

CALIFORNIA



This year's State of the Union address touched upon some of the PPC's top priorities. You can read about one of them—the Child Tax Credit—below, along with a response from Bishop Barber. We've also got details on our upcoming Black History Month event and summaries of two important articles: an in-depth look at America's deeply flawed school meals system, and an op-ed on the real guilty parties in the death of Tyre Nichols.

Announcement



Save the date: Marking Black History Month

Wed. Feb. 15, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Next week, we'll be observing Black History Month by hosting a special event during our regular weekly Close the Wealth Gap, CA! meeting. We'll examine the First Reconstruction and Second Reconstruction to understand our history, and then do a deep dive into several of the Third Reconstruction demands that specifically address systemic racism; we'll also look at some local and national policies that have been drafted to address it. And of course, in the PPC tradition, we'll have music, videos, readings and more. You can sign up for the event, and all of our regular Close the Wealth Gap meetings, [here](#).

Want to know more about the Close the Wealth Gap, CA! campaign?

Close the Wealth Gap, CA! calls upon our public and elected officials to end the policy violence that is making people poor and destroying the environment. It builds on the broad vision of our [Third Reconstruction Agenda](#), which supports the development of a nation that centers the 140 million Americans who are "policy-poor and low-wealth." To learn more, read the Agenda and see if you can attend one of the meetings.

Want to know more about Black History Month?

Check out the National Museum of African American History and Culture website, which includes a [toolkit](#) that you can use to spread the word on your social media accounts.

News



The State of the Union and the Third Reconstruction

In his State of the Union address on Tuesday, President Biden touched on many issues—including the affordable housing crisis, health care and shoring up our democracy—that are key to the PPC and our Third Reconstruction Agenda. The Child Tax Credit, which the CA PPC has fought for, was one that the president mentioned by name. “Let’s restore the full Child Tax Credit, which gave tens of millions of parents some breathing room and cut child poverty in half, to the lowest level in history,” he said. “And by the way, when we do all of these things, we increase productivity. We increase economic growth.”

Some context: When the CTC was expanded as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 35 million families with 65 million children—approximately 90 percent of all children in the United States—benefited from the immediate and consistent relief it provided. It enabled children in families with little or no income to receive the full value of the CTC for the first time. These monthly payments significantly reduced child poverty and child hunger in the country.

California PPC worked hard to sign up families for the expanded Child Tax Credit, and we fought to make it permanent. We had hoped that it would be included in last year’s Inflation Reduction Act, but Congress failed to act and the expanded CTC expired, sending millions of families back into poverty.

Following the State of the Union address, Bishop Barber reiterated our demands to the president in a tweet: “Now, Mr President, convene a meeting w/ poor ppl & low wage workers, religious leaders, economists, public health scholars & civil rights lawyers to do the same thing on eradicating poverty, mandating a living wage, & fully restoring voting rights.”

Upcoming meetings

Orange County region meeting

Monday Feb. 13, 7pm

Join us in supporting our national, statewide, and local movement on issues intersecting poverty, systemic racism, ecological devastation, and/or militarism. For the Zoom information, contact theocppc@gmail.com

Policy and Education working group meeting

Today! Thursday Feb. 9, 12pm | [Join](#)

CA PPC's Policy and Ed working group is back! We'll be kicking off our work this year by organizing a webinar to commemorate International Women's Day (March 8) along with other interested states and women's groups. And we have lots more to do beyond International Women's Day, including working on the reintroduction of the Third Reconstruction resolution and a call for a permanent expanded Child Tax Credit. Whether you're a regular participant or just finding us now, we look forward to having you join our dynamic group.

Close the Wealth Gap, CA organizing meetings

Wednesdays, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Join any Wednesday to discuss and plan future events. It's also a place to get answers to your questions about the Third Reconstruction Agenda, learn about organizing efforts and pick up new skills.

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

DONATE

PPC in the media

“Universal School Meals Programs Are Being Cut Despite 1 in 8 Kids Going Hungry”

A recent [Truthout](#) article notes that a COVID-era program ensuring free school meals for over 50 million Americans expired last June. Unsurprisingly, hunger affects student performance; also unsurprisingly, food insecurity strikes the hardest in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. School meals nationwide are a complex patchwork of policies, and the article’s author gives a clear picture of their shortcomings and how they might be remedied. She also quotes two PPC people: Rev. Theoharis and Jackson, Mississippi’s Danyelle Holmes, who has experienced the compounding crises of water outages and the transportation required to pick up food when schools are closed. Read the whole article [here](#).

“Yes, Black officers killed Tyre Nichols. What is the correct response to that?”

In an op-ed published by [The Guardian](#), Bishop Barber and Jonathan Wilson-Hargrove pose a question that has ricocheted around the country since Tyre Nichols died at the hands of Memphis police officers. “This is not a case of individual racists, but another example of a policing system rabid with brutality and death,” they write. “This kind of death is not new, and a true remembering of Black history must address this too.” Pointing out that economic injustice impacts people of all colors, they conclude that the blame for Nichols’s death does not stop at the feet of the officers:

“We must also acknowledge that their brutality is a byproduct of too many Americans passing the buck and abdicating responsibility for a society where 700 people die every day, not because God has called them home but simply because they are poor.”

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.