

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 8, 2022

**FACT SHEET:**

**Vice President Kamala Harris Leads Biden-Harris Administration Day of Action to Ensure Americans Get the Tax Credits They Deserve**

*Vice President Harris and Secretary Yellen Headline Day of Action Event Alongside White House ARP Coordinator Gene Sperling, Mayors and Major Non-Profits to Encourage Americans to Sign Up for the Expanded Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit*

**The American Rescue Plan Made Significant Changes to Two Critical Tax Relief Programs.**

- **Expanded the Child Tax Credit** from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600 for children under 6 and \$3,000 for children between 6 and 17.
- **Nearly Tripled the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without dependent children** – from ~\$540 to up to \$1,500 for 17 million workers without dependent children and made previously ineligible younger workers (19-24) who are not half-time or full-time students, and older workers (65+) newly eligible for the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> is a Day of Action to Ensure All Eligible Americans Sign Up for These American Rescue Plan Tax Cuts.**

- **Families must file a tax return in 2022 to receive the second half of the Child Tax Credit.** While the families of 61 million children received advance monthly payments between July and December 2021, families need to file a tax return to receive the second half.
- **By filing a tax return, families that did not receive the advance payments in 2021 can still get the full Child Tax Credit, as well as the up to \$1,400-per-person Economic Impact Payment that they might have missed.** Some taxpayers with qualifying children – like those who welcomed a new baby in 2021 or those who haven't filed taxes in recent years and did not use the non-filer portal – can get their full Child Tax Credit by filing their tax returns. Eligible families that did not receive the up to \$1,400 per person Economic Impact Payment included in the American Rescue Plan can claim those payments by filing a tax return this year.
- **Many families who are eligible for the Child Tax Credit are also eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and can get thousands of dollars in additional tax relief by filing their tax return this year.** In addition, the American Rescue Plan nearly tripled the EITC for workers without dependent children to \$1,500 and made millions more Americans eligible.

### **New Government Website – ChildTaxCredit.Gov – Directs Americans to Tax-Filing Assistance.**

The Day of Action coincides with the recent re-launch of the new and improved ChildTaxCredit.gov. The revamped website has several new features to help taxpayers file their taxes and access the remainder of the expanded Child Tax Credit, the full amount of the Child Tax Credit, and/or the Earned Income Tax Credit as tax filing season begins.

**To help Americans navigate tax filing season, the website features a new tool that directs taxpayers to free assisted filing options that suit them based on answers to a handful of simple questions.** These options include both virtual and in-person support in multiple languages. Many of the organizations who have answered the Administration's call to action are leveraging the new ChildTaxCredit.gov for assistance.

### **Congressional Champions Join the Day of Action.**

U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), and Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) and U.S. Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.) will headline a press call on the Day of Action encouraging all Americans to file their taxes to access the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.

### **Hundreds of Non-Profits and Community-Based Organizations Are Taking Action to Reach Families Across the Country.**

Hundreds of non-profits, community-based organizations, religious organizations, veterans' organizations, youth organizations, disability organizations, seniors' organizations, health and medical organizations, foster care organizations, and more made commitments to take a wide range of actions, today and throughout the tax filing seasons.

- **Events in all 50 states and Puerto Rico throughout tax filing season to encourage families to file their taxes and connect them with tax filing assistance.** Major non-profits and faith-based organizations including AARP, UnidosUS, United Way Worldwide, the Partnership for America's Children, Coalition on Human Needs, the Arc of the United States, the National Community Action Partnership, NETWORK Catholic Lobby for Social Justice, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Salvation Army, National Association of Evangelicals, National Council of Jewish Women, the Jewish Federations of North America, Catholic Charities USA, and more have committed to host community events to ensure Americans receive the tax credits they are eligible for.
- **Texting campaigns to direct families to tax filing assistance.** Organizations including but not limited to the National Urban League, the Hispanic Federation, Think of Us, the Shah Family Foundation and FindYourFunds, the Community Child Care Council (4Cs) of Alameda County, and Common Sense Media will launch direct texting campaigns.
- **Trainings for frontline workers and service providers to ensure they encourage clients to file their taxes and direct them to assistance.** Groups including Children at Risk and the Texas Family Leadership Council, Children's Action Alliance, Partnership for America's Children, Lutheran Services of America, UnidosUS, American Public Human

Services Association, and Hunger Free America will train hundreds of frontline workers to help families navigate tax filing.

