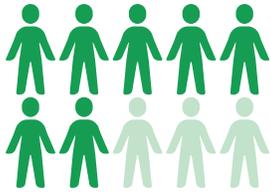




**Policy Snapshot:** Expand the number of families that benefit from Utah's Child Tax Credit, giving parents more financial flexibility as the cost of raising children rises.

**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 by \$2.5M 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)