

November 2, 2022

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
US Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20020

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Yellen and Commissioner Rettig:

On behalf of the following community-based organizations in California, we write to support the Cities for Action Mayors and the National Immigration Law Center requests to extend the deadline to claim the 2021 enhanced Child Tax Credit, in order to allow families who were unable to obtain an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or Social Security Number (SSN) in time to access the credit's critical benefits. As you know, the IRS has authority to grant a one-year extension, which is warranted by the President's COVID-19 emergency declaration.

As nonprofit organizations who work with low-income immigrant communities, we know the significant material needs among these families who suffered disproportionately during the pandemic and the impact of the Child Tax Credit in reducing poverty and inequality. Federal agency delays contributed to some families' inability to timely obtain SSNs upon regularizing their immigration status. Additionally, pandemic related challenges and fears, along with insufficient outreach about the April 2022 deadline, prevented many low-income mixed status families from securing an ITIN in time. For example, in California, a state with an estimated 2 million undocumented residents, many have had to wait for over six months to receive an ITIN because of agency backlog in processing ITIN applications.

These and other children in low-income immigrant families deserve access to the significant financial support provided by the enhanced Child Tax Credit, and should not be penalized by pandemic related challenges, bureaucratic hurdles, or administrative delays. Extending the deadline would ensure that the Child Tax Credit reaches the maximum number of eligible families and achieves its intended impact.

We respectfully urge you to extend the deadline.

Sincerely,  
Golden State Opportunity  
California Immigrant Policy Center

Also on behalf of:

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Universal Income Project  
Inland Equity Community Land Trust  
SBX Youth and Family Services  
California Asset Building Coalition  
Children's Defense Fund-California  
We Can Foundation  
South Bay People Power  
CSA San Diego County  
SAFE HARBORS  
Bresee Foundation  
GRACE/End Child Poverty California  
Eastmont Community Center  
National Association of Social Workers  
(NASW) California Chapter  
End Poverty in California (EPIC)  
Dreams for Change  
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium  
(SDIRC)  
Starting Over, Inc.  
Isla Vista Youth Projects  
Richmond Community Foundation  
California Pan-Ethnic Health  
Network/Andrea Rivera  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Inland Congregations United for Change  
NextGen Policy  
United Way California Capital Region  
Monument Crisis Center  
Central City Neighborhood Partners  
SBX Youth and Family Services  
Family Assistance Program  
GLIDE  
United Ways of California  
Worksafe  
Project SCOUT  
Economic Security Project Action