



Policy Snapshot: Expand the number of families that benefit from Utah's Child Tax Credit, giving parents more financial flexibility as the cost of raising children rises.

**7 in 10**

Americans say raising children is unaffordable — a 20% increase since 2015.

"The options I had no longer seem available for my grown children, and they aren't sure if Utah is the best place for them to stay and work."

South Jordan, Utah

The Problem

Families eligible for Utah's Child Tax Credit can claim up to \$1,000 per child, but married couples filing jointly are only **eligible if their income is \$54,000 or below**. Many Utah families earning just above this limit still struggle to cover basic expenses and could benefit from additional support.

Utah's future depends on being a place where families thrive. Utah's birthrate is dropping and young families question whether they can afford to have and raise children here.

The Solution

Increase the income eligibility threshold for Utah's Child Tax Credit by \$7,000 (from \$54,000 to \$61,000 for married couples filing jointly) so more working families qualify.

The Potential Impact

12,000 to 20,000

working families benefiting from Utah's Child Tax Credit

19,000 to 31,000

children ages 0 to 5 supported



Funding: \$7.1 million ongoing

Governor Cox prioritized expanding the state child tax credit in his FY27 Budget Recommendations.

Expanded Child Tax Credit payments are associated with lower food insecurity, reduced child poverty, and better health and educational outcomes for children.

Our Approach

The Policy Project is taking a holistic approach to family affordability, giving families the flexibility to choose what works best — whether they need two incomes, want a parent at home, or need a new mother to keep her income.

Boost Financial Flexibility for Parents

Increase Tax Credit Participation (RFA)

Expand Child Tax Credit Eligibility (HB290)

Increase Access to Child Care

Grants for Home-Based Providers (SB214)

Business Child Care Tax Credit (HB190)

Support New Mothers

Extend State Maternity Leave (HB329)

Protect Pumping Breast Milk (HB329)