



## ***The Kid Angle***

***Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children***

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**Put your money where your future is**  
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### ***Four investments Congress must prioritize NOW***

Congress has spent the last few days investing in key national priorities. Which proves that there's money when we need it. **Below please find four pressing, national priorities that still need lawmakers' attention (and investment):**

1. **Feeding hungry children:** Pandemic-era programs aimed at feeding children are set to expire. The expiration of emergency benefits in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) when the public health emergency ends will create a "[hunger cliff](#)" that experts estimate will leave millions of children food insecure. Pandemic waivers that made it easier to feed children at school are set to expire on June 30. As always, the waiver expiration will hit hardest in school districts where the majority of children are low-income.
2. **Protecting kids from childhood COVID:** Even as masks come off, 19 million children in this country remain ineligible for vaccination. The COVID-19 funding bill currently stalled by Congressional haggling would fund **future vaccine efforts** for these children — our nation's under 5s — and **continued efforts to raise the rate** among the over 5s. Only 28% of children ages 5-11 are vaccinated against COVID-19, with state-specific rates ranging from 15% to 66% for first doses. Vaccinating children under 5 likely will present even greater challenges in distribution and vaccination rates — which will require greater resources. And, dare we say it again, [a plan](#).

3. **Ensuring that parents can care for their children:** More than 90% of low-income families who received the improved Child Tax Credit in 2021 [spent it on food, utilities, rent and other necessities](#). The improved CTC — all by itself — [cut monthly child poverty during the pandemic by 30%](#) — proving that we can do it when we want to. Just a few months after the CTC's expiration — and the return of nearly 4 million children to poverty — wealthy corporations are pushing for an extension of their own tax credit, one for R&D. **Note to lawmakers: Kids before corporations!** If you're going to extend anything, make it the improved CTC, as [First Focus Campaign for Children and more than 200 organizations have recommended](#).
4. **Allowing children to seek asylum:** Trumped-up (yes, pun-intended) public health concerns that blocked asylum for children, families, and individuals seeking safety at the U.S. border have been [repeatedly denounced](#) by actual public health experts. Lawmakers have dropped that pretense, but they are still calling for continuation of Title 42 — and using that call to delay supplemental COVID aid. More than [30 organizations have joined First Focus on Children](#) in calling for an end to Title 42. It seems self-evident that this policy, which subjects children to physical and emotional violence, has no place in a vote for COVID-19 relief, which overwhelmingly will benefit children.



**Bruce Lesley**  
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Policymakers,  
When making decisions, ask and answer this one  
simple question: "Is it good for the children?"  
[#KidsAreNotAnAfterthought](#)



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First Focus on Children

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