



CORE MESSAGE

Raising a family is expensive. Child tax credits allow families with children to keep up with rising costs including expenses like housing, food, transportation, and child care.

TALKING POINTS

General

- State tax credits, especially those that provide a refund, can increase family incomes—improving family well-being and self-sufficiency, children’s health, and future educational and employment outcomes.¹
- The boost in income is especially needed as families face rising costs and the effects of inflation.
- Sixteen states—from Oklahoma to Idaho—provide CTCs (which are refundable in all but three states).²
- Montanans overwhelmingly support child tax credits. In a 2024 Zero to Five Montana poll of registered voters, 75% of respondents said they support Montana state government reducing the cost of child care by providing tax credits to families with children. 71% of respondents agreed tax credits help parents offset the cost of raising a child.

Family Financial Stress & Well-being

- Families with infants and toddlers face high costs associated with their care. An additional tax credit would help these families meet the higher costs of raising young children.
- 86% of families in Montana have used other tax credits for basic needs like food or rent, as well as education.³
- Child tax credits result in positive impacts on the health of parents and children, as well as better learning outcomes for children.
- 76% of surveyed parents across the United States reported the 2021 expanded Child Tax Credit reduced their financial stress.⁴
- When parents face fewer financial burdens, they are also more likely to stay in a healthy, strong marriage and choose to have children.⁵

Child Poverty

- Montana has an opportunity to help reduce child poverty by enacting a state-level CTC.
- The temporary expansion of the federal CTC under the American Rescue Plan lifted 2.9 million children out of poverty.⁶

Economic

- Economists agree that child tax credit payments are a “proven success at helping families keep up with everyday costs.”⁷
- Child tax credits do not contribute to inflation.⁸
- Tax credits boost the economy by putting money in the pockets of families who are likely to spend it in their local economy.
- Every dollar invested in children provides \$10 in benefits.⁹

References:

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