

Hi {{FirstName or "Friend"}},

Thank you for your interest in and support for Family and Home Network!

We're very excited about the Refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC) in the American Rescue Plan – this is an inclusive family policy, available to all families with children. The amount of the credit was raised for 2021; it is \$3000 per child ages 6-17; \$3600 per child under age 6.

The changes to the CTC are only for 2021. This year, the credit is “refundable” meaning families can receive it even if they earn no income or very little. The credit starts to be reduced when family income is above \$75,000 (single parent), \$150,000 (joint filers).

Researchers say that the 2021 CTC will lift millions of families out of poverty—temporarily. Fortunately, Senators and Representatives are already working on legislation to establish a permanent child benefit or allowance (the 2021 CTC functions as a child allowance) – we are paying close attention!

Reducing families' stress is a critical, proven way to improve child well-being--and poverty is a huge stress for millions of U.S. families. Dr. Jack Shonkoff of Harvard's Center on the Developing Child says: "The ultimate answer is to reduce the stressors on families, so families can do what families are best capable of doing."

Writing for the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Liz Hipple points to the extensive body of research on [poverty and income supports](#): “Economic research clearly demonstrates that an investment in families today is an investment in their future economic mobility, as well as in broad-based, stable economic growth. Making the newly enacted child allowance permanent will pay dividends for all Americans far into the future.” Researchers say: “the benefits created by a child allowance could be [worth eight times the annual program cost](#).”

The legislation directs the IRS to begin distributing the credit in July, monthly if feasible (or “periodically”). There are reports that the IRS is struggling with its workload, so there may be delays. Half the value of the credit should be distributed in 2021; the remainder will be credited once tax returns for 2021 are filed.

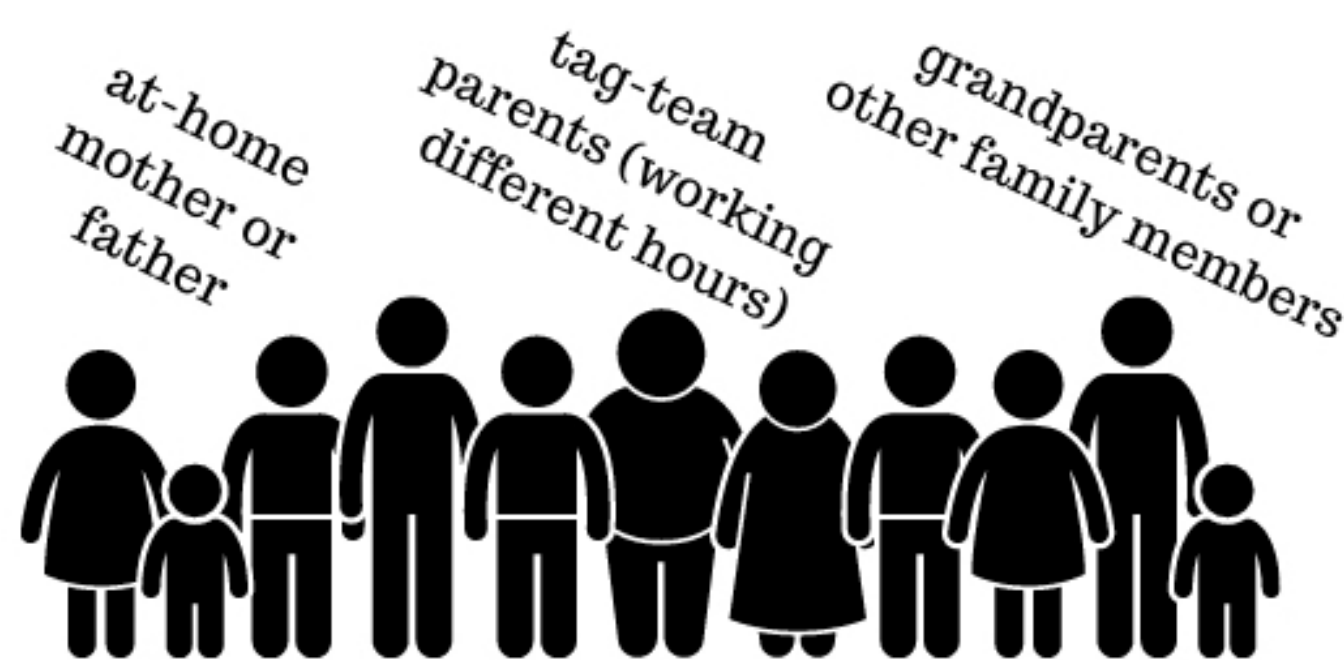
We've published an [Information Sheet about the 2021 Refundable Child Tax Credit](#) – available on our website (also available on the website: a downloadable one-page pdf).

Working with allies in other organizations, we are reaching out to media representatives and to policymakers, pointing to basic principles of inclusion and to data -- illustrating the need to support all families and to respect parents' choices about care for children. A permanent child benefit, paid monthly to mothers or other primary caregivers and available to all families with children would be an inclusive family policy.

Our Speak Up! Speak Out! Campaign calls for your voice and your donation.

Contact your Congressional representatives through our [Speak Up! Speak Out! Advocacy portal](#) – the system will connect you based on your address with your Senators and Representative. Add your story to Family and Home Network's call for inclusive policies: tell Congress why unpaid caregiving is important to you and your family. (We would love to have copies of the messages you send.)

SOME families want full-time child care BUT others prefer care by



and by any number of other caregiving choices (often used part-time) - some examples: preschool, babysitting co-op, nanny share, family day care, night-time care to accommodate parents' employment schedules.

Please make a generous donation to our [Speak Up! Speak Out Fundraiser!](#)

Another powerful way to help is by telling your friends and family about Family and Home Network: share our social media posts or forward this email.

Thank you for your support of Family and Home Network!

If you received this email from a friend or family member, [please sign up for our ENews here](#).

Thank you!



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