

It's Time for Congress to Put Families First

Expand the Child Tax Credit to Keep Children Out of Poverty

The 2021 expansion of the Child Tax Credit put more money in families' pockets so they could afford the rising costs of essentials like food, clothing, and shelter, while helping drive child poverty down to a record low. These dramatic gains show **high child poverty is a choice, not an inevitability.**

But Congress allowed the Child Tax Credit expansion to lapse and if lawmakers fail to act, 19 million kids from families with the lowest incomes would face greater hardship or even be pushed into poverty.

If Congress fails to expand the Child Tax Credit, here's how many of Arkansas's poorest children would lose out:



223,000

CHILDREN IN ARKANSAS

THAT FIGURE INCLUDES AN ESTIMATED:

39% OF CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS

32% OF AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN

44% OF LATINO CHILDREN

26% OF WHITE CHILDREN

54% OF BLACK CHILDREN

39% OF CHILDREN OF ANOTHER RACE OR MULTIPLE RACES

Policymakers must expand the Child Tax Credit by the end of the year to protect the gains we've made and ensure families who need help the most aren't left behind.

Source: Chuck Marr et al, "Year-End Tax Policy Priority: Expand the Child Tax Credit for the 19 Million Children Who Receive Less Than the Full Credit," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, November 15, 2022.

Note: All figures reflect children under 17. See source for more details about the data.