



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Mick Jagger on Build Back Better

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*Contact: Michele Kayal, VP Media and Communications,
MicheleK@FirstFocus.org*

New bill would give kids some of what they need

It has been said: You can't always get what you want.

But today, in keeping with the words of (sage and philosopher) Mick Jagger, Congress appears ready to deliver to America's children **at least some of what they need.**

In response to President Biden's new [Build Back Better "framework"](#) Congress has drafted legislation that makes huge strides toward supporting the health and well-being of our children while reducing the racial and economic disparities that hold them and our country back.

The bill's final shape will depend on the demands of progressives, the pen of the parliamentarian, and, of course, the whimsy of Josten (Joe+Kyrsten).

But let's pause for a moment to take a very large victory lap for the following items making it into the bill:

- **Child Tax Credit:** Monthly payments of up to \$300 per child would continue reaching nearly 90% of the country's children through 2022. These changes to the CTC have helped slash child poverty. Critically important, the bill makes **permanent** full refundability, which will help support 26 million children previously left out because their families *make*

too little. It also would restore the credit to ITIN filers as of December 31, 2021.

- **Children’s Health Insurance Program:** CHIP, which covers roughly 10 million children, would be made permanent, sparing it from serial expiration every few years.
- **12-month Continuous Eligibility:** Would require states to offer 12-month continuous eligibility for children in CHIP and Medicaid, and also for postpartum mothers. CHIP and Medicaid combined cover more than 40 million children.
- **Universal, free preschool** for all 3- and 4-year-olds.
- **More affordable, higher-quality child care:** Which, we’d like to reiterate, is not ONLY a kids issue. Child care is a vital piece of economic infrastructure. The bill also would require that child care centers “provide a living wage for all staff.”
- **Greater access to school food benefits:** Though the original \$35 billion for nutrition has been pared back to just \$10 billion, today’s draft includes improved access to school meals year-round such as a nationwide extension of Summer EBT, which will stave off summer hunger for 29 million children.

And now....the hard work begins to make sure that Congress actually delivers these and other critical supports to our nation’s children.

EVENTS:

2021 Children’s Budget Summit: *Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2021, 12noonET:* Join First Focus on Children President Bruce Lesley, issue experts, members of Congress and leaders in the Biden Administration for a (virtual) deep dive into our newest annual report on federal spending on children across more than 200 domestic programs and internationally. Live opening remarks from Secretary Xavier Becerra. [Register here.](#)

Covering All Children – The Path Forward: *Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2pmET:* Join this (virtual) Congressional briefing where child health experts will examine the policy and administrative challenges that inhibit children’s enrollment in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program and explore ways to expand children’s access to health care and address racial inequities. [For more information, and to register, visit this link.](#)

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