the fourth highest number of children living in poverty. Yet, NY is the 14th richest state in our nation and is home to the second largest amount of billionaires in the nation, second only to California,” said **Kercena A. Dozier, Executive Director of the Children’s Defense Fund – New York**. “If the Senate does not pass the Build Back Better Act, the monthly expanded Child Tax Credit check that New York families receive today will be their last, and millions of children nationwide will be plunged back into poverty. As the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, American child poverty is a stain on our country’s moral conscience and on its reputation for economic prosperity. If the Senate fails to prioritize the passage of this Act and to make the expanded Child Tax Credit permanent, the Senate’s inaction sends a harmful message to the 71 percent of children of color living in poverty in our nation that their lives and needs do not matter to them. It is past time that our elected leaders take bold, permanent action to enable short and long-term economic security for marginalized children and families.”

"Too often, poverty acts like a life sentence for children born into it, burdening them with lifelong struggles in their health, education, and quality of life. But poverty is a political choice, not a personal failing of hard working families," said **Larry Marx, CEO of The Children's Agenda**. "This year, the federal Child Tax Credit will lift more than 240,000 New York children out of poverty. Making the tax credit extension permanent and applying it to all children, including those without Social Security numbers, costs incredibly little compared to what our nation gains when children thrive and achieve lifelong success. The Children's Agenda calls on the US Senate to extend the Child Tax Credit permanently because all children are our children."

"Since March 2021, more than 3 million of New York’s children and their families have benefited from monthly payments as part of the enhanced Child Tax Credit, helping parents and caregivers pay for food, clothing, school-related items or services, and other household essentials," said **Jennifer March, Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York**. "With the last payments to families now on the horizon, we urge Senate leaders to take immediate action to pass the Build Back Better Act to ensure children and families continue to receive this crucial support helping to alleviate poverty and respond to the increased needs families are experiencing in light of the pandemic. We strongly believe that to be successful in our efforts to end child poverty and advance racial equity in America, we must ensure that these enhanced benefits are made permanent."

“Educational Alliance knows firsthand the positive impact the expanded federal Child Tax Credit is having in the lives of children and families in Lower Manhattan,” said **Alan van Capelle, President & CEO of Educational Alliance**. “Making the Child Tax Credit permanent, without penalties for people who cannot work or who choose to stay home with their children, would be transformative for our society. Such an investment in our children is good for families, good for businesses, good for our economic recovery, and good for our nation’s future. We cannot afford for Congress to negotiate that away.”

“Our communities must work together to disrupt the pervasive nature of child poverty and ensure that all New Yorkers have the financial resources they need to support their families,” said **Dia Bryant, Executive Director of The Education Trust–New York**. “Our children and their futures depend on resources such as the Child Tax Credit and that is why it is crucial members of the Senate act with the greatest urgency to pass the Build Back Better Act. It is absolutely critical for the well-being of New York’s families that the federal government ensure these tax credits become permanent and that New York State work to expand access to this support for families.”

“PCANY urges the passage of Build Back Better and the extension of the Child Tax Credit,” said **Tim Hathaway, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse New York**. “Many American families rely on these monthly checks to help pay for basic needs, like food, clothing, and child care--especially during the pandemic, which hit working families hard. The tax credit is a concrete support that provides increased stability and loss of the credit would be devastating to millions.”

“The data are clear: this year's expansion of the federal child tax credit has reduced child poverty,” said **Kate Breslin, President & CEO of Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy**. The tax credit expansion directly and quickly reduced the suffering of millions of children. Families have used it to stabilize their expenses during these trying times and now it is about to be taken away. With COVID cases rising and new strains requiring vigilant adherence to social distancing guidelines, children and families will continue to need support without strings attached as they navigate the coming year.”

“Today is the last day that qualifying low-income New York families will receive a monthly Child Tax Credit check. That monthly payment, \$250 for every child 6 to 17 years old and \$300 for every child under 6 years of age helps parents to keep their children fed, clothed, and affords them the opportunity to give the same things to their children that so many of us take for granted. These payments are a lifeline and a road to a more secure future for our children. Unless the U.S. Senate passes the Build Back Better Act, roughly one million children living in poverty will have to go without. Making the Child Tax Credit permanent has the potential to right wrongs of the past and continue the country on a path to cutting child poverty in half over the next decade. We urge the Senate to act on the Build Back Better plan before they recess for the holidays,” said **Richard R. Buery, Jr., CEO of Robin Hood**, New York City's largest poverty fighting philanthropy.

“One in four children live in low-income households in Westchester County where children struggle in the cycle of poverty that affects their food, housing, education, and wellbeing,” said **Allison Lake, Executive Director of Westchester Children’s Association**. “The Child Tax Credit was historic in its ability to deliver funding direct to parents with minimal red tape and bureaucratic barriers. Thousands of children were temporarily lifted out of the cycle of poverty for six months during a pandemic rife with additional struggles. Congress must act to maintain the Child Tax Credit direct payments from January 2022 onward to maintain support for children in low-income households and to keep families afloat during these difficult times.”

The Children’s Defense Fund-New York (CDF-NY) has a unique approach to improving conditions for children, combining research, public education, policy development, direct services, and advocacy. A recognized authority in the endeavor to protect New York children and strengthen their families, CDF-NY serves as a resource and partner for children, families and organizations throughout New York State.