- **Hosting Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites to connect people with in-person tax preparation assistance**, including those run by StreetCred at Boston Medical Center, Lincoln VITA, Educational Alliance, United Way, and AARP.
- **Developing and providing free tax preparation online services** including United Way's My Free Taxes, AARP's Tax Counseling for the Elderly, and Code for America's Get Your Refund.
- **Sharing information on the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit through social media channels, with a reach totaling 16.7 million people** including campaigns led by MomsRising, Prosperity Now, National Council of Jewish Women, and dozens of other organizations.

### **State and Local Governments Commit to Action Throughout Tax Filing Season.**

During tax filing season, state and local leaders will take action on CTC/EITC enrollment, including:

- **California** will continue ongoing awareness activities through a variety of NGO and local government channels, including outreach and education to support prioritizing uptake of financial supports through a public-private partnership investing \$30 million in community-based organizations to reach people where they live, work and play.
- **Illinois** through its "Ladder Up" program, will continue supporting tax prep for residents with incomes below 200% of the poverty level and rely on a network of professional tax prep staff and volunteers.
- **New York** will continue encouraging New Yorkers to take advantage of Free File software, which can help millions of taxpayers claim valuable tax credits without the cost of hiring a paid tax preparer.
- **Oregon** Department of Human Services will work with several other state agencies and community organizations to spread the word to "file your taxes." Agencies and partners can "take turns" reinforcing the main message to encourage Oregonians to find a tax filing assister near them.
- **National Community Action Partnership** the 200 Community Action Agencies that are units of local governments will do CTC/EITC outreach, with a number of them directly operating VITA sites.
- **Chicago, IL** will launch a series of webinars and trainings in partnership with elected officials as well as conduct a Tax-a-Thon event at Olive-Harvey College through VITA partners and Ladder Up Chicago.
- **Kansas City, MO** will continue leveraging its Emergency Rental Assistance hub to assist residents with applying for and obtaining the CTC/EITC, and promoting information on platforms and channels including the City's quarterly news magazine.
- **Newark, NJ** will launch a virtual kick-off event with Mayor Baraka and New Jersey Citizen Action to promote their free tax preparation services.

- **Detroit, MI** will kick off “Ten Days of Action” including a United Way for Southeast Michigan Town Hall, and email and text message campaigns to city subscribers, public school community district subscribers, and state social services recipients.
- **Hartford, CT** will launch an SMS campaign sending direct text messages to residents, as well as radio, and media campaigns. Hartford has also trained local librarians to serve as navigators for individuals who need tax filing assistance.
- **Houston, TX** will amplify CTC/EITC on official channels and to their Employee News communication platform which services 22,000+ city employees.
- **Lansing, MI:** will continue partnering with Capital Area United Way to promote CTC/EITC to targeted households and conduct outreach at events such as their utility assistance events.
- **Los Angeles County, CA** will continue a text-message campaign in partnership with the United Ways of California, and ensuring county residents are connected to VITA resources.
- **Louisville, KY** will continue their Tax Time Connect initiative with VITA and Bank On Louisville to promote banking access and CTC/EITC, expand VITA capacity, and partner with the Louisville Urban League in-person support.
- **Miami Dade County, CA** will partner across county departments to promote local free income tax preparation services through VITA as well as conduct outreach at existing resource fairs, canvassing, radio, info cards.
- **New York, NY** will lead press and outreach events in targeted neighborhoods with local elected officials at VITA sites, canvas at local food pantries, issue postcard mailers to 250,000 EITC eligible households, launch outdoor advertising on bus shelters and send an email to the more than 420,000 City of New York employees about CTC and EITC.
- **Philadelphia, PA** will launch “Claim Your Money PHL,” and run targeted print and digital ads, bus ads, and deploy street team outreach in addition to providing resources to our local non-profit tax preparation partners.
- **San Antonio, TX** will place VITA program information in the City’s “on-hold phone message,” host community events, and continue cross-enrollment promotion through COVID-19 emergency programs. As Chair of the Texas Big City Mayors coalition, Mayor Nirenberg will encourage statewide enrollment throughout Texas’ largest municipalities, representing over 8 million Texans.
- **South Bend, IN** will train staff at local assistance programs, canvas targeted neighborhoods, and partner with local public health workers, librarians, and other nonprofit organizations to organize sign-up events.
- **St. Paul, MN** will deploy their Office of Financial Empowerment and other departments and community partners to provide free tax prep and VITA support, and continue to amplifying their multi-language website and messaging on digital and social platforms.

**Continued Biden-Harris Administration Whole-of-Government Effort On CTC/EITC Enrollment.**

Agencies across the federal government have heeded the call to reach as many families as possible.

