

# National Meeting Summary

## Welcome

Joanne Carter, RESULTS Executive Director (Washington, DC)

Welcome everyone to the May 2015 RESULTS domestic poverty national meeting.

I want to start by saying that the media work and lobbying of Congress that you've done over the last two plus months to protect SNAP has been hugely important and it has had an impact. You may not know it but you literally led the media work on SNAP nationally!

Your media work coupled with nearly 3 dozen face-to-face meetings with members of the House and Senate has been an essential part of protecting SNAP and keeping Congress from fast-tracking SNAP cuts in the budget. The House had proposed \$125 billion in cuts to SNAP, block granting SNAP, and then making those cuts easier to pass by including them in budget reconciliation. BUT NONE of those SNAP cuts or dangerous policy changes are in the final budget resolution!

That is a huge testament to your media and congressional advocacy. I think we need to acknowledge that and share it with others.

The historian Howard Zinn, who wrote *A Peoples History of the United States*, believed that we need to understand our true and often untold history – the impact of ordinary people and people's movements in shaping our history – in order to understand our own power. And building on that, I'd say we need to embrace what we and our partners have accomplished in order to really own and use our power to keep making change in the future. And to help show other people that it's possible.

We'll be hearing from a number of you shortly on your media efforts – to learn from your challenges and what you did with persistence and creativity to overcome them to generate media. But we also want to use those successes and the impact we've had on protecting SNAP, to tell our stories, in order to instill some hope more broadly.

Because, in this challenging political moment we face two dangers – the danger of leaders in Congress enacting policies that disproportionately harm low-income families AND the danger of collective resignation and hopelessness about changing that – not just from our friends but from key advocates in DC.

And that brings me to the RESULTS International Conference July 18-21 in Washington DC:

Your media work is a real life tangible example that advocacy works, and your impact as advocates is one of the biggest reasons we need you with us in DC this summer.

We need you, we need all of us, for our lobby day with the House and Senate on July 21st.

We need you because while we avoided some of the early threats to SNAP, the Congressional budget resolution still calls for major cuts to critical programs that serve Americans with low or

modest incomes – and that will very likely mean threats to SNAP again this fall, and certainly threats to programs like Medicaid. So July is the moment to weigh in to prevent that.

And we need you because we have the chance to push to make tax policies fairer and to lock in and expand the EITC and CTC to benefit low-income families and move millions of people over the poverty line every year. Later in today's call, you will hear from a great conference call guest and ally, Reggie Oldak from National Women's Law Center, about tax fairness and the importance of low-income tax credits – to help us kick off this focus that will start again now and lead up to the conference.

We'll have some amazing speakers at the conference:

- Sister Simone Campbell
- Jared Bernstein, an important and influential progressive voice on economic policy who is a senior fellow at the CBPP and former economic advisor to VP Joe Biden
- Experts on poverty who are part of our grassroots network (Ayanna from Atlanta, Andy from Albuquerque, and Maxine from Indianapolis)
- And Senator Sherrod Brown, who is one of the most important and vocal champions for progressive tax policies, will kick off our lobby day.

We've worked to make the conference more affordable – \$100 until May 31. We do have a small amount of scholarship money available to help those who need financial assistance get to the conference – so please apply!

Thanks again for your essential work.

And Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there. And thank you to every one of you for working to ensure that no mother in this country has to watch her family go hungry at the end of the month or choose between food and rent.

Share your stories and please come to DC in July – we really need you.

Now I'll turn the call over to Jos Linn.

