Welcome to the RESULTS Educational Fund
July 2013 U.S. Poverty National Conference Call

Making Your Voice Count:
Meeting Face-to-Face with Lawmakers

Saturday, July 13, 12:30 pm ET
(888) 409-6709
Welcome from RESULTS Executive Director Joanne Carter
Guest Speaker: Rachel Black

- Senior Policy Analyst at the New America Foundation
- Provides research, analysis, and public commentary.
- Areas of focus: Public assistance programs, federal spending in support of asset building objectives, and initiative to increase savings at tax time
- Led legislative advocacy for many federal policies at Bread for the World
- B.S. in History, Technology, and Society from the Georgia Institute of Technology
Asset Development and the Family Financial Security Credit

- Asset building – helping people accumulate Savings and assets – helps us create wealth
  - Key component of ending poverty over the long-term
  - Most asset building benefits in the tax code go to people who already have wealth (mortgage interest, property tax deduction, low rates on cap gains)

- Family Financial Security Credit (FFSC)
  - Use tax time to encourage low-income taxpayers to deposit some of their EITC and CTC refunds into a savings vehicle (can create account on return)
  - As an incentive, they would receive a dollar-for-dollar match for their deposits, up to $500 per year
  - Participants in a similar program, SaveUSA, saved more that $1 million in 2011
  - Read more about the FFSC on the RESULTS website
July Action: Schedule Your Face-to-Face Lobby Meetings

- Important time to be meeting with members of Congress
- RESULTS Conference (July 20-23) and August recess (Aug 5 – Sep 6) gives you the opportunity to meet with them
- The July Action sheet has all the info you need to schedule a meeting
- You can use our Elected Officials page to get the contact and background information for your Members of Congress
Meeting Face-to-Face with Congress

Protecting SNAP in the Farm Bill

Food insecurity is still a serious problem in the U.S. (see more at Feeding America’s website)

SNAP is a vital tool in reducing hunger and poverty in America
Protecting SNAP in the Farm Bill

• **Senate Farm Bill (S.954) passed on June 10, 66-27**
  – $4.1 billion SNAP cuts over 10 years
  – Cuts benefits by avg. of $90/mo for half a million households in “Heat and Eat” states

• **House Farm Bill (H.R.1947) was defeated June 20, 195-234**
  – $21 billion SNAP cuts over 10 years
  – “Categorical Eligibility” cut would force 2 million people off the program and deny 210,000 low-income children free school meals
  – Cuts benefits by avg. of $90/mo for 850,000 households

• **New House Farm Bill passed on July 11, 216-208**
  – Removes SNAP entirely from Farm Bill
  – Opposed by all House Dems, the Senate, farm groups, and advocates
Protecting SNAP in the Farm Bill

• Unknown what will happen next
  – House could pass SNAP-only bill with much deeper cuts
  – House could ignore SNAP and let Senate SNAP cuts go forward
  – House could use upcoming debt ceiling and budget fights to demand deep cuts to SNAP

• We must keep pushing lawmakers to protect SNAP
Tax Reform – an Opportunity!

- House and Senate tax leaders are still pushing for comprehensive tax reform
- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT) are asking senators to give them ideas for tax reform by July 26
- Want to start with a blank slate – no “special provisions” unless they:
  1. Help grow the economy
  2. Make the tax code fairer
  3. Effectively promote other important policy objectives
Tax Reform – Tax Credits and Assets

The [Earned Income Tax Credit](http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/the-avenue/posts/2013/01/11-eitc-anti-poverty-kneebone-williams) and [Child Tax Credit](http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/the-avenue/posts/2013/01/11-eitc-anti-poverty-kneebone-williams) clearly meet the criteria:

1. They help grow the economy because **refunds spent quickly and locally**.
2. They make the tax code fairer because **combat regressive taxes** which disproportionately hurt low-income Americans.
3. They effectively promote important objectives such as **promoting work** (more work = higher credit) and **reducing poverty** (EITC and CTC lifted [9.4 million people out of poverty](http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/the-avenue/posts/2013/01/11-eitc-anti-poverty-kneebone-williams) in 2011, half of them children).

Tax reform gives us the opportunity to talk more about [low-income asset building](http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/the-avenue/posts/2013/01/11-eitc-anti-poverty-kneebone-williams) and educate lawmakers about the [Family Financial Security Credit](http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/the-avenue/posts/2013/01/11-eitc-anti-poverty-kneebone-williams).
Take Action on Tax Reform

Because of July 26 deadline, start reaching out to senators this week. Call your Senate tax aides and tell them to urge senators to submit tax reform recommendations to Sens. Baucus and Hatch that:

1. Protect and strengthen the EITC and CTC and make the 2009 improvements permanent
2. Expand low-income asset building in the tax code with the Family Financial Security Credit

Use our Economic Opportunity Lobby Meeting Request Sheet to help, which includes a sample letter they can use. You can also use our online economic opportunity e-mail alert to send your message today.

In your lobby meetings in July and August, you can then follow up on your requests made this week.
Investing in Americas Children

• **Head Start, Early Head Start**, and **Child Care** facing tough times because of sequestration.

