



***For Immediate Release ***

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Community Organizations Band Together to Help Families Access, Navigate Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Non-Tax Filing Families with Low Incomes who did not Receive Federal Economic Impact Payments have until Nov. 15th to use the CTC non-filer portal

COLUMBUS –Through funding from [Share our Strength](#), Children's Defense Fund-Ohio has partnered with eight grassroots community organizations throughout the state to ensure Ohio families and children get signed up to receive the expanded Child Tax Credit before the November 15th Non-Filer portal deadline.

With the deadline for non-filer sign-up through the [GetCTC.org/CTCOH](#) simplified tool quickly approaching, advocates are working urgently to assist families in accessing advanced monthly payments to support their children to thrive. The partners will be focusing their efforts working in communities with high numbers of children who may be missing out on their CTC and low-income families who are not required to file taxes and therefore, may not receive the CTC automatically. The expanded Child Tax Credit is a lifeline in helping families meet their basic needs – especially during this time.

CDF-Ohio and its partners will focus their efforts on communities with high numbers of children who may be missing out on their CTC. They will work with low-income families who are not required to file taxes and therefore, may not receive the CTC automatically. The community organizations across the state involved in the partnership include:

- Greater Cleveland Foodbank (Cleveland, Ohio)
- Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (Columbus, Ohio)
- Hola Ohio (Painesville, Ohio and Ashtabula, Ohio)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Center (Columbus, Ohio)
- Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition (Cleveland, Ohio)
- El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc. (Lorain, Ohio)
- Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (Athens, Ohio)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Columbus Alumnae Chapter (Columbus, Ohio)

“The CTC, expanded for one year by the [American Rescue Plan](#) (ARPA), is a significant down-payment on ending child poverty,” says Katherine Ungar, Policy Associate for Children's Defense Fund-Ohio. “Research shows the payments are already making a difference for Ohio families. We need to make sure all eligible Ohioans and their children reap the benefits of greater economic stability, more food and



housing security, and get the boosts to wellness that this upstream investment in lifelong wellbeing has to offer.”

The ARPA expanded the CTC by temporarily (1) increasing the amount of the tax credit; (2) making the amount fully refundable; (3) removing the minimum income requirement; (4) raising the qualifying age of the child from up to 16 to 17 and under; (5) providing advance payments; and (6) lowering the phase out rate.

These positive [changes](#), particularly removing the income requirement so that families with low or no income are now eligible to receive the credit and increasing the benefit amount, have the effect of reaching millions more families and lifting them from poverty. The CTC is estimated to reach [92 percent](#) of Ohio families. Qualifying families will receive \$3,600 total for each child under 6 and \$3,000 total for each child 6-17 years of age. The monthly payment is reduced by \$50 for every additional \$1,000 of income earned. If an eligible family filed taxes in 2020 or 2019 or used the non-filer online portal to receive stimulus payments, they should automatically receive their payments beginning on July 15 without taking any further action. However, families who did not file taxes in the last two years or register for the stimulus payments will have to use the [GetCTC.org/CTCOH](https://www.getctc.org/CTCOH) non-filer portal to claim their CTC payments.

“An estimated [116,500 children](#) in Ohio are not automatically receiving their Child Tax Credit payment, which means there’s approximately \$350 million federal dollars not going into the pockets of families who need it,” continues Ungar. “Unfortunately, the portal will close on November 15th, and that is why we’ll be working diligently over the next couple weeks to spread the word and assist families with signing up for advanced payments they need now.”

Eligible families will have to file their 2021 taxes next year to get the second half of their child tax credits. And those families who miss the November 15th deadline, can still access their full child tax credit by filing their 2021 taxes. The partnership of statewide and grassroots organizations stands ready to assist families with the information and help they need to navigate these processes now and over the coming months.