



Erick Russell

CONNECTICUT STATE TREASURER

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TREASURER RUSSELL AND NEW HAVEN AREA OFFICIALS RAISE AWARENESS OF CT BABY BONDS, CITE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

New Haven, CT – Treasurer Erick Russell, U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney, local officials, and community leaders held an event on Tuesday to raise awareness of CT Baby Bonds at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Connecticut is the first state in the nation to implement a baby bonds program, which began on July 1. Children whose births are covered by HUSKY, the state’s Medicaid program, are automatically eligible for CT Baby Bonds. When they are between the ages of 18 and 30, they will be able to claim funds to be used for specific, wealth-building purposes.

“As eligible babies are born across Connecticut, it’s important to get out into the community to inform parents about CT Baby Bonds and let them know that they do not need to take any action for their newborns to become eligible for these transformative investments,” said **Treasurer Russell**. “I’m grateful for the partnership of so many leaders and organizations committed to helping children, their families, and their communities make the most of this opportunity. CT Baby Bonds is a direct investment in our future, giving young people resources to help build individual wealth and fully participate in our economy. The program not only represents hope for families, and a pathway out of generational poverty for many, but also an opportunity for thousands of new potential skilled and educated workers, homeowners, and entrepreneurs to shape what the future of Connecticut can look like.”

Federal baby bonds legislation has also been introduced in Congress. The American Opportunity Accounts Act would deposit \$1,000 into a savings account for every American child at birth. Additional contributions would be made depending on a family’s income level, providing critical resources to fight generational poverty and close the nation’s wealth gap.

“CT Baby Bonds will give every child in Connecticut a fairer chance at life, by providing them a strong financial foundation,” said **Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro**. “This program gives our nation the chance to close the racial wealth gap, break generational cycles of poverty, and strengthen the working and middle class in America through policies that promote economic mobility. I am so proud

Connecticut stands as the national model and I will continue to fight to give every family in this country a chance at the American Dream.”

"CT Baby Bonds represents an unprecedented opportunity to address long-standing economic inequality across Connecticut and to empower a new generation of young people," said **New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker**. "Eligible babies being born in New Haven today will have access to resources to buy homes, start businesses, and invest in their education that, for many, would have otherwise been unattainable. My administration, and the entire New Haven community, is committed to supporting those children and their families as they prepare for a future full of possibility and opportunity."

CT Baby Bonds invests \$3,200 on behalf of each child whose birth is covered by HUSKY. Those funds will grow over time. When participants become young adults, and complete a required financial literacy course, they can use the funds to buy a home in Connecticut, start or invest in a Connecticut business, pay for education or job training, or save for retirement. An estimated \$11,000 and \$24,000 will be available to each participant, depending on when the funds are accessed.

Approximately 15,000 Connecticut births are covered by HUSKY each year, including residents in all 169 towns. Eligible babies born on or after July 1, 2023, will be automatically allocated a share of the CT Baby Bonds Trust.

In May, a funding solution was identified to repurpose \$381 million in cash reserves and deposit that amount into a trust fund for CT Baby Bonds, reducing the overall cost estimates by over \$200 million and requiring no state borrowing or budgetary appropriations. That proposal was included in the biennial state budget passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Lamont.

More information on CT Baby Bonds can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/OTT/Debt-Management/CT-Baby-Bonds>

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