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NATION & WORLD

Child tax credit flowing into US bank accounts

Payments expand to help lowest-income families

Josh Boak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The child tax credit had always been an empty gesture to millions of parents like Tamika Daniel.

That changed Thursday when the first payment of \$1,000 hit Daniel's bank account – and dollars started flowing to the pockets of more than 35 million families around the country. Daniel, a 35-year-old mother of four, didn't even know the tax credit existed until President Joe Biden expanded it for one year as part of the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package that passed in March.

Previously, only people who earned enough money to owe income taxes could qualify for the credit. Daniel went nearly a decade without a job because her eldest son is autistic and needed her. So she got by on Social Security payments. And she had to live at Fairfield Courts, a public housing project that dead-ends at Interstate 64 as the highway cuts through Virginia's capital, Richmond.

But the extra \$1,000 a month for the next year could be a life-changer for Daniel, who now works as a community organizer for a Richmond nonprofit. It will help provide a security deposit on a new apartment.

"It's actually coming right on time," she said. "We have a lot going on. This definitely helps to take a load off."

Biden has held out the new monthly payments, which will average \$423 per family, as the key to halving child poverty rates. But he is also setting up a broader philosophical battle about the role of government and the responsibil-



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris address families that will receive the new child tax credit on Thursday. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

ities of parents.

Democrats see this as a landmark program along the same lines as Social Security, saying it will lead to better outcomes in adulthood that will help economic growth. But many Republicans warn that the payments will discourage parents from working and ultimately feed into long-term poverty.

Some 15 million households now will receive the full credit. The monthly payments amount to \$300 for each child who is 5 and younger and \$250 for those between 5 and 17. The payments are set to lapse after a year, but Biden is pushing to extend them through at least 2025.

The president ultimately would like to make the payments permanent – and that makes this first round of payments a test as to whether the government can improve the lives of families.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who successfully championed increasing the credit in 2017, said that the Dem-

ocrats' plans will turn the benefits into an "anti-work welfare check" because almost every family can now qualify for the payment regardless of whether the parents have a job.

"Not only does Biden's plan abandon incentives for marriage and requirements for work, but it will also destroy the child-support enforcement system as we know it by sending cash payments to single parents without ensuring child-support orders are established," Rubio said in a statement Wednesday.

The administration disputed those claims. Treasury Department estimates indicate that 97% of recipients of the tax credit have wages or self-employment income, while the other 3% are grandparents or have health issues. The credit also starts to phase out at \$150,000 for joint filers, so there is no disincentive for the poor to work because a job would just give them more income.

Rewards boost feds fight vs. cybercrime

Frank Bajak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON – The State Department will offer rewards up to \$10 million for information leading to the identification of anyone engaged in foreign state-sanctioned malicious cyber activity, including ransomware attacks, against critical U.S. infrastructure. A task force set up by the White House was to coordinate efforts to stem the ransomware scourge.

The Biden administration also has a website, stopransomware.gov, that offers resources for countering the threat and building resilience into networks.

In another move Thursday, the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network will work with banks, technology companies and others on better anti-money-laundering efforts for cryptocurrency and more rapid tracing of ransomware proceeds, which are paid in virtual currency.

Officials were hoping to seize more extortion payments in ransomware cases, as the FBI did in recouping most of the \$4.4 million ransom paid by Colonial Pipeline in May.

The rewards come from the State Department's Rewards for Justice program. It has a tips-reporting mechanism on the dark web for those who identify cyber attackers or their locations, and reward payments may include cryptocurrency.

An administration official would not comment on if the U.S. had a hand in Tuesday's disappearance of REvil, the Russia-linked gang named in a July 2 supply chain attack that crippled over 1,000 organizations by targeting Florida-based software provider Kaseya.

Eight Point Wind, LLC Eight Point Wind Energy Center – Steuben County, New York

Notice of Petition to Amend Certificate

Eight Point Wind, LLC (the "Certificate Holder"), a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, received a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, with Conditions, ("Certificate") for the Eight Point Wind Energy Center (the "Project") on August 20, 2019 (Case No. 16-F-0062). The Certificate was subsequently amended on May 26, 2021. The Certificate authorizes the construction and operation of a 101.8 MW wind farm generating facility in the Towns of Greenwood and West Union, Steuben County, New York. This Notice announces that on or about July 13, 2021, the Certificate Holder will file a second Amendment to the Certificate pursuant to NYCRR § 1000.16 seeking a modification to the Certificate from the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment ("Siting Board"). The modifications include an update in turbine technology and generating capacity of the Project.

Contact Information:

To obtain information regarding the Project, the modifications proposed, or to obtain a copy of the Petition to Amend the Certificate, please contact:

Kris Scornavacca
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC
700 Universe Blvd
Juno Beach, Florida 33408
Telephone: (607) 301-3994
Email: info@eightpointwind.com

When filed, the Petition to Amend the Certificate will be available on the Department of Public Service ("DPS") website at <http://www.dps.ny.gov/> under Case Number 16-F-0062. In addition, the Petition will be available on the Project-specific website at <https://www.eightpointwind.com/>.

In addition to the parties to the original Certification Proceedings for the Project, those who wish to participate in the Proceeding on the Amendment must so advise the Secretary within ten days of the filing of this Notice. Any comments on the Petition must be received by the Secretary no later than 30 days after the date of filing of this Notice.