

EMPOWERING HARTFORD FAMILIES:

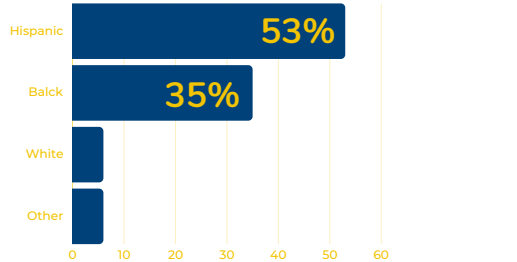
EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF THE NEW CHILD TAX CREDIT

The purpose of our research is to understand people's opinions on a permanent, fully refundable Connecticut Child Tax Credit (CTC) for low-income families. We as Liberal Arts Action Lab students partnered with Connecticut United Ways to investigate and document the extent of financial hardship among Hartford families with children. To understand how Hartford residents would benefit from a new child tax credit, we have been interviewing Hartford residents at TrinfoVITA who are lining up for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. All participants we interviewed are in favor of the proposed new child tax credit.

Demographics

60% of the residents have been living in Hartford for more than 20 years.

Percent of participants by race/ethnicity



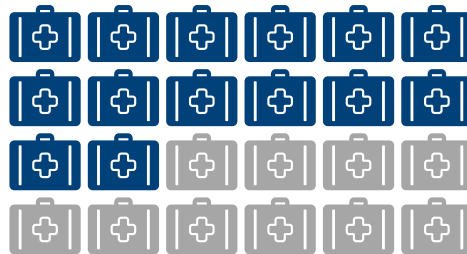
Participants by gender



Financial Situation

61% struggle to pay their rents

39% struggle to pay utilities

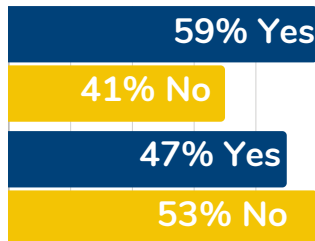


56%

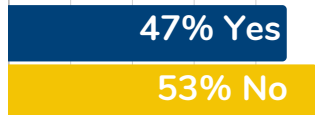
work in Health Care and Social Assistance

Had 1-3 jobs within the last year

Enough monthly income



Enough money to cover an unexpected expense of \$400



Opinions on Child Tax Credit

When we asked these families if they would be in support of the Child Tax Credit, every single one answered yes, many saying they'd spend in on bare necessities like clothing food and bills.



INSIGHTS FROM OUR INTERVIEWEES:

VOICES ON THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

Every single one of the interviewees are in favor of a Child Tax Credit, either \$600 or \$200, and that it would help their families and families in their communities.

“I’ll spend it on him. Anything that he needs for school wise, books, pencils, whatever he needs...it will help him a lot. Right now it’s kind of tight. To buy clothes for him and sneakers. That right there will really help for the things that he needs. So, it’s a big help”

“I would take advantage of it and buy them beds, I would buy them mattresses, I would buy them clothes, and I would pay the other debts.”

“I have to reduce-less shopping, I have to reduce-less spending. I am a person who works in the middle class, who does not receive a food stamp, I do not qualify.”

“The food, I had to pay with credit cards. Those credit cards increased, they reached the limit. But I can’t stop. I have to eat. My kids have to eat. So I took all the debts and I made a loan. And I consolidated the debts. It turns out that after I got them, I lost the car.”

“Well, I would like to buy them clothes, shoes, because as you can see, they are growing and acquiring more. This mattress, this bedroom set. You see, I would like to buy a lot of things, but unfortunately, the system doesn’t let me.”

“I live paycheck by paycheck right now.”

You can view our interviewee Maria’s video regarding her opinion on the proposed Child Tax Credit by scanning the QR code.



For questions:

Carin Buckman (she/her/hers)
Director of Communications
United Way of Connecticut
carin.buckman@ctunitedway.org

Serena Laws, PhD
Assistant Professor
Public Policy and Law
Trinity College
serena.laws@trincoll.edu

Ozlem Atalay (they/them), Ph.D.
Coordinator, Liberal Arts Action Lab
Lecturer, Public Policy and Law
Trinity College
ozlem.atalay@trincoll.edu