Join the Movement to End Child Poverty Now

GOAL: demonstrate broad public support for the nine policy improvements recommended in Children's Defense Fund's Ending Child Poverty Now report.

Background: In the United States, the wealthiest nation on earth, **nearly 1 in 5 children live in poverty**. These children often face inadequate health care and nutrition, untreated illness, unsafe child care, unstable housing and inferior schools. CDF believes permitting more than 12.8 million children to live in poverty when we have the means to prevent it is unjust and unacceptable. It is also economically and socially dangerous: child poverty costs our nation nearly $700 billion a year in lost productivity and extra health and crime costs.

But the United States ***can*** eliminate the terrible human and economic waste of child poverty if we choose to fight it rather than ignore it. The Children's Defense Fund's new edition of our *Ending Child Poverty Now* report shows our nation can help millions of today's children escape poverty now by simply improving and investing in existing policies and programs to increase employment, make work pay and meet children's basic needs. By investing an additional 1.4 percent of the federal budget into these proven policies and programs, our nation **can reduce child poverty at least 57 percent**, **lift 5.5 million children out of poverty** and make an immediate down payment on ending child poverty for ***all*** children. We cannot wait to end child poverty—we must start right now.

How can you help? Add your voice on social media!

We need your help to change the conversation and continue to build the movement to end child poverty. Voices of individuals and organizations calling in unison for change will help pressure lawmakers to take action NOW for our children. We thank you for your support!

Hashtags: #EndChildPovertyNow (primary), #ChildPoverty, #PovertyLooksLike

Handle: TW: @ChildDefender, IG: @ChildDefender1973, FB: @childrensdefensefund

Help us spread the word with these sample social posts:

[**Click below or in sidebar to access** each section of the toolkit]

I. The Problem
II. The Solution
III. Illustrating Child Poverty
IV. For Parents
V. For Educators
VI. For Advocates
VII. For the Faith Community

Want to tag your member of Congress in your tweet? Find their twitter handles here.

Want to tag your Senators in your tweet? Find their handles here.

THE PROBLEM

Poverty stacks the odds against children. Nearly 1 in 5 of America's children is poor. We can and must help millions of children escape poverty now by improving nine existing policies and programs. Read more from @ChildDefender and #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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A child is born into poverty every 41 seconds in America, but we have the power to change that right now. Demand action from your legislators on these nine proven policies that can help #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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Poverty is expensive. Every year, the nation loses an estimated $700 BILLION due to the costs of child poverty. We can take action to #EndChildPovertyNow and add billions to our economy! Learn more and join us: http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



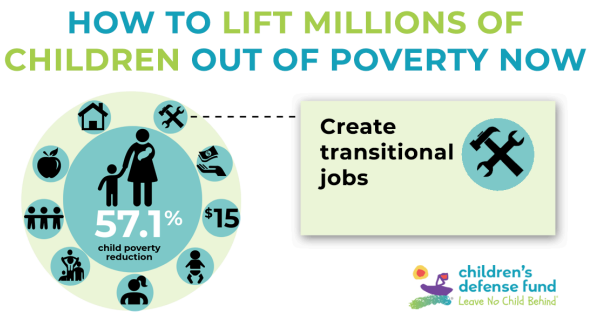
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Poverty increases children's risk of experiencing illness and falling behind in school, but we can take steps to #EndChildPovertyNow. RT to show support for nine policy improvements to help 5.5 million children escape poverty now @ChildDefender http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

THE SOLUTION

Let's keep America's children fed and housed. Investing more in existing policies like housing vouchers and SNAP benefits could lift 5.5 million children out of poverty right now: http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now #EndChildPovertyNow

We can reduce #childpoverty with improvements to nine existing policies. Let's create transitional jobs for working-age people in families with children. #EndChildPovertyNow