## **U.S. Poverty Campaigns Legislative Update**

Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns, RESULTS Des Moines volunteer (calling from Kansas City, MO)

### **FY 2016 Budget Resolution has passed**

- House passed it on April 30, [226-197](#)
- Senate passed it on May 5, [51-48](#)

### **Agreement Tries to Balance Budget on Backs of Low-income Americans**

- Deep cuts to [Medicaid](#)
- Repeals the *Affordable Care Act* including Medicaid expansion
- For non-defense discretionary programs such as [Head Start](#), [Early Head Start](#), and [Child Care](#), the budget leaves sequestration cuts in place and then makes even deeper cuts on top of that

- Defense spending, which is supposed to also be subject to sequestration, get an increase using a budget gimmick

### **BUT... No Fast Track Cuts to SNAP!**

- Remember that the House had proposed \$125 billion in cuts to SNAP, converting it into a block grant, and then fast-tracking those cuts with budget reconciliation – none of those are in the final budget
- SNAP is safe for now but threats are still there
- The budget sets targets for spending cuts that would likely require cuts to SNAP
- We'll likely see efforts to cut SNAP in the fall as Congress deals with spending bills and the debt ceiling.
- Because of your advocacy, any proposed cuts will be harder to pass the Senate, which may be enough to stop them.

### **RESULTS volunteers played an integral part in protecting SNAP from those fast-track cuts in the budget**

- As of yesterday, we've had 71 media pieces published about SNAP in 2015 (69 of them since March 1)
  - 56 letters to the editor
  - 8 editorials
  - 5 articles/radio
  - 2 op-eds
- Every letter – published or not – makes a difference
- This is a testament to the power of YOUR advocacy to make a difference
- See a full list of our SNAP media on the [RESULTS Blog](#)

## **Shares**

Facilitated by Jos Linn

### **Kathleen Duncan, RESULTS Houston (Houston, TX)**

Houston is very fortunate in that RESULTS has a Global group as well as a US Poverty Group and the two groups work well together. We had an exciting opportunity in that our Global partners asked for and received an editorial board meeting with The Houston Chronicle (in part because RESULTS Executive Director Joanne Carter was coming for a fund-raising event). The paper wanted to us to talk about SNAP.

The Houston Food Bank was contacted and agreed to accompany Joanne C and two Houston RESULTS volunteers. Just a word about the two food bank people who came – they are women who each have PhDs in science yet who now work in the Public Policy area of the food bank and, of course, gave weight and statistics to the local situation.

I was very proud to see Joanne there with these two impressive people. The Executive Editor of the paper told Joanne he had been to the RESULTS website and had read the section on how to get a face-to-face meeting with editorial board of your local paper and said he really like it.

Takeaway:

- The editorial writers said RESULTS should have submitted in advance the editorial we wanted
- Both groups (R & HFB) should come to the editorial board with “storybooks” - at least 2 families and state the consequences if SNAP cuts happen.
- RESULTS should have narrowed request to Houston Food Bank:
  - We will be targeting federal budget cuts; how is that going financially impact to HFB
  - What would be the monetary response for HFB (how much more \$ would HFB need to go after) if SNAP cuts happen

Knowing what your local editorial board wants to hear is I think tricky – feedback during the meeting included

- You are presenting lots of good info/data for a reporter; we are opinion
- What would be helpful (to editorial board), next time, rather than offer a primer on SNAP/poverty, we want specific bills, specific people to call out

Even though both groups promised to get back to the paper with storybooks before publishing, the paper published anyway without stories.

Back to you Jos.

**Begoña Caballero-Garcia, RESULTS Spartanburg/Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC)**

Hello to all RESULTS volunteers,

I live in SC and I have been a volunteer for RESULTS for 4 years. I listened to the April's conference call last month and I remember that the speakers urge us to write letters about the SNAP program as soon as possible. That is why the Monday following the national call, I got up earlier than usual, and I decided to write the letter to the paper before I went to work. The way I did this is very simple. I just went to the website [goupstate.com](http://goupstate.com), where one can submit letters to the Spartanburg Herald Journal online. To my surprise, the following day someone told me that she has read my letter in the paper.