- **The Treasury Department** will push out information on CTC and EITC on social media during the Day of Action and in the weeks that follow and will co-lead trainings with the

White House reaching external and intergovernmental CTC/EITC navigators. In addition, IRS, through its Volunteers Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites, assist taxpayers in free tax return preparation and electronically filing tax returns, including those claiming the CTC and EITC credits. Last year, in local communities, over 8,800 volunteer sites filed nearly two million tax returns at no cost. For information on a local site, visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers>.

- **Social Security Administration** will build off of their 2021 successful five-week national marketing campaign, which included web banners, digital search ads, radio ads, and billboards, to reach low-income individuals, including people who receive SSI and Social Security benefits. SSA also released guidance to 27,000 employees in over 1,200 field offices nationwide on how to educate families applying for or receiving SSI about the CTC and the advanced CTC payments and reiterated that CTC should not affect SSI benefits. SSA will build upon their successful 2021 efforts by updating instructional material to frontline technicians that explains the impact of the CTC and EITC with persons filing for SSI and SSI recipients who have a child or children. In addition, will release a blog post on the importance of the CTC and EITC.
- **The Department of Housing and Urban Development** will mobilize on-the-ground staff and stakeholders to help HUD-assisted households file taxes. Through targeted communications and promotion at conferences, HUD will provide information on the CTC and EITC, and connect VITA centers to public housing authorities, multifamily housing property managers, resident services providers, housing counselors, Continuums of Care, HIV/AIDS service organizations, victim service providers and tribal organizations. These efforts will reach staff at the more than 3,000 Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), the nearly 2,000 PHA-based service providers, 2,000 tribal housing partners, nearly 400 Continuums of Care, and the roughly 16,000 housing counselors, as well as nearly 14,000 Multifamily property managers and resident service providers. HUD will also partner with VITA centers across the country and continue our ongoing collaboration with AmeriCorps to mobilize more than 200 HUD-VISTA Volunteers to assist HUD families' tax filing. Building on the ten stakeholder CTC trainings HUD held in the fall, HUD will coordinate with Treasury to hold targeted navigator trainings for HUD stakeholders on the CTC and EITC.
- **The Administration for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services** will partner with local VITA sites with tax specialists, focusing on immigrant communities, young teen parents, parents in recovery and parents with mental health. They will also share videos of parents and grandparents who are trusted messengers who share their stories on how signing up for the tax credits made a significant impact on their lives.
- **AmeriCorps** will host a roundtable during the week of 2/14 with an AmeriCorps Seniors VITA center grantee in Baltimore. AmeriCorps is also a member of the Colorado Economic Mobility Partnership, a joint effort between Colorado Governor Jared Polis' administration, the Colorado State Service Commission, Serve Colorado, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and AmeriCorps. The partnership kicked off on January 14, 2022, which was declared by Governor Polis as ["AmeriCorps Economic Mobility Day"](#) and marked

the initial deployment of two AmeriCorps NCCC teams focused on VITA service activities. AmeriCorps NCCC is a fulltime service program that supports young adults to serve on a team and make a positive impact in communities across the country while gaining valuable leadership skills. AmeriCorps NCCC has six additional projects identified to deploy its volunteers on tax preparation efforts, including the additional CTC follow-up work. All of the projects will include VITA tax prep for low-income individuals and will include a focus on CTC and Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as other rebates available for low-income individuals.

- **The United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services** will inform and engage FNS stakeholders through email, traditional mailed and digital lifting up and reinforcing CTC outreach opportunities and supporting materials available by Treasury. FNS expects to reach more than 100,000 program operators, community organizations, and interested individuals directly through our collective platforms, with an even broader reach as FNS encourages the resharing of information.
- **The Department of Education** will share information on the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit to grantees and organizations that primarily serve disadvantaged students. The Department will ask that these grantees and organizations share information with their communities.

#### **Philanthropic Support of Tax Benefits Access.**

Dozens of philanthropic investors have made significant investments to help families access tax relief in 2022, coordinated by the CTC and EITC funders networks. **The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the AARP Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Gates Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, and others have contributed** more than \$25 million in new investments into communities to support CTC and EITC. Investments area include:

#### ***Testing New Models for Effective Outreach.***

- **EITC Funders Network**, in partnership with Community Foundation Opportunity Network (CFON) and CFLeads, is managing the **Community Outreach and Opportunity Fund (CO-OP Fund)**. The fund partners with 24 community foundations across the country to work with their local partners testing a range of innovative outreach and engagement strategies. The purpose of the CO-OP Fund is to engage community foundations and their strongly connected local community partners to ensure that as many families as possible receive the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income tax Credit (EITC) benefits they have earned, as quickly and easily as possible.
- Funding the **American Public Human Services Association** to work with state human services agencies to connect with potential eligible families and assist families in filing taxes and getting their tax refunds.
- Providing resources for organizations to help gather and widely disseminate outreach materials in multiple languages, conduct non-filer focus groups, and create customized messages to new filers for the EITC and CTC.