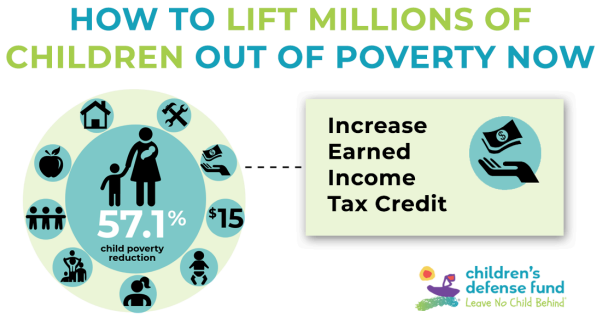
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We have the resources to begin to #EndChildPovertyNow by enhancing nine existing policies. Let's increase the minimum wage from $7.25 to $15.00 an hour by 2024.



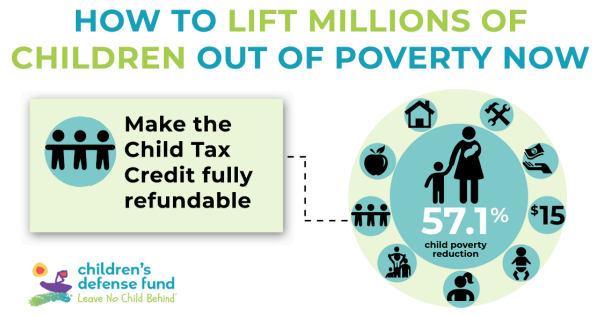
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Improvements to nine existing policies could help millions more #children and #families. Let's increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for lower-income families with children. #EndChildPovertyNow



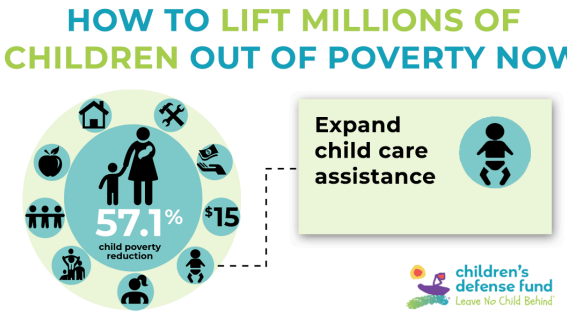
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Urge your legislators to improve existing policies to #EndChildPovertyNow. Let's make the Child Tax Credit fully refundable with additional benefits for families with young children.



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We can do our part to #EndChildPovertyNow by supporting improvements to nine existing policies. Let's make child care assistance available to all eligible families below 150 percent of poverty with no co-pays.



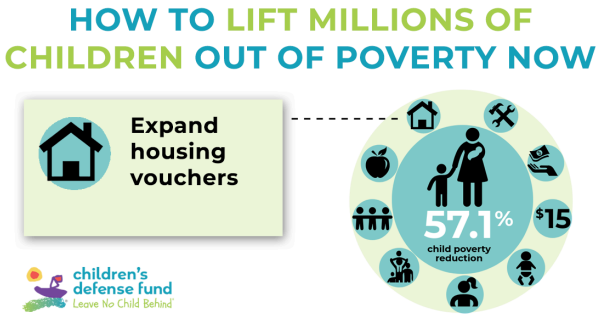
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You can be a voice for children by supporting improvements to nine existing policies to #EndChildPovertyNow. Let's make the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable with a higher reimbursement rate.



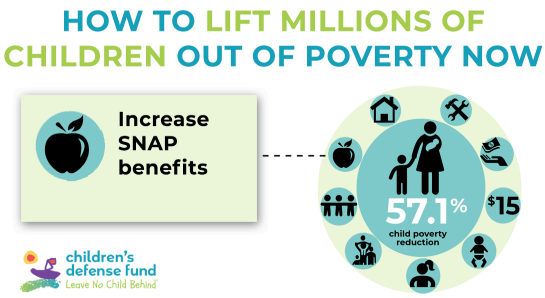
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RT to show support for improvements to nine existing policies to help #EndChildPovertyNow. Let's make housing vouchers available to households with children below 150 percent of poverty who face high rents.