In the last four years, I have submitted 7-8 letters related to RESULTS monthly actions and only one of them, also related to the SNAP program, was published two years ago. I was surprised with this recent publication because this local paper in Spartanburg is very conservative. In fact, it was easy for me to find an article published two weeks prior to mine, talking about fraud with the SNAP program. That article even said that people usually bought very expensive brand articles like handbags with SNAP money. I just cannot believe how some people keep insisting about fraud with SNAP. We all know that it is only 1% of misuse and that this program lifts millions of people out of poverty.

But the good news kept coming to our RESULTS group in Spartanburg, SC. My colleague Linda Powers, a communication professor at Wofford College and co-president of the Women League published a wonderful, really well written op-ed about SNAP only a week later. We are really happy about our group contributions to RESULTS. Thank you!

## Eva Nevarez St. John, RESULTS Las Cruces (Las Cruces, NM)

Eva Nevarez St. John of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Located about 45 miles north of El Paso, Texas, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in New Mexico.

Las Cruces was just introduced to RESULTS in late February of this year when two RESULTS members from Albuquerque and Santa Fe held a meeting about RESULTS in Las Cruces.

We participated in our first national call in March and had a training with Jos in April. During that training I agreed to write a Letter to the Editor about SNAPS for our group. I was motivated by my own personal experiences with SNAPS. As a single parent, SNAPS has been the only way my daughter has been able to feed herself and my two granddaughters, even though she works full-time. As a self-employed professional with a fluctuating income, I have found myself relying on SNAPS as well.

The training we got from Jos and during the April national call got me started. Jos sent me links for specific information about SNAPS in New Mexico. I got a lot of tips from the RESULTS website on how to use the media to protect SNAPS and writing an Op-Ed.

I drafted an Op Ed piece and sent it to Las Cruces RESULTS members for feedback. I incorporated their feedback and several members agreed to sign on. Then I called the Opinion Editor of the Las Cruces Sun-News and told him I wanted to publish an Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor about SNAPS in the next day or two. He told me that it would take a week or more to get an Op-Ed piece in. I sent him the Op-Ed and a shorter Letter to the Editor version. Two days later the Letter to the Editor appeared in the Las Cruces Sun-News, the Silver City Sun-News and the Deming Headlight.

## May Training – Celebrate the Power of Your Advocacy

Facilitated by Jos Linn

- It's important to acknowledge when your advocacy works
  - Victories – big or small - are hard to see sometimes so when you can see the fruits of your labor, don't keep it to yourself
  - It reminds you that the work you do with RESULTS matters and makes a difference
  - It's also a great way to promote RESULTS in your community and engage new people in our work - people like to hear success stories
  - Imagine you see a friend at the park and she asks what you've been up to lately, what would you say?
  - Is there a reason you would not talk about your SNAP success?
  - If you were the listener, which would interest you most?
    - Chris Evans wearing in a snug t-shirt in the latest *Avengers* movie?
    - The weather?
- OR
- Protecting 11-12 million people from potential cuts to their food assistance?

**Talking points you could use:**

1. You volunteer with RESULTS and we just had a significant success
2. Congress was pushing a budget that would have allowed them use a budget short cut deep cuts to SNAP (formerly food stamps)
3. These cuts could have forced 11-12 million Americans, many of them children, deeper into poverty
4. You and RESULTS were not going to take this lying down
5. You jumped into action. *List any actions you took: media, meetings, phone calls, letters, and e-mails.*
6. To protect SNAP, RESULTS volunteers:
  - Generated 69 media letters to the editor, op-eds, editorials, and articles between February and May
  - Met face-to-face with 33 representatives and senators
  - Made calls to Congress, wrote letters and e-mails, and talked to legislative aides
7. In the end, Congress left fast-track cuts to SNAP out of the final budget
8. Ask the person if they'd like to be a part of this kind of citizen empowerment and invite them to your next meeting

