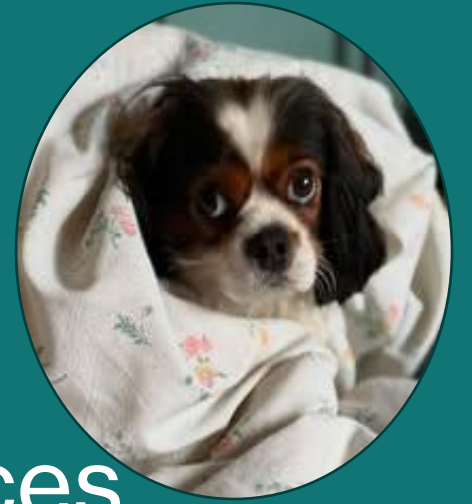


# Portland Tax Forum Short- Topic tax credits and poverty

Presented by Shannon Garcia (a  
short presenter)



# HAPPY NATIONAL POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS MONTH!



“poverty is the inability of having choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity.” United Nations proverb

“We can solve poverty in America.” Matthew Desmond\*

“That's impossible and naïve!” members of the audience?

\*Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond



# 2024 Official Poverty Measure

Americans living in poverty: 35.9 million

Overall Rate: 10.6%

Child Poverty Rate: 14.3% (10.4 million children)

Black Poverty Rate: 18.4% (8.4 million people)

Hispanic Poverty Rate: 15% (10.3 million people)

["Without any examples of living, breathing Native people, the American public starts to see us as less real..."]



**most low-income  
Americans receive  
no cash assistance**

**Recent figures show  
that nearly 72.5 million  
individuals are  
enrolled in Medicaid  
and CHIP and 45  
million receive food  
stamps**

**While only 8.3 million  
people receive SSI  
and 1.7 million families  
are enrolled in TANF.**

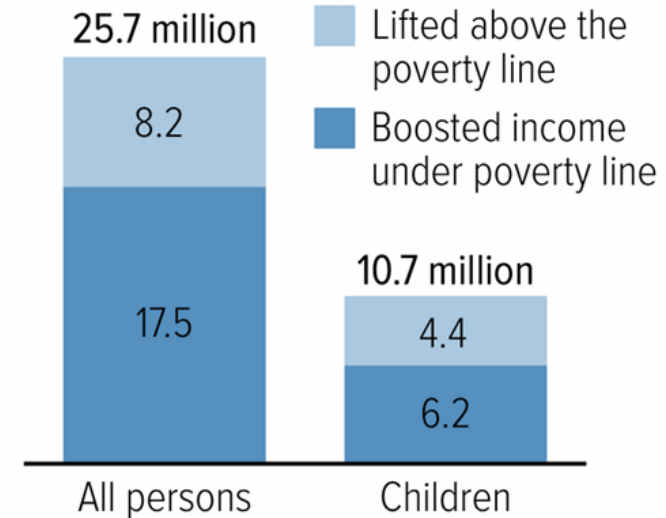


# Tax Credits Cure Poverty!

The EITC and Child Tax Credit together lifted 8.2 million people above the poverty line and made poverty less severe for 17.5 million others in 2024.

## Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit Have Powerful Anti-Poverty Impact

The EITC and Child Tax Credit lifted millions of people above the poverty line and boosted income for people under the poverty line.

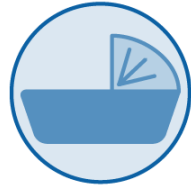


Note: These figures use the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) threshold. Unlike the Census Bureau's official poverty measure, the SPM counts the effect of taxes and non-cash government programs, like housing and food assistance. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: CBPP analysis of Census Bureau March 2025 Current Population Survey.

## Working-Family Tax Credits Help at Every Stage of Life

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) not only reward work and reduce poverty for low- and moderate-income working families with children, but a growing body of research shows that they help families at virtually every stage of life:



**Improved infant and maternal health:** Researchers have found links between increased EITCs and improvements in infant health indicators such as birth weight and premature birth. Research also suggests receiving an expanded EITC may improve maternal health.



**Better school performance:** Elementary and middle-school students whose families receive larger refundable credits (such as the EITC and CTC) tend to have higher test scores in the year of receipt.



**Greater college enrollment:** Young children in low-income families that benefit from expanded state or federal EITCs are more likely to go to college, research finds. Researchers attribute this to lasting academic gains from higher EITCs in middle school and earlier. Increased tax refunds also boost college attendance by making college more affordable for families with high-school seniors, research finds.



**Increased work and earnings in the next generation:** For each \$3,000 a year in added income that children in a working-poor family receive before age 6, they work an average of 135 more hours a year between ages 25 and 37 and their average annual earnings increase by 17 percent, leading researchers have found.



**Social Security retirement benefits:** Research suggests that by boosting the employment and earnings of working-age women, the EITC boosts their Social Security retirement benefits, which should reduce poverty in old age. (Social Security benefits are based on how much one works and earns.)