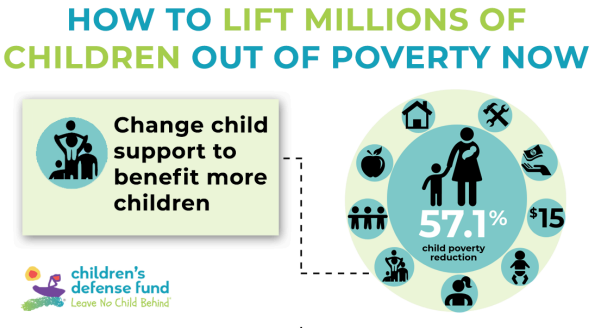
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Stand up to Leave No Child Behind® and #EndChildPovertyNow by supporting improvements to nine existing policies. Let's increase SNAP benefits for families with children.



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Support children and families with improvements to nine existing policies to #EndChildPovertyNow. Let's help more families receive child support benefits directly without compromising TANF and SNAP assistance.

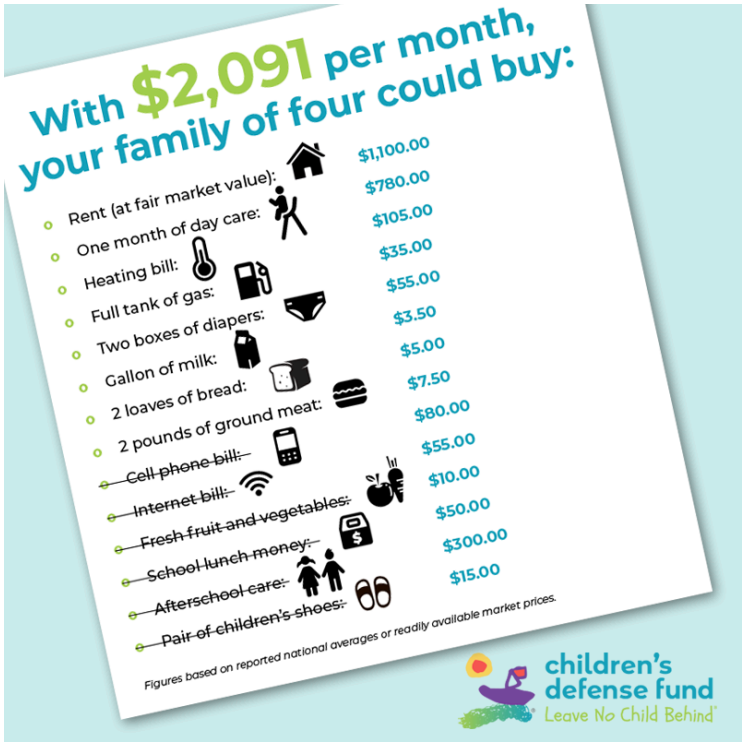


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#DYK @ChildDefender's policy recommendations to #EndChildPovertyNow would cost just 1.4% of the total federal budget and reduce #childpoverty at least 57%? RT to show your support http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

ILLUSTRATING CHILD POVERTY

Could your family of 4 live on just $17 per day, per person? Poverty in this country is defined as an annual income below $25,094 for a family of four: that's just $69/day or $2,091/month. Nearly 1 in 5 children live below that level. Let's #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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#PovertyLooksLike a third grader struggling to finish homework in the dark because there's no electricity in his home. Take a stand for him and all children #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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#PovertyLooksLike a twelve-year-old who is chronically late to homeroom because it takes her an hour to commute to school from a homeless shelter. We can improve her life and the lives of many others if we begin to #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

#PovertyLooksLike an eighth grader who can't focus on her pop quiz because she hasn't eaten since yesterday's free school lunch. Join us as we work to #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

FOR PARENTS

We are failing our children in America. Nearly 1 in 5 children live in poverty, often facing hunger, homelessness and hopelessness. That's why I stand with @ChildDefender in their effort to #EndChildPovertyNow



