



Five Bold Steps To Cut Child Poverty In Half

Five Bold Steps

- 1. Sharply increase the availability of steady jobs that can support a family.**
- 2. Ensure access for youth and young adults to post-secondary pathways that lead to economic security.**
- 3. Invest in affordable, high quality child care for all low-income children.**
- 4. Protect core safety net programs and expand them to fill crucial gaps.**
- 5. Tear down the systemic barriers based on race, language, and immigration status that devastate economic security.**

Why These Steps?

- A portfolio of solutions vs. one magic bullet
- Each step draws on a data-based insight
- Each points to policy opportunities – and policy risks
- Two kinds of benefits:
 - Reducing child poverty **and**
 - Reducing developmental consequences of poverty

Sharply increase the availability of steady jobs that support a family.

- 70% of poor children live with a worker.
 - Poverty from:
 - Low wages, few hours, transient jobs
 - Low job quality hinders parenting & work
 - Families with no work at greater risk of deep poverty
1. Subsidized jobs & career pathways, “learn while you earn.”
 2. Paid FML, paid sick days, fair schedules, enforcement of labor standards, stronger minimum wage.

Ensure access for young people to post-secondary & econ security

- 1 in 4 adult parents under 30 is poor.
- Young adults 18-24 are poorest after children (1 in 5).
- Trapped by low income if seek post-secondary education.
- Youth/ young adult focus in jobs policies.
- Federal incentives for states to improve aid to low-income students
- Improvements to benefit programs
- Protect & strengthen core federal fin aid (Pell)

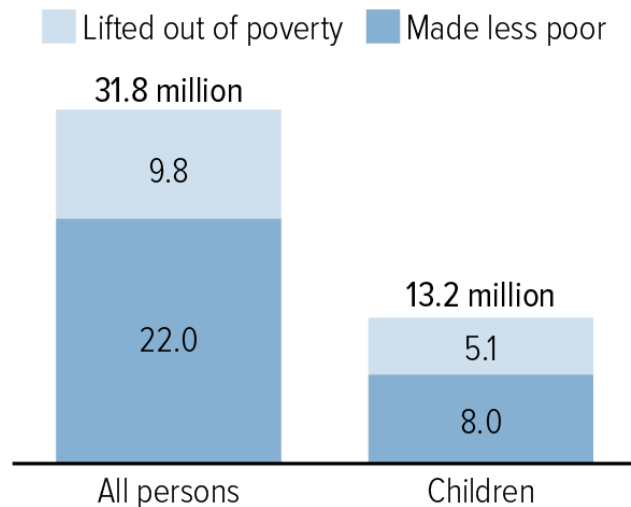
Affordable, high quality child care for all low-income children

- High work levels among mothers of young children.
- High costs of child care.
- Child care assistance reaches 1 in 6, fewest in 16 years.
- Research: subsidies support more stable work, family financial wellbeing, better care.
- Major federal expansion of child care subsidies to reach all low-income families.
- Expansion of federal and state resources to support preschool programs, Head Start, and Early Head Start.

Protect the core safety net programs & expand to fill crucial gaps

Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit Have Powerful Antipoverty Impact

Millions of persons lifted out of poverty or made less poor (using Supplemental Poverty Measure) by EITC and CTC, 2015



Note: Unlike the Census Bureau's official poverty measure, the SPM counts the effect of government benefit programs and tax credits.

Source: CBPP analysis of Census Bureau's March 2016 Current Population Survey and 2015 SPM public use file.

- Core safety net programs reduce child poverty:
 - EITC/ CTC reduced child poverty in 2015 by 6.5 percentage points.
 - SNAP by 2.7 points
 - Medicaid/ ACA reduced child & adult uninsured to all-time lows
- Protect core programs now under attack.
- Invest in families with the least resources – CTC or child allowance
- Strengthen federal funding/ accountability to reduce state discrepancies.
- Strengthen housing assistance

Tear down barriers affecting immigrants & families of color

- Children of color are half of children <6, soon half of <18.
- Children of immigrants are ¼ of all children.
- Highly elevated child poverty rates (1/3 of Black children, 3 in 10 Latino 2015).
- Cannot cut child poverty in half without them.
- Restore and expand children of immigrants' access to the safety net.
- Improve safety net to reduce disparities.
- Federal investment in youth/ young adults of color – education/ employment/ criminal justice reform.