Due to strong federal investment—especially the expanded Child Tax Credit—child poverty precipitously dropped by almost half between 2020 and 2021, reducing from 9.7% to 5.2% — the lowest rate on record. Alarmingly, Census data from September 2023 revealed that the child poverty rate more than doubled between 2021 and 2022 to 12.4% following the expiration of these targeted investments in workers and families.

Approximately 8.9 million children lived in poverty in 2022, with over 1 million children living in deep poverty. Due to our country’s long history of systemic racism, poverty rates for children of color are more than twice that of white children. In 2022, approximately one-fifth of Black children (18.3%), one-third of American Indian/Alaska Native children (29.5%), one-fifth of Latinx children (19.5%), and one-tenth (9.9%) of Asian American Pacific Islander children lived in poverty compared to under one-tenth (7.2%) of white children.

Reducing child poverty is a moral emergency. Poverty exacts tremendous suffering. Child poverty forms massive gaps in cognitive learning, increases risks of hunger and homelessness, and raises the likelihood of living in poverty as an adult. The progress we made in 2021 shows that we can slash child poverty when we have the political will to act. Congress must create an aggressive child poverty reduction target and hold ourselves accountable to restore income supports to strengthen families and cut child poverty.

The Child Poverty Reduction Act commits the nation to halving child poverty in 5 years and implements an accountability framework to ensure we achieve our goal.

**Poverty Reduction Target.** The bill commits the federal government to cutting child poverty in half within 5 years. The United Kingdom and Canada both used poverty reduction targets to implement critical policies that halved child poverty.

**Monitoring and Accountability.** The bill charges the Department of Health and Human Services together with the Census Bureau with measuring our progress in meeting the target. Also, it directs the non-partisan National Academy of Sciences to analyze how federal polices contributed to poverty reduction each year.

We must prioritize alleviating child poverty and monitor our success to reverse the 138 percent increase in child poverty between 2021 and 2022. We must examine our success in real-time to inform our policies. If our policies fail to diminish child poverty substantially, we need to do more. If our policies succeed, then we stay the course. Without continuous monitoring of child poverty, we risk irreparable harm to our youngest children, especially children of color.

Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) champions *The Child Poverty Reduction Act* in the Senate.
# Organizations Supporting the Child Poverty Reduction Act of 2023

## National Organizations
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Medical Women’s Association
- Association of Children’s Residential & Community Services (ACRC)
- Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
- Child Welfare League of America
- Children’s Rights
- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
- COVID Survivors for Change
- Family Centered Treatment Foundation
- Family Focused Treatment Association
- Family Promise
- First Focus Campaign for Children
- Healthy Teen Network
- HEAR US, Inc.
- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- National Association of Counsel for Children
- National Association of County Human Services Administrators
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Center for Families Learning
- National Center on Adoption and Permanency
- National Community Action Partnership
- National Network for Youth
- NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
- Oxfam America
- Parents as Teachers
- Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
- Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
- Public Justice Center
- SchoolHouse Connection
- School Nutrition Association
- Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- Youth Villages
- ZERO TO THREE

## Arizona
- Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
- Child and Family Resources

## California
- Children Now
- County Welfare Directors Association of California
- GRACE/End Child Poverty in California

## Colorado
- Parent Possible

## Delaware
- Christian Council of Delmarva

## Hawaii
- Hawaii’s Children’s Action Network Speaks!

## Illinois
- Brightpoint
- Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

## Kentucky
- Prevent Child Abuse KY

## Maryland
- RESULTS DC/MD

## New York
- Children’s Aid
- Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
- United Way of New York State
- United Way of Westchester and Putnam (New York)

## New Jersey
- New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

## Oregon
- Our Children Oregon

## Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
- West Chester Food Cupboard

## Puerto Rico
- Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud

## Texas
- CHILDREN AT RISK

## Washington State
- Partners for Our Children

## Wisconsin
- WISDOM of Wisconsin

## Virginia
- Voices for Virginia’s Children
Child Welfare League of America
“The Child Welfare League of America endorses the Child Poverty Reduction Act legislation, which would create a target for poverty reduction in the United States, leading to equitable and evidence-based solutions for all children and their families,” said Christine James-Brown, CEO & President of CWLA. "Strategies that reduce child poverty, strengthen families, prevent family separation, and reduce children's removal to out-of-home care should be a top priority for our nation, and the recent successes of the expanded Child Tax Credit have shown that this goal is not only critical, but also achievable. We are grateful for Representative Davis and Senator Casey's leadership on this important effort and applaud their introduction of this bill.”

First Focus Campaign for Children
“Children are our country’s most valuable resource, yet we allowed child poverty to more than double in the U.S. in 2022. This is unacceptable when we know progress is possible. The Child Poverty Reduction Act would set an official goal of cutting child poverty in the U.S. in half within 5 years, creating a mechanism to hold decisionmakers accountable to instituting lasting change. First Focus Campaign for Children thanks Rep. Danny Davis for his continuous leadership, and urges Congressional leaders to pass the Child Poverty Reduction Act without delay.” Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus Campaign for Children

National Association of Counties (NACo)
“Counties are innovative leaders in the effort to combat and prevent child poverty,” said Matthew Chase, executive director of the National Association of Counties (NACo). “The Child Reduction Poverty Act will leverage continued research and enhanced coordination to help county governments, along with our intergovernmental partners, make meaningful progress on our work to stabilize vulnerable families, creating a shared national goal of reducing child poverty by 50 percent in five years.”

Prevent Child Abuse America
“Economic security is foundational to the health and well-being of families and children,” said Melissa Merrick, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America. “When parents have the resources and supports they need, we can alleviate parental stressors and help parents foster positive home environments where children can thrive. The Poverty Reduction Act will help to strengthen families and ensure children have opportunities to be successful.”

Save the Children Action Network
“In light of recent data from the Census Bureau showing that child poverty has doubled in the U.S. in the last year, this legislation is well-timed and important. We know investing in children is investing in our future, and we need the political will to make it happen. Save the Children applauds Representative Davis and Senator Casey for their dedication to combatting child poverty through the introduction of the Child Poverty Reduction Act,” said SCAN Director of Federal Government Relations, Roy Chrobocinski. “This legislation will work to ensure that children – regardless of the circumstances they are born into – will have the opportunity not only to survive, but to thrive.”

ZERO TO THREE
Poverty is a defining feature of a baby’s experience, especially for children of color,” said Miriam Calderón, Chief Policy Officer at ZERO TO THREE. “Two million infants and toddlers in America—nearly one in five—currently live in poverty, experiencing material hardship and stress during the time of most rapid brain development. Poverty literally gets under the skin of our babies, with implications for future health and success in school and in life. We applaud Members of Congress for making this bold commitment to cutting poverty in half—a goal that is well within our grasp. We look forward to working with them to ensure all children have the resources to thrive.”