### ***Commitments to Focus on Newly Eligible EITC Populations (Older and younger Workers).***

- The **AARP Foundation** is redoubling its outreach effort, developing a specialized toolkit, flyers, and postcards to let newly eligible older workers know about the EITC. They are investing deeply in three communities to build capacity and test effective models of outreach and engagement.
- The **Annie E. Casey and Rockefeller Foundations** are initiating an aggressive social media campaign to reach young adults also newly eligible for the EITC.

### ***Specific Funding for Puerto Rico's CTC and EITC Eligible Populations.***

- Funders are investing resources in leading organizations, such as **Espacios Abiertos** and **Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud**, in Puerto Rico to ensure that newly eligible populations are filing for the CTC and EITC.
- This effort includes investments from the Rockefeller Foundation, the EITC Funder Network Pooled Fund and Hispanic Federation, who are providing support to Puerto Rican organizations to undertake and expand outreach and enrollment for the tax credits over the next two years.

### **About the Child Tax Credit: Tax Cuts for Families with Children.**

- **Largest-ever Child Tax Credit:** The American Rescue Plan dramatically expanded the Child Tax Credit – providing by far the largest credit ever. For families with children under 17, the American Rescue Plan increased the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children over the age of six and from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under the age of six. It also raised the age limit from 16 to 17, providing families of older children up to an additional \$3,000 in Child Tax Credit.
- **First-ever monthly tax payments to the families of 61 million children:** In July, just four months after President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan, Treasury began distributing advance monthly Child Tax Credit payments to the overwhelming majority of families with children. Advance payments went out each month from July to December 2021 – providing most families with the first half of their Child Tax Credit.
- **Payments were delivered on the same day – the 15<sup>th</sup> – of each month from July to December:** Close to 90% of families enrolled in advance payments received their Child Tax Credit payments with direct deposit – on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month (or earlier if the 15<sup>th</sup> fell on a weekend or a holiday), listed under “CHILDCTC”.
- **Helping middle class families cover the costs of raising their children and dramatically reducing child poverty:** The Child Tax Credit is helping middle income families cover the costs of raising their children, from paying for [childcare](#) to making their mortgage and car payments, to [helping](#) build a college fund. The Child Tax Credit is also a critical tool to cut child poverty. Treasury estimates that the families of over 26 million

lower-income children will receive the full credit for 2021 who would have previously gotten a partial credit or no credit because they had too little in income. Monthly Child Tax Credit payments had an immediate impact – [reducing](#) food insufficiency among lower-income families by 25 percent. Experts estimate that expanded Child Tax Credit and other critical policies in the American Rescue Plan will have brought child poverty to its lowest levels on record.

- **729,000 children in non-filing families received advance payments automatically:** The Biden-Harris administration automatically enrolled the families of 729,000 children – whose parents or guardians had signed up for a previous Economic Impact Payment.
- **First-ever simplified filing tools Child Tax Credit:** The Biden-Harris Administration launched the first-ever non-filer tools for the Child Tax Credit in 2021, including a portal that was mobile friendly and available in Spanish.

### **About the Earned Income Tax Credit: Over 17 Million Americans to Benefit from Expansion of EITC for Workers Without Dependent Children.**

The American Rescue Plan expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to include more people, more families, and more money by nearly tripling the credit for workers without dependent children and including younger (19-24) and older workers (65+) who were previously excluded.

- **Nearly tripled EITC to \$1500 for workers without dependent children – benefitting 17 million Americans:** The American Rescue Plan nearly tripled the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without dependent children from about \$540 to \$1,500. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [estimates](#) that this expansion has the potential to benefit *over 17 million Americans*.
- **First increase to EITC for workers without dependent children since 1993:** While the Earned Income Tax Credit provides thousands of dollars of critical relief to families with children, workers without dependent children, including younger workers, and workers with adult children, have not seen a meaningful increase in their Earned Income Tax Credit since 1993.
- **Younger and older workers Are eligible:** Before the American Rescue Plan, people under 25 or 65 and over were ineligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without dependent children. The American Rescue Plan changed that. Younger workers (19-24) who are not half-time or full-time students, and older workers (65+) are newly eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without dependent children. In addition – the American Rescue Plan increased the cap at which someone’s income made them ineligible for a benefit – from about \$16,000 to over \$21,000 for a single filer and from about \$21,000 to more than \$27,000 for a married couple.