

The Expanded Child Tax Credit

Leveraging Title V and CYSHCN Networks to
Reduce Child Poverty

CYSHCN Cafe
October 15, 2021



Overview

- What is the Child Tax Credit (CTC)?
- How does it impact children and families?
- How is Colorado connecting families to the CTC?
- Resources



The Expanded Federal Child Tax Credit

What is it?

- Temporarily expanded tax credit under the American Rescue Plan
- Increased from \$2,000 to up to \$3,600 for kids 0-17
- Fully refundable
- Monthly advance payments in 2021
- Applies to low-income families
- 92% of children are eligible

**Potential 40% reduction in
child poverty**



Addressing Root Causes

Why MCH?

Improved family resilience and maternal and infant health outcomes.

- Fewer adverse childhood events
- Reduced infant mortality, child maltreatment, trauma
- Improved long-term educational outcomes
- Better childhood nutrition
- Increased access to services for CYSHCN
- Addresses root causes
- Reduces disparities



Immediate Impact



First round of CTC payments in July significantly reduced poverty and hunger.

- 24% decline in food insufficiency
- Financial anxiety reduced for 56% of families

How did families spend their credit?

- Food
- Child care
- School-related expenses

Moving Upstream in Title V

Integrating SDoH into Title V

- Title V needs assessment
- 4 of 7 priorities address SDoH
- Economic Mobility as a Title V priority
- 4 economic mobility strategies
- Tax credits - an evidence-based strategy to reduce child poverty

Economic Mobility and CYSHCN Families

- CYSHCN caregivers are more likely to leave their jobs or reduce their hours to become caregivers, impacting income, insurance and access to services.



Strategies to Increase Uptake of the CTC

What are we doing in Colorado to connect families to tax credits?

1. Outreach and messaging
2. Navigator training and support
3. Strengthening and referring to VITA sites (free tax help)
4. Co-enrollment with SNAP, WIC, child care subsidies, other assistance programs
5. Partnerships

CYSHCN-specific strategies

- Intake software change
- Training and updates for CYSHCN care coordinators
- Learning from carecoordinators



Prioritizing Non-filers

Getting the word out

- Hard to reach populations
- Coloradans who are not in the IRS system

Who does not file?

- Very low-income families
- New parents
- Immigrant and refugee populations
- Non-English speaking communities
- Rural families

Strategy 1: Outreach



NEW CASH PAYMENT FOR FAMILIES

It's not too late for families to receive their Child Tax Credit payments!

The IRS has extended the deadline for families to claim their payment to **Nov 15, 2021**.

Didn't file taxes? That's OK! You can still receive these benefits.



Get
Ahead
COLORADO

CLAIM YOUR PAYMENT TODAY! VISIT WWW.GETCTC.ORG/CO

Fall 2021 Child Tax Credit Messaging Toolkit



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Ahead
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Strategy 2: Co-enrollment

- Bundling tax outreach with other referral services
- Including tax credits in benefits referral
- Leveraging expert resources

Examples

- Head Start
- School-Based Health Centers
- Child care centers
- Leveraging COVID-19 networks
- Pop-up enrollment events, mobile vans
- United Way 2-1-1 call center



Strategy 3: Strengthening Tax Help

Connecting families to free tax assistance

- What is a VITA site? Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Ensuring taxpayers and navigators have a place to land
- Mini-grants to VITA sites
- Expanding volunteer recruitment

Strategy 4: Navigator Support and Training

Strengthening knowledge and connections

- Working with trusted voices
- Raising awareness with busy navigators and care coordinators
- Increasing confidence in talking about taxes
- Learning from navigators

How to connect families quickly?

- What to ask: Do you have kids? Have you heard about the CTC? Are you getting your child tax credit payments? Do you file taxes?
- Give a flyer, QR code, or link; connect to expert help if needed
- Keep it simple

Navigation: Removing Barriers for Families

Addressing Common Concerns

- No earnings or job needed
- Does not affect other benefits
- Mixed documentation families OK
- Can use tax ID number (ITIN) to file
- Only child needs SS #
- Have you heard about the CTC?
- Does not affect immigration status now or in the future



Strategy 5: Partnerships

Federal and national partnerships

AmeriCorps partner programs, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Code for America

State partnerships

State agencies: Governor's Office, Serve Colorado, Dept. of Revenue, Human Services, State Health Department programs

Community partnerships

Home visitors, LPHAs, food pantries, childcare centers, enrollment events, clinical settings, parent networks

Examples

Bright by Text, Hunger Free Colorado, Head Start, Denver Health, local public health agencies, school based health centers



What's Next

On the Horizon

- Federal legislation
- Preparing for 2022 tax season
- Communications campaign
- More training opportunities for navigators
- More languages
- Scaling up



Resources

Messaging and Materials

[Colorado's toolkit](#)

Portal to Sign Up for the CTC Until November 15th

getctc.org/co, getctc.org/es/co

More Details

[About the Child Tax Credit](#)

Resources for Navigators

[Guidance for community-based navigators](#)

[Short video demo of getctc.org](#)



Thank you

More Questions?

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