



December 22, 2022

Dear Governor-elect Healey and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll,

On behalf of the Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition, congratulations on your historic victory. We are deeply appreciative of your prioritization of robust tax relief for families with low incomes, and we look forward to working with your Administration to swiftly pass and implement these policies.

The Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition is a statewide network of advocates working to improve the health and well-being of Massachusetts children and families by expanding the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and passing a robust and inclusive Child and Family Tax Credit (CFTC). Our growing coalition is led by Children's HealthWatch at Boston Medical Center, and consists of community-based agencies, legal advocates, parents, researchers, social service providers, tax preparers, and health providers. Formerly known as the Healthy Families EITC Coalition, our network has successfully advocated to increase the state EITC, expand eligibility to survivors of domestic violence and abandoned spouses, and an invest of over \$1.5 million annually in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

In the next legislative session, we look forward to working with the Administration to:

1. **Increase the EITC state match rate from 30% to 50% of the federal credit.**
2. **Expand the EITC to immigrants who file taxes with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).**
3. **Combine the Household Dependent Tax Credit and the Dependent Care Tax Credit into a single tax credit (a "Child and Family Tax Credit"),** as proposed by the Healey-Driscoll campaign.
4. **Increase the value of the new "Child and Family Tax Credit" to *at least \$600 per dependent*,** as proposed by the Healey-Driscoll campaign.
5. **Remove the dependent age limits on the new "Child and Family Tax Credit".** *Under current law, the HDTC is only available for disabled dependents, children under age 12, and dependents age 65+ (not including spouses). The DCTC is only available for care expenses of children under age 13 and disabled dependents/spouses. This proposal would extend the credit to all dependents.*
6. **Remove the large family penalty from both the EITC and the new "Child and Family Tax Credit".** *Under current law, the value of the EITC is capped at 3 children and the HDTC/DCTC is capped at 2 dependents.*
7. **Improve access to the EITC and new "Child and Family Tax Credit" through sustained funding for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and a robust communications and outreach campaign.**

The Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition is committed to expanding robust and fully refundable tax credits for families with low incomes as an evidence-based strategy to reduce poverty and improve health. With significant momentum going into the new session, we look forward to working closely with the Healey-Driscoll Administration to swiftly pass and implement robust policies respond to the realities of families with young children and improves equity and stability across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

The Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition



*ABCD/Action for Boston Community Development*

*Boston Children's Hospital*

*Boston Medical Center*

*Boston Tax Help Coalition*

*Brazilian Women's Group*

*Cambridge Economic Opportunity Council (CEOC)*

*Children's HealthWatch*

*EMPath*

*Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)*

*Groundwork Lawrence*

*Horizons for Homeless Children*

*Jewish Vocational Services*

*Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)*

*Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC)*

*Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)*

*Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)*

*Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center*

*Midas Collaborative*

*National Consumer Law Center*

*One Family, Inc.*

*Project Bread*

*Springfield WORKS*

*StreetCred*