Note: For further details on the research see Chuck Marr, Chye-Ching Huang, Arloc Sherman, and Brandon DeBot, "EITC and Child Tax Credit Promote Work, Reduce Poverty, and Support Children's Development, Research Finds," CBPP



# The Numbers

Congressional Budget Office estimates resources for the poorest households are about to “decrease by about \$1,600 per year.”

More than 4.5 million children are about to lose access to the Child Tax Credit because one or both parents lack a SSN.

**Changes to the CTC will reduce access to the full credit disproportionately for:**

**48% of American Indian or Alaska Native children; 45% of Black children; 39% of Latino children; 60% of children with a female single parent; 30% of children under age six; 36% of children in large families; and 35% of children in rural areas.**

"Empathy is about finding echoes of another person in yourself." – Unknown.

**There are ways  
you can help!**

# LITCs ensure the fairness and integrity of the tax system through Representation, Education, and Advocacy

## Give Money & Goods

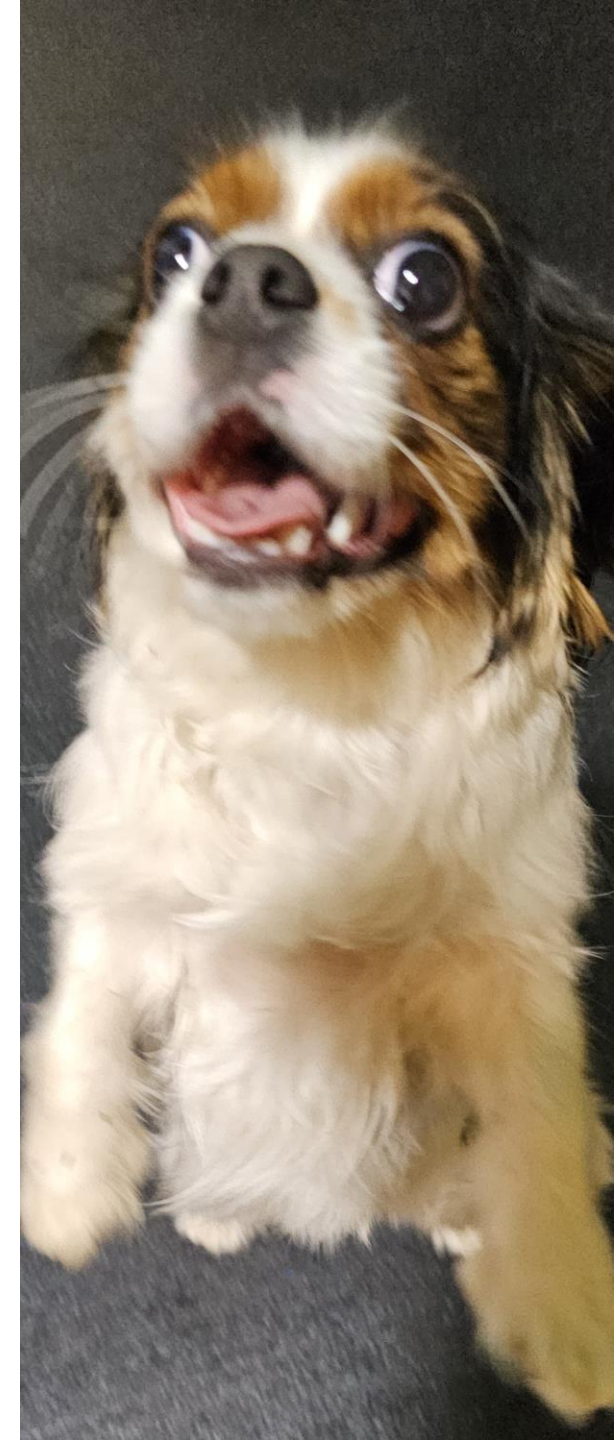
- **Monetary Donations:** <https://cej-oregon.org/donate/> [supports OLC & LASO generally]
  - Brainstorm: OSB Tax Section LITC Fund to support all three LITCs specifically?
- **In-Kind Donations:** Donate software, furniture, electronics, etc.
- **Corporate Matching:** Check if your employer matches charitable donations.

## Give Time & Skills

- **Volunteer:** Help with events, admin, community outreach, or hands-on work.
- **Pro-Bono Services:** Donate skills like graphic design, legal, marketing, or IT.
- **Mentorship:** Be a resource for life, liberty, and the pursuit of tax fairness.

## Raise Awareness & Funds

- **Fundraise:** Organize events or create online campaigns.
  - Brainstorm: Host CEJ and/or OSB event(s) that highlight the work of LITCs.
- **Share Their Mission:** Hype LITCs on socials, blogs, word-of-mouth, etc.
- **Co-Host Events:** Partner with LITCs to leverage your network for LITC events.



# Conclusion

**Using the US tax code to end poverty is not impossible...?**

“Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they’ve been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It’s an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It’s a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing.” Muhammed Ali

**Let’s make it possible!**



## Q & A

Ask away!

OR

Reach out!

[Shannon.Garcia@lasoregon.org](mailto:Shannon.Garcia@lasoregon.org)