

October 2013 RESULTS Domestic Conference Call Summary

The slides, recording, and summary will be posted at:
https://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/.

Welcome and Agenda Review by RESULTS Executive Director Joanne Carter

Welcome everyone to RESULTS October National Conference Call focused on US poverty issues— this is a critical time to be together to strategize, and a special welcome to anyone on the call for the first time. Please note that you can download the PowerPoint for today's call from the Take Action box in the top right corner of the RESULTS Home Page or on [our Facebook page](#).

I want to recognize that you our U.S. Poverty volunteers (with some of our global volunteers pitching in also) have done an extraordinary job this year, working to protect the nutrition safety net here in the U.S. As you well know, the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP, formerly food stamps), is our first line of defense against hunger in the United States, currently helps 47 million Americans put food on the table each month and has been essential in helping families victimized by the recession.

SNAP is not only a safety net but helps move people out of poverty--In 2012, the Census Bureau found that SNAP lifted 4 million people out of poverty. Despite this success (and a 96 percent accuracy rate), some leaders in Congress have targeted SNAP, trying to drastically cut and restructure the program. RESULTS volunteers have spent most of 2013 pushing back against these efforts.

If SNAP is the first line of defense against hunger in America, you really have been the first line of defense of SNAP

Already this year you all have had 78 face-to-face meetings with members of Congress (and hundreds of meetings with congressional staff) on U.S. poverty campaigns and have published 103 media pieces – the vast majority of these about protecting and strengthening SNAP. In challenging times, we've already had more lobby meetings and generated more media on our U.S. poverty campaigns than in any other year, and I am confident we'll achieve a lot more before the end of the year.

We shouldn't have to play a defensive game but right now we do and your work has been and continues to be crucial. To win the fight to protect SNAP we need to build on our great work and further amplify our voice in the media—esp the local media and aggregating that nationally when we deliver your media to Congressional leaders.

Keep up the incredibly important work so that we can protect SNAP and build the base for going on the offense against poverty and hunger in this country.

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Campaign Update and Introduce Audio Segment, by RESULTS Director of US Poverty Campaigns Meredith Dodson

But we still have our work cut out for us. The House narrowly passed deep cuts to SNAP in September and now House and Senate negotiators must find a compromise Farm Bill, which will include SNAP. In the final showdown this fall, I know your work will continue to make a big impact.

Great job to everyone last month in pushing members of Congress to reject deep cuts to SNAP. While I share your disappointment that the House passed deep SNAP cuts, I strongly believe your actions made a difference – by making it a “tough” vote, by calling on Congress to do the right thing, I think you created the space for final legislation to not be nearly as devastating.

We must continue to urge Congress to work to protect and strengthen SNAP in any final Farm Bill or other legislation – and sending a strong message with strategic media placements, especially op-eds and editorials, will be key. *Our goal is to get at least 30 SNAP pieces published this month– including at least 4 editorials and 8 op-eds.*

Audio Segment: Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) from Coalition on Human Needs webinar

Started playback at 27:58: <http://chn.peachnewmedia.com/streaming/interface-v7.php?topic=60698&band=1&stream=1&id=&semid=22326&provider=106&custid=&static=1>

Key Actions on Our U.S. Poverty Campaigns

Why It Matters

Senator Mikulski (D-MD) flagged that, “What we are getting is feedback in the local media.” She also said, “All politics are local. I urge you to show the impact of these draconian cuts... the pressure has to come from the grassroots... The way we win hearts and minds is by influencing members... need to show what we are fighting for -- we need a safety net.”

Review of Talking Points

Use these talking points for conversations with your editorial writers or to draft an op-ed:

1. **Mention a recent story in the paper** highlighting Congress and the government shutdown, the budget, or the Farm Bill. These “hooks” increase the chances of your piece getting published.
2. Inform readers that in 2012, **more than 1 in 5 children in the U.S. were at risk of going to bed hungry at night** (21.6 percent). Studies show that children who are regularly hungry suffer from weakened immune systems, slowed and abnormal growth, and anemia.
3. Tell them **SNAP is our first line of defense against hunger in America**. It works – in 2012, SNAP lifted 4 million people out of poverty.
4. Explain that despite its success, Congress wants to cut SNAP as part of a new Farm Bill. Legislation passed by the **House cuts 4 million low-income people off SNAP and denies 210,000 children meals at school**.
5. In particular, point out the cruel and counterintuitive nature of the House's proposed SNAP cuts – **the legislation 1.7 million unemployed Americans off the program who live in high unemployment areas and want to work** but cannot find a job or a slot in a job training program.
6. Perhaps highlight that **the House bill throws parents with children as young as one who cannot find work or are unable to find safe and affordable child care for their young children off of SNAP**. Only one out of six low-income families eligible for child care assistance are able to receive it now.
7. **Urge your senators and representative by name to stand up for hungry children and families and reject the cuts to SNAP passed in the House**.

Note: To find contact information for media outlets in your area, including telephone numbers and addresses, visit our Media Guide at <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/media/>. In addition, see our Activist Toolkit pieces on [generating an editorial in your local paper](#) and [generating an op-ed](#). If others in your RESULTS group are taking the lead in generating editorials or op-eds, we urge you to use these talking points to [write a letter to the editor](#) to your local papers. Be sure to send your published piece to your members of Congress!