## May Action – Tell Congress to Prioritize Working Families

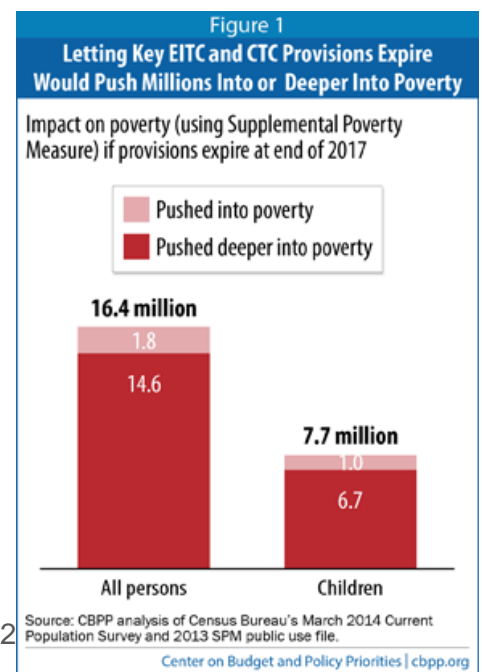
Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns (Washington, DC)

Similar to our work on SNAP, RESULTS provides critical “grassroots muscle” to tax policy work, especially efforts to make improvements to the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) and [Child Tax Credit](#) (CTC) permanent. In the coming months, we will dive deeper into why tax fairness matters and understanding wealth inequality, especially the [racial wealth gap](#), while we focus our specific policy “asks” on protecting and expanding the EITC and CTC. Why it matters – 16 million Americans will fall into/deeper into poverty:

### See our May Action: Tell Congress to Prioritize Working Families

May Action: [http://www.results.org/take\\_action/may\\_2015\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_action/](http://www.results.org/take_action/may_2015_u.s._poverty_action/)

1. **Mention a recent story in the paper** highlighting Congress, the budget, or **Introduce yourself** as someone who cares about economic mobility in America and as a RESULTS volunteer.
2. Share your concern that Congressional leaders are focused on tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy, rather than critical tax policies that **expand economic mobility in America**.
3. Remind them that the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)** support workers in low-wage jobs and lift more children out of poverty than any other programs.
4. Yet **critical improvements to the EITC and CTC for millions of low-income working families are set to expire**.



5. If these improvements expire, **over 16 million Americans, including 8 million children**, will fall into poverty or deeper into poverty. See the [CBPP post for state-by-state data](#).
6. Urge your representative or senators to **prioritize tax policies that help struggling families make ends meet, not corporate tax giveaways**. Specifically, urge them to communicate to:
  - House Ways and Means Chair Paul Ryan and Ranking Member Sander Levin
  - Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch and Ranking Member Ron Wydenand tell them that **they support making expiring EITC and CTC provisions permanent as their top tax priority, and back bipartisan proposals to expand the EITC**.

In face-to-face meetings, we'll also build support for these policies by getting co-sponsors for new EITC/CTC bills:

- [H.R.1286](#): makes EITC improvements permanent and expands EITC (House bill)
- [H.R.902](#) make CTC improvements permanent (House bill)
- *Working Families Tax Relief Act*, which is to be introduced soon, would expand both EITC and CTC (Senate bill)

## **Guest Speaker: Reggie Oldak, National Women's Law Center** (Washington, DC)

### **Bio**

Reggie Oldak is Senior Counsel for Family Economic Security and Director of Government Relations. She focuses particularly on taxes and the federal budget. Before joining the Center, Ms. Oldak worked for the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service and then in private practice on issues affecting the taxation of nonprofit organizations. She is a past president of the Montgomery County (MD) Commission for Women, currently chairs the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, and has worked extensively with local and state government representatives and community leaders in Maryland to advocate for issues central to the concerns of women and families. She has been active in politics and in 2006 won the endorsement of *The Washington Post* when she ran for (and almost won!) a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates. Ms. Oldak is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center and Smith College.

