

# 2021 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

#### CASH Campaign's Legislative Impact: At a Glance

Each year the CASH Campaign of Maryland tracks, analyzes and weighs in on bills with the goal of promoting economic advancement for low- to moderate-income Marylanders.



90 days
103 bills tracked
21 bills supported
17 bills passed

### Legislative Victories



### Making Work Pay



Legislation was passed to provide relief from COVID-19 to low income Marylanders. Many of low income taxpayers were being taxed further into poverty or left out of relief efforts. Maryland legislators gave additional support to low income worker by making work pay through:

#### Providing Relief

Recipients of the EITC became eligible for a one time direct stimulus payment.

Maryland's stimulus provided \$300 for individuals and \$500 for joint households if they received the EITC on their 2019 tax return.

#### <u>Establishing Benefit</u>

CASH supported the creation of a state level Child Tax Credit. This credit will provide more support for vulnerable families.

It establishes \$500 for families who make \$6,000 or less and are raising a child with disabilities who are under the age of 17.

#### Increasing EITC's Value

The RELIEF Act included a historic expansion of Maryland's state Earned Income Tax Credit.

The expansion will put more money in the hands of single filers without dependents by increasing the match the federal EITC from 28% to 100%. It will also increase the match for families from 28% to 45%.

#### <u>Extending Relief to Immigrants</u>

ITIN filers are taxpayers who have been left out of receiving the EITC and federal relief.

CASH supported advocates in the state pursuing EITC and direct payment benefits for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) filers.

These expansions apply for this year and two years after. The EITC will revert back to pre-expansion numbers, and the CTC and ITIN filer expansions will expire.



## Ending Abuse in the Save4College Program



The Save4College program supports the pursuit of post secondary education. It provides a state match to a Maryland 529 savings account for families that make the minimum contribution.

Unfortunately, there are loopholes in the original legislation that jeopardizes the capability of the program. CASH supported closing these loopholes in the Maryland 529 Save4College program.

It will be strengthened by stopping families from abusing the program, and preserved by saving taxpayer dollars.

The 2021 Legislative Session was held virtually this year due to precautions around COVID-19. CASH supported and worked diligently with partners across the state to advocate for low to moderate income Marylanders. Please visit <a href="#">CASH Campaign</a> <a href="#">Maryland</a> to view our detailed legislative wrap-up.