• Good news is that Senate Appropriations Committee has approved significant new investments in early learning
  
  – Assumes sequestration is **repealed**
  
  – **$1.6 billion increase** for Head Start and Early Head Start ($1.4 billion of it for EHS)
  
  – **$176 million increase** for the Child Care Development Block Grant
  
  – **$750 million** to help states offer high-quality preschool to all low- and moderate income children.

• Bad news is that House is looking to cut Labor-HHS funding by **18 percent** and assumes **sequestration will remain in effect** (except for defense)

• Likely budget showdown in the fall

• Urge lawmakers to **adopt the Senate funding numbers**
U.S. Poverty Campaigns

Learn more about SNAP, tax policy, and early childhood issues on our [Issues pages](#) on the RESULTS website. Read the latest about our 2013 campaigns in our [2013 U.S. Poverty Campaigns Summary](#) and Recent Developments pages.

- [Recent Developments in Economic Opportunity Legislation](#)
- [Recent Developments in Nutrition and Health Care Legislation](#)
- [Recent Developments in Early Childhood Development Policies](#)
Lobby Meeting Training
Myrdin Thompson, RESULTS U.S. Poverty Organizer

1. **Do your homework.** Know who you’re meeting with, how they vote, what they care about. [Research Your Members of Congress](#) on the RESULTS website.

2. **Pick your issues.** Don’t try to do too much and dilute your message. Be selective and rank the based on who you’re meeting with.

3. **Plan your meeting.** Assign roles, write out your [laser talks](#). Use the [2013 Lobby Meeting Planning Form](#) to help you.

4. **Have “leave behind” materials.** Take Lobby Request sheets with you to leave with them. Find these sheets on the [U.S. Poverty Campaigns page](#) (we will have copies available in DC for conference lobby meetings).
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5. **Practice, practice, practice.** Helps you get familiar with what to say and comfortable before your meeting. Cannot emphasize this enough.

6. **Follow up after the meeting.** Send a thank you and then call the aide a few days later to check on your request. How else can we know if they do what they promised?

7. **Relax.** Lobby meetings are more fun than you think they’ll be. You’ll feel good for having done it.

Resources to help you schedule, plan, and execute a lobby meeting:

- [July Action sheet](#)
- [Activist Toolkit on Meeting with Members of Congress](#)
Shares about Media Successes
Jenny Martin, RESULTS U.S. Poverty Organizer

You’ve gotten 28 SNAP media pieces published since June 1!

Daria Flores
RESULTS San Diego

Alfonse Battistelli
RESULTS Columbus

To date, we have 59 media pieces in 2013 – that’s ten more than we had in all of 2012!

Keep up the pressure. With SNAP still under threat, send your LTE in today using our updated online media alert.
RESULTS International Conference Begins Next Weekend!

If you’re coming to DC, be sure to...

1. Read the Conference Checklist.
2. Read the U.S. Poverty Campaigns Legislative Handbook and bring a copy with you.
3. Set up your Face-to-Face Meetings. Use the Lobby Meeting tracking form.
4. Schedule your Lobby Prep Call with Ann Beltran (abeltran@results.org) before you come to DC.

It’s not too late to register!

Go to http://www.results.org/events/IC_2013/ and REGISTER TODAY!
Roll Call
Jos Linn, Acting Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

1. How many people are in the room?

2. How many requests for face-to-face meetings will your group make for the International Conference and/or August recess?

The operator will call out your city and unmute your phone line. To ensure we hear you, preface your numbers by saying “Our numbers are…”
Announcements

Join the Everyday Hero Virtual Dash!

- Virtual fundraising run/walk to celebrate & support RESULTS Everyday Heroes
- You pick the distance, place, time, & speed
- Register for $25 at www.tinyurl.com/everydayherodash.
- Get a race bib & shiny hero medal to keep!
- If your coming to the conference you can race in person on Sunday, July 21 at 7:00 am ET (1 mi or 5K run/walk). Superhero costumes are optional but encouraged.
- Participate at home in real time by tweeting your pics with hashtag #RESULTSConf
- Great outreach to do with local donors & partners not going to the conference
- Contact clevin@results.org with questions.
Announcements

We are still working to grow RESULTS!

- Jenny Martin (jmartin@results.org) is doing outreach in New England. She has a RESULTS Outreach meeting on August 2 in Burlington, VT.
- Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) has a RESULTS Outreach Meeting on September 18 in Kansas City, MO.
- Myrdin Thompson (mthompson@results.org) is working to start groups in Louisville, Cincinnati, and Albuquerque and other areas in the South.

RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents call this Tuesday, July 16 at 9:00pm ET. (218) 486-1611, passcode RESULTS (7378587 plus the # sign).

Because of the conference, RESULTS staff will be very busy or out of the office between July 20 and 28 and thus not able to respond as quickly as normal. We appreciate your patience!

You can find a full-list of upcoming events, along with call-in numbers on the RESULTS Events Calendar.
Thank you for being on today’s call!

Next RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Conference Call
Saturday, August 10, at 12:30 pm ET