### **Questions**

1. **What does the National Women's Law Center do?**
  - NWLC: Nonprofit based in DC, have big list but not active members and affiliates. What members of Congress ask what going on at home, we need them to know that you are watching and pushing them – what RESULTS does.
  - Our mission: expand opportunities for women and girls by removing barriers based on gender, focus on low-income women. Work mainly federal but working with state advocates.

- Have new resource: Roadmap with [framework](#) integrated state agenda, goes along with federal versions put forward by Pelosi and Gillibrand.
  - Wages
  - Health insurance
  - Workers with family responsibilities
  - Pathways to opportunity
  - Barriers to collective action
  - Eliminate discrimination

**2. RESULTS has done a lot of work over the years on tax policy that addresses poverty, like the EITC and CTC and asset building programs. But perhaps we should take a step back a little and see how the tax code currently works for individuals and business. Can you give us a quick overview of who truly benefits from current tax policies in the U.S.?**

- Step back: how tax code works for individuals and businesses
- Doesn't work for middle and low-income and small businesses as well as it does for wealthy and corporations – because of loopholes
- Make distinction between small businesses and big corporations that move resources offshore
- Advocates often push for investments. Revenues mean taxes. If family needs more money for groceries, they can either stop eating or bring in more money; the same goes with government
  - NWLC and others want to bring in revenue and minimize spending cuts
- For a family, getting new revenue means getting jobs (or better paying ones) or a rich uncle leaving you money.
- As Bank robber Willie Sutton said when they asked him why he robbed banks, “that’s where the money is”, we need corporations and wealthy to pay fair share
- We have priorities: education, public safety, health.
  - All of these programs make our families and communities stronger
- Unfair tax breaks cost federal government billions per year when they could be used to expand opportunities
- Federal estate tax: most progressive, only paid by estates of wealthiest, cash/stocks
  - Only 1/700 deaths are taxable, 99.9% of estates pay no estate tax
  - If estate less than \$5.43million (twice that for couples), only the amount above that exemption is taxed, and then only after you deduct gifts to spouses, charitable donations, and funeral expenses.
  - If have stocks but have less than \$5mil, heirs get to revalue (“step up basis”) so appreciation never taxed – so that is how rich get richer and richer
- Congress cut estate tax in Bush tax cuts and again in 2010. In 2012: Congress made exclusion \$5 million per person (indexed to inflation) with 40 percent tax rate for assets that are taxed (before Bush tax cuts, exemption = \$675,000, 55 percent rate)



- Estate tax will raise \$14 billion from few estates this year, very few small businesses and farmers actually pay (only 20 estates *nationwide* paid any estate in 2013).
- Sen. Bernie Sanders has a bill that would make the exemption as \$3.5mil (same as 2009) and increase the rate
- Republicans, on the other hand, want to repeal it entirely. In a party line vote in April, the House voted to repeal the estate tax completely, at a cost of \$269 billion over 10 years
  - That would pay for child care (\$82 billion), universal Pre-K (\$75 billion), and tuition free community college for two years (\$62 billion)
  - Senator John Thune's bill similar to House, but advocates pushed back and now it likely won't come up for a vote in the Senate. But majority of senators supported repealing the estate tax in non-binding resolution. Watch Sen. Joe Manchin (only Dem to support it) and thank Sen. Susan Collins (voted against it)
- Another way tax code subsidizes wealthy: capital gains – tax on these assets is much less than income
- Mortgage interest deduction: only benefits you if you itemize your deduction (i.e. if you're wealthier). Even if you take it, better if you're wealthier, e.g. if mortgage interest is \$10,000 highest tax bracket gets a \$3,950 deduction, but lowest tax bracket gets only \$1500.
- Corporate giveaway: tax deferral. Allows companies to defer taxes and in some cases, not pay them at all.

