

Claiming Benefits for a Child

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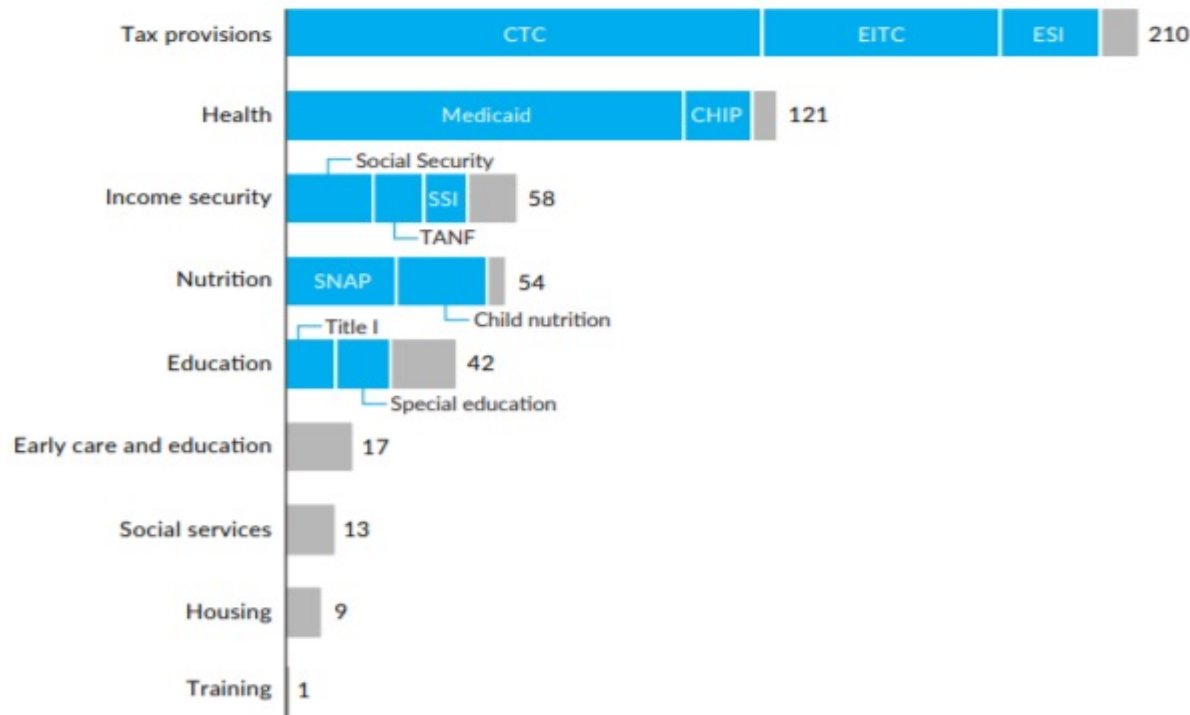
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What programs benefit children?

Federal Expenditures on Children by Category and Major Programs, 2019

Billions of 2019 dollars

■ Individual program ■ Other



Source: Authors' estimates based primarily on Office of Management and Budget, *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2021* (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 2020).

Notes: Programs spending less than \$10 billion are not shown separately but are included as part of "Other" and in the totals by category. CHIP = Children's Health Insurance Program; CTC = child tax credit; EITC = earned income tax credit; ESI = employer-sponsored health insurance; SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; SSI = Supplemental Security Income; TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

- Cannot pay children directly – so difficulty is finding the right adult.
- CHIP: Tax filing relationships; Apply at Marketplace
- Social Security – survivor’s benefits / SSI: assigned to legal representative; surviving parent
- TANF: can include unmarried partner
- SNAP: people who share meals
- Education: child

- Residency – live with the claimant for 6+ months
- Relationship – legal relationship
- Support – for CTC, can't provide half of own support.

- Want the benefit to move with the child
- Does it matter if there are no overlapping claims?
- Balance cost of overlapping claims with benefits of delivering to person closest to child
- Can the tax code look beyond the tax unit?
- More intuitive definition could reduce erroneous claims (Jurow Kleiman)

- Piecemeal system becomes more confusing when units don't match
 - Miss out on some benefits eligible for
 - Claim benefits ineligible for
- Increased administrative costs
 - Multiple agencies determining eligibility

- Create winners / losers
- Programs not designed to do the same thing
- Tax definition too blunt

THANK YOU

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