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Any parent who works full time at the minimum wage should earn enough to support their children—but nearly 1 in 3 poor children in America live with a full-time, year-round worker. Our nation has the money and power to #EndChildPovertyNow, if we can find the will. The time is now: http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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The gap between rich and poor has reached historic heights not seen since the 1920s, and our children are bearing the greatest burden. It's time to take action to #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

Food, shelter, quality early childhood opportunities and an equitable education for every child: these must be our nation's top priorities. Together, we can #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

FOR EDUCATORS

The majority of poor children live with an adult who works, yet those families struggle to provide their children with basics like food, shelter and clothing. Be a voice for children and help #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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#PovertyLooksLike a third grader struggling to finish homework without electricity in his home. Take a stand for him and all children and #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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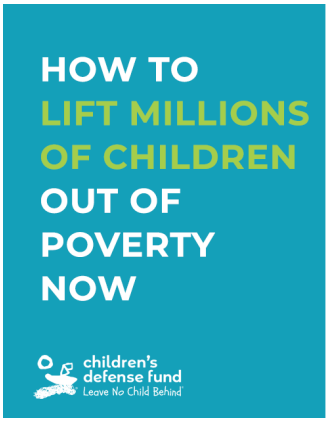
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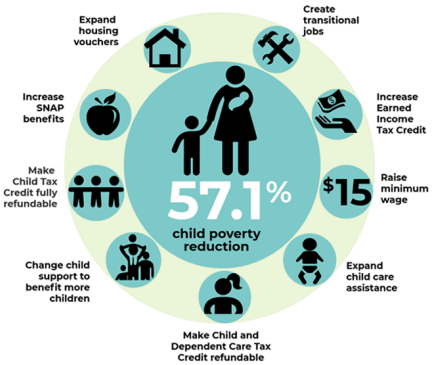
#PovertyLooksLike an eighth grader who can't focus on her pop quiz because she hasn't eaten since yesterday's free school lunch. Take a stand for all children as we work to #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

Food, shelter, quality early childhood opportunities and an equitable education for all children: these must be our nation's top priorities. Together, we can #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

FOR ADVOCATES

We join @ChildDefender in supporting nine practical policy fixes that would reduce child poverty in this country at least 57.1 percent. Call your legislators today and demand they take action now! http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now





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Any parent who works full time at the minimum wage should earn enough to support their children—but nearly 1 in 3 poor children in America live with a full-time, year-round worker. Join us in supporting the creation of jobs, raising the minimum wage and increasing the earned income tax credit, in an effort to lift 5.5 million children out of poverty: http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now #EndChildPovertyNow

Our country can afford to invest $52 billion to lift millions more children out of poverty now. Here's how:



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We should support parents in supporting their children by making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable and increasing its value. Join us in advancing this and other policy improvements to help #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

Working families should have the peace of mind that they can afford child care for their children while they are at work. Improvements to existing policies can provide that security and help end child poverty. Learn more from @ChildDefender: http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

Child poverty costs our nation almost $700 BILLION a year in lost productivity and increased health and crime costs. We can begin to eliminate the human and economic costs of child poverty now for only $52 billion. That's why we stand with @ChildDefender to #EndChildPovertyNow



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FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITY

The majority of poor children live with an adult who works, and yet those families still struggle to provide necessities like food, shelter and clothing. Be a voice for children and help #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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Continuing to allow nearly 1 in 5 children to grow up poor robs our nation of their future contributions. The fight to #EndChildPovertyNow is not only morally just—it's a national imperative. http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now



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The gap between rich and poor has reached historic heights not seen since the 1920s, and our children are bearing the greatest burden. Now is the time to demand we take action to #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

Principles of justice must guide our feet and inform our national priorities—not power, wealth and militarism. We MUST put babies' survival before billionaires' greed and begin to #EndChildPovertyNow http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

The great undertaking of saving America's children will save America's soul and our future. I stand with @ChildDefender to #EndChildPovertyNow: http://bit.ly/ending-child-poverty-now

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