**3. *What are some of the things we can do to correct some of this imbalance and create a tax code that benefits more low-income Americans?***

- No major tax reform will likely happen while Obama is president
- Concerned about possible vehicles for tax changes – dangers and opportunities
  - Senate Finance Committee working groups
  - Highway trust fund
  - Obama proposed closing loopholes
  - Debt ceiling: has been officially reached already but won't run out of money until fall – could try to use raising debt ceiling legislation to repeal estate tax
  - Tax extenders bill (mostly corporate tax breaks)
- Tax extenders routinely extended each year, including some with broad support and giveaways
  - In 2014, we worked hard to make sure no corporate tax breaks were made permanent without EITC and CTC provisions also being made permanent
  - They were extended for just one year extension so this will come up again in 2015
  - Paul Ryan (Chair of House Ways and Means) on extenders: he wants to address this summer with international corporate tax reform and highway trust fund
  - This gives us opportunity to push for permanent extension of EITC and CTC improvements
- How to address EITC “fraud”,

- Reports say ERROR rate is around 25 percent, but error is not the same as fraud
  - These reports are probably overstating error rate
- Also, very complicated
  - Congress could simplify the EITC
  - Nina Olsen found that when get people get help in calculating their EITC, many compliant
- Finally, many of these returns were done by paid preparers
  - IRS wants to regulate paid preparers but needs authorization from Congress
- Tax issues will be key in June/July and August recess
  - Push for wealthy and corporations to pay fair share
  - Insist that “refundables” (EITC, CTC) go with any corporate tax changes

### Questions from RESULTS volunteers?

#### ***Houston: Do we want to repeal or not repeal estate tax?***

Not repeal. This is revenue to pay for government priorities, plus estate tax reduces how much you inherit; you don't have to pay it (paid before you inherit). We need that revenue to pay for other priorities!

#### ***Judy (Des Moines): Some say we need bring back jobs to the U.S. so we need to reduce corporate tax rates. Is that true?***

- Currently U.S. corporate tax rate is 35% but very few big corporations pay that much because of loopholes. For an individual, if you're in the 28% tax bracket but itemize your deductions, you might pay a 22% “effective rate”; same with corporations.
- Some are paying NOTHING and some are even getting refunds because of loopholes
- But must distinguish between big corporations and small businesses. For the latter, they might actually pay 35%
- It's a race to the bottom if everyone decreases the tax rate

### Resources

NWLC supports federal tax benefits like the EITC, CTC, and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) that reward work and help hard-working parents lift their families out of poverty. Because women still typically earn less than men, are nearly two-thirds of minimum-wage workers, and are the vast majority of single parents, robust and refundable family tax credits are especially important to women.

Below are links to some of our resources on economic security for women and their families.

1. Two-Thirds of Benefits from Improved Tax Credits for Working Families Go to Women and Their Families: [http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/two-thirds\\_of\\_benefits\\_from\\_improved\\_tax\\_credits\\_for\\_working\\_families\\_go\\_to\\_women\\_and\\_children\\_dec\\_2014changed\\_boxes.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/two-thirds_of_benefits_from_improved_tax_credits_for_working_families_go_to_women_and_children_dec_2014changed_boxes.pdf)

2. The EITC and the Refundable Child Tax Credit Are Extremely Important to Women's Economic Security:  
<http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/taxcreditsanalysismay2015.pdf>
3. The President's Proposed EITC Expansion Would Benefit 6.1 Million Working Women at All Stages of Their Lives:  
[http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/eitc\\_expansion\\_fact\\_sheet\\_april\\_2014.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/eitc_expansion_fact_sheet_april_2014.pdf)
4. A Women's Economic Agenda Must Help Women and Families Succeed:  
<http://www.nwlc.org/resource/women%E2%80%99s-economic-agenda-must-help-women-and-families-succeed>

Also, many state policies don't reflect our current economic reality and don't ensure women's access to key services and supports that affect their economic stability. Now is the time for advocates and legislators to advance a broad vision that knocks down these barriers, remedies discrimination, ensures accountability, and provides key supports that enable women and their families to be economically secure.

