



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

### Support Poor Families and Protect Our Common Home

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Department of Justice, Peace & Human Development recently published this call to action.

According to Catholic teaching, the family is “the most basic form of human community,” and therefore is “intimately linked” to the long-term future of our nation. Therefore, “economic and social policies as well as the organization of the work world should be continually evaluated in light of their impact on the strength and stability of family life” (Economic Justice for All no. 93). The **Child Tax Credit** is an economic and social policy that supports the strength and stability of family life.

Last year, more than 36 million families received a monthly payment through the expanded Child Tax Credit program to help make ends meet. December marked the last monthly payment unless Congress acts to extend the expanded Child Tax Credit. **The expanded credit has been an extremely effective anti-poverty program, lifting 3.8 million children above the poverty line.** If the expanded credit is not renewed, the amount of help families receive will shrink, monthly payments will end, roughly one-third of households will no longer be eligible to receive the full credit because their incomes are too low, and the lowest-income families will be cut off from the credit all together.

On the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, Pope Francis called for “a culture of care, which places human dignity and the common good at the center.” **The environment and human beings everywhere, especially the poor and vulnerable, stand to benefit from the care of our common home.** For this reason, USCCB encourages Congress to **advance climate investment policies** that will help protect our common home, including tax incentives to support existing and emerging technologies in clean energy, resilience investments focused on protecting low-income and minority communities, and incentives to decarbonize the economy. Such investments are necessary if the US is to reach its current Paris Agreement goals to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030.

Policies are needed to address “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” Ask Congress to invest in care for creation and to extend the expanded Child Tax Credit, ensuring it remain fully refundable so that it is available to the lowest income families and that it continues to include mixed-status families.

We encourage you to add your own personal story about why climate investments matter to you, and/or how 2021’s expanded Child Tax Credit has helped your family or your community.

**TAKE ACTION NOW!** <https://www.votervoices.net/USCCB/Campaigns/91038/Respond>

*“It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.”* Laudato Si', 139