Generate media about protecting SNAP using our [SNAP media alert](#)

Other Campaigns Update

Quick tax reform update – EITC/CTC. In addition, keep asking members of Congress to support the [Financial Security Credit](#) by cosponsoring [H.R. 2917](#), the *Financial Security Credit Act of 2013*. You can also use our [online e-mail alert](#) to push for the FSC as well.

And, we continue to push for a major new investment in early learning with significant funding increases for [Head Start](#), [Early Head Start](#), and [Child Care](#). ... You can also send an e-mail to Congress about support these investments in early learning using our [online alert](#), also found on our website.

For more details, make sure you bookmark our U.S. Poverty Campaigns Summary page at: http://www.results.org/issues/us_current_campaigns/.

If you put in your requests for a face-to-face meeting in August, urge you to follow up... You can find scheduler

names and contact information on our [Elected Officials page](#) on the RESULTS website and we have an updated [Lobby Meeting Request letter](#).

Questions

Speaking Practice: Pitch Call to an Editorial Writer

Script available online at: http://www.results.org/take_action/october_2013_us%20poverty%20laser%20talk.

Grassroots Celebration: Great Work with Members of Congress and Mobilizing Others in Local Communities, Facilitated by RESULTS Volunteer Regional Coordinator Kem Spaulding

Shares: Working to Get Others Engaged

Tom Carson (*Cincinnati, OH*): mobilizing others through church letters

Lisa (*Charlottesville*): tabling at fair

Group was busy – met with conservative MoC, with help from Meredith able to talk through and address concerns – was very concerned with provision that gives states incentive to kick people off and very concerned. Hope can change.

Got free table at local vegetarian festival with goal to add to action network, got 20+ interested in action network and 5 interested in participating with group. Easy way to

Bernardsville

Shares: Successful meeting with members of Congress

San Diego: meeting with Davis

Several successes, including Daria Flores's Union Tribune LTE, thanked representatives who voted against cuts and called on those who supported the House cuts – using tip of including Members of Congress by name And got face-to-face lobby meeting with Rep. Susan Davis – discussed SNAP, EITC, and early childhood. Now following up with staff member to maintain that relationship.

And, have a new member Michael!

Open for additional Shares if time

Roll Call, Facilitated by RESULTS Arlington Volunteer David Tate

Hi, my name is David Tate and I am the leader of the Arlington, VA group.

Now let's do this month's Roll Call. Here are the questions we want you to answer this month:

1. **How many people are in the room? 68**
2. **How many op-eds, editorials, and letters to the editor will your group submit this month? (List each one specifically, e.g. 2 op-eds, 1 editorial, and 5 LTEs) 25 op-eds 12 editorials 47 LTEs**

In a minute, the operator will begin calling your groups by city. When your city is called, simply answer the question like this "Our numbers are 6, 5 LTEs, 2 editorials, 1 op-ed." Remember, the operator will unmute your phone when your city is called, so you don't need to do anything to your phone. Again, the questions are:

1. **How many people are in the room?**
2. **How many op-eds, editorials, and letters to the editor will your group submit this month? (List each one specifically, e.g. 2 op-eds, 1 editorial, and 5 LTEs)**

(after Roll Call): DC office, can we have the totals?

I look forward to working with you all... With that, I'll turn the call over to Jos.

Announcements by RESULTS Grassroots Manager Jos Linn

Now let me close out with some final announcements:

Virtual Thanksgiving Feast

Thanksgiving campaign highlighting our hunger work. Invite friends to donate online to help those suffering from hunger during a time of plenty. Hold an actual feast with your friends or just do an easy online campaign. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/2013RESULTSThanks.

Spread the word for upcoming fundraisers!

- [10/23 Austin, TX Evening event with Sam Daley-Harris](#)
- [10/25 Houston, TX Dinner with Sam Daley-Harris](#)
- 10/27 Bremerton/Kitsap, WA Luncheon w/ Larry Reed Contact: bethwilson1950@gmail.com
- [11/3 Ann Arbor, MI Afternoon event with Sam Daley-Harris](#)

Outreach: We are still working to start new RESULTS U.S. Poverty groups. If you know people interested in RESULTS in these or other places, please contact us!

- We welcome new groups **Orange County, CA** (completed training); **West Los Angeles, Boston, Kansas City, and Waterloo, IA** (in new group training)! Contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) to connect people you know to these new groups.
- We also welcome a new group in **Albuquerque, NM**. Contact Myrdin Thompson (mthompson@results.org) to connect people you know in NM.
- Zahara Heckscher is working to start groups in **New Hampshire and Maine** and will be in NH at the end of October. Connect her to people you know (zheckscher@results.org, (202) 489-8908).

Upcoming events:

- **RESULTS Media Training Call:** Tuesday, October 15 at 8:00 pm ET. (218) 862-1300, passcode 682494.
- **Vote for a RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund (REF) Grassroots Board Member.** Grassroots Board Members serve for a term of three years, and represent the volunteer body on the Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee of the Board of RESULTS and REF. You may vote for one candidate. You must vote **by November 6**. Read the [candidate bios](#), then [click here to vote](#).
- **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents Call:** Tuesday, October 15, 9:00 pm ET. (218) 486-1611, passcode RESULTS (7378587, plus #).
- **RESULTS Introductory Call:** Friday, October 25, 1:00 pm ET. Register for this or another Intro Call at www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSMeeetandGreet/.
- **You can find a full list of upcoming events, along with call-in numbers on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).**
- The next RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Conference Call is **Saturday, November 9, at 12:30 pm ET.**