- [Moving Women & Families Forward: A State Roadmap to Economic Justice](#)
- [Webinar: Moving Women & Families Forward: A State Roadmap to Economic Justice](#)

**Other Helpful EITC/CTC Resource from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**

- State fact sheets on EITC/CTC: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/state-fact-sheets-the-earned-income-and-child-tax-credits>

## **Fundraising and Announcements**

Ginnie Vogts, RESULTS Columbus (Columbus, OH)

As I am sure many of you have heard, RESULTS is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. In addition to the numerous opportunities we will be taking during the International Conference to celebrate this milestone, this year, RESULTS will be hosting a Benefit Gala on the Wednesday night following this conference.

The evening will include remarks from Professor Muhammad Yunus and an awards ceremony recognizing two congressional champions, Senators Dick Durbin and Richard Lugar, and the extraordinary advocacy of two of our own grassroots volunteers.

The gala is not just about celebration, it is also an opportunity for us to raise the resources we need to serve and power our mission. The proceeds from this event will provide critical funding for RESULTS to both continue its core work, like the incredible support we consistently receive from staff like Jos, Ken, and Lisa, but also propel the expansion of RESULTS into all 50 states and around the globe. We hope our partners will join us to celebrate our success and help fund many new achievements in the years ahead.

As our most committed supporters, we could not imagine celebrating our past and looking forward to the future without you. We hope that you all will join us in staying an additional night this year in DC and help fund many new achievements in the years ahead. For more

information, please feel free to reach out to myself or Jerusa Contee on RESULTS staff. Or visit the RESULTS website.

## Announcements

1. Celebrate 35 Years with RESULTS by joining us at the RESULTS International Conference, this July 18-21 in Washington, DC
  - [REGISTER TODAY!](#) Remember that the registration fee is only \$100 for active RESULTS volunteers; only \$200 for non-volunteers. But please register before June 1 – the rates go up \$100 each after that.
  - Also, please book your hotel through the [RESULTS website](#) by June 1. We can't guarantee you a room at the lower rate after that. You can book your room when you register or later. If you would like a roommate to share costs with, send a message to the e-mail listed in the slides.
  - If you want to come to the conference but need financial assistance getting there, we want to help. Please fill out our [RESULTS U.S. Poverty Activist Scholarship Fund form](#) to apply for assistance today.
  - As you set up your lobby meetings for the conference, please fill out our [Conference Lobby Meeting form](#) so we can track all the meetings in DC.
  - Join our Advocacy 101 training this Monday, May 11 at 12:00pm ET on the basics of how to have a good lobby meeting and what to expect during our conference Lobby Day. We'll repeat this webinar over the next two months. Join online at: <https://www.fuze.me/28699630> or by phone at (201) 479-4595, passcode 28699630. (see other dates on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#)).
  - Finally, check out the new [RESULTS International Conference Resources page](#), which has our new [Conference Checklist](#) and other helpful materials. You can find it under about on our International Conference page. We'll be uploading all our conference resources to this page in the coming weeks.
2. If you had a lobby meeting recently, please let us know how it went by filling out our Lobby Meeting Report form at: [www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF).
3. RESULTS Introductory Call, May 13 at 9:00 pm ET. If you are new to RESULTS, learn more about our work by joining our next RESULTS Intro Call. Register for this or another call on the [RESULTS website](#).
4. RESULTS Free Agents, May 19 at 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET. If you live in an area with no active RESULTS U.S. Poverty group, please join us. Login at <http://fuze.me/27491886> or by phone at (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 27491886. Contact Jos Linn ([jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org)) for details.
5. You can find these and other events, along with login information, in the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#) on the RESULTS website. Our next U.S. Poverty National Meeting will be Saturday, June 13 at 12:30pm ET.

Finally, tomorrow is Meredith Dodson's birthday! It's also Jos Linn's daughter Stella's birthday too. And it's Mother's Day. So please unmute your own line and let's wish Meredith and Stella Happy Birthday and all the mothers out there a very Happy Mother's Day!