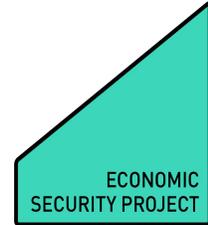


A VERSION OF THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS SENT TO LOCAL AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GOVERNORS, MAYORS, COUNTY OFFICIALS, AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE U.S. SENATE.



CAMPAIGN FOR
America's Children



Tiffany Waddell
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Tiffany,

We are writing to seek your support for families with children and for businesses in your communities and states by dedicating a portion of your funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to hire and train navigators to assist families to enroll in the newly improved federal Child Tax Credit (CTC). Doing so would be a win-win. In advance, thank you for your consideration of our request.

As you probably know, the expanded federal CTC provides historic relief to families with kids to help defray household costs. The credit is now larger than before, fully refundable regardless of how little a family earns, and being delivered monthly. As state and local government officials, you also know how important these resources are for lifting children and families out of deep poverty.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, families of at least 4 million kids are at risk of not getting a monthly payment of the enhanced child tax credit this year.

While most families are getting their CTC checks automatically because they filed a tax return in 2020 or 2019 or signed up to receive stimulus checks, many families are leaving cash on the table because they

are unaware of, unable to, or reluctant to access the new benefits. These are predominantly lower-income families, concentrated in communities of color — the very families who would most be helped by these funds. Because lower-income families typically spend their checks right away, the more families that start to get these checks, the better it is not only for them but for local businesses and workers. And, **helping caregivers sign up for the CTC is an eligible use of state and local fiscal relief funds under ARPA.** (See question 4.12 in this [Treasury FAQ](#).)

With the third round of the CTC checks arriving Sept. 15, we are concerned that eligible families will continue to miss out. The most effective method for reaching disconnected and underserved populations is through concerted and multi-pronged approaches, including person-to-person outreach. The groups signing this letter have dedicated themselves to raising awareness about the new CTC and helping families enroll. But more needs to be done. Our hope is for state and local governments to assist low-income families to claim the CTC.

After just a few months, the new CTC is already helping. Columbia University researchers estimate the expanded CTC has lifted 3 million children out of poverty since the first checks were issued in July. [Hunger](#) among Hispanic families has dropped by one-third and among Black families by one-fourth since the CTC checks began. According to a recent [Moody's report](#), “the expanded CTC will generate more than \$18.6 billion in spending in local economies each month. This increased economic activity is a boon to local businesses, creating jobs in communities across the United States.”

We strongly urge you to set aside ARPA money to hire and train navigators to help your families enroll in the CTC. If state and local governments get more families to sign up for the benefit, it truly will be a win-win for families, children, and the local economy.

We recognize that you have many competing demands for your time and your budget, so we thank you for considering this request. We are happy to work with and share resources with your staff, including a new **Code for America** (online) [nonfiler tool](#), a [demo video](#) of the tool, [a digital toolkit](#), and other [resources for navigators](#).

Please contact Ilana Lowery at Common Sense’s [Campaign for America’s Children](#) (ilowery@commonsense.org) for further information or to follow up on this issue.

Submitted on behalf of the following organizations:

Common Sense’s Campaign for America’s Children

Economic Security Project

Children’s Defense Fund

Center for the Study of Social Policy

Community Change

Mi Familia Vota

Stand for Children Arizona

California Association of Food Banks

SaverLife