

National Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker

Joanne Carter, RESULTS Executive Director (Washington, DC)

Welcome everyone to the June 2015 RESULTS Domestic Anti-poverty virtual meeting! Just a reminder that the Conference Call slides can be found in the Take Action box in the top right hand corner of the RESULTS homepage. We urge you to download them and scroll them yourselves during the call.

We have a very special guest today so we're going to go right to our guest speaker section.

As you all know, RESULTS is working hard to push policies and identify strategies that address the wide discrepancies in wealth in this country—this wealth gap is not just a marker of poverty. It's also a leading driver of persistent poverty.

One of the issues related to wealth inequality that we know doesn't get enough attention is the racial wealth gap; that is, the wealth gap between Whites and people of color.

The enormous racial wealth disparities in this country are rooted in historic injustices, but also carried forward by policies and practices that fail to reverse these inequalities. And as a result, racial wealth disparities, like wealth inequality overall, continue to grow. That's what we need to tackle--both by increasing awareness *and* the right policies.

Guest Speaker – Congressman John Conyers (D-MI-13)

We are extremely fortunate and honored that Congressman John Conyers is with us today to help us better understand this issue and ways to address it.

There is no one in Congress who has worked harder, with more vision, courage, and persistence to promote economic and social justice, health care for all, voting rights, and so many other critical issues over the last 5+ decades.

Congressman Conyers represents the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, in the Detroit area, and is now in his 26th term in the House. He is the Dean of the House, as its most senior member. He has served as Chairman of House Committee on Government Operations and the House Judiciary Committee and is now the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee. He's also a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

His accomplishments include the Violence Against Women Act, the Motor Voter Bill and the Martin Luther King Holiday Act. He was also the driving force behind the Help America Vote Act of 2002. For more than three decades, Congressman Conyers has led efforts in Congress to reform the health care system.

Thanks so much for being with us today, Congressman Conyers, and I know you only have a few minutes.

1. First—RESULTS is working to increase attention on the racial wealth gap, can you help us understand how we got here? AND, *in particular*, how government policies have played an active role in creating and perpetuating the racial wealth gap?
 - Congratulations to RESULTS to helping us all understand how we got into this problem and what we can do about this. This is a very important gathering because you are volunteer activists, with government reps and the media, bringing together people from different levels to work together and connect
 - RESULTS is great! What would we do without you? [You are] the power to end poverty!
 - We need to understand where we are and what we can do to move forward.
 - We need universal national health program
 - It would be nice if President Obama sealed his legacy by stepping up for full unemployment
 - Several RESULTS staff attended Color of Wealth Summit – exchanged ideas and strategized together.
 - Incredibly, the racial wealth gap is getting worse than better
 - Need to create tax policies to create more wealth for more Americans – expand EITC and the Child Tax Credit
 - It's very important coming together, something I want to work on and get something accomplished
 - We must consider: How did we get here? How did government policy play an active role in creating the racial wealth gap
 - Unacceptable that for every \$1 of white net worth, people of color have less than 7 cents! This is a gap we have to close!
 - No secret that discriminatory policies have played a role in this – out of the legacy of enslavement, which for many families is still just a few generations ago
 - African-Americans still suffering from this legacy – despite the fact that their labor was a driving economic force for growth
 - White Americans were paid for their work, reap the benefits of their labor, and provide opportunities to their children.
 - Government policy hasn't recognized the monumental economic impact of slave labor, just "turned loose", re-enslaved without any places to go or government supports
 - Since then, government-sanctioned policies contribute to maintaining wealth gap, giving advantages to some and disadvantages to others.
2. We know this is a big issue and there is no magic bullet to fix the problem. RESULTS believes a very important first step in addressing this problem is to protect and expand

the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. What opportunities do you see for our volunteers to make the EITC and CTC a top priority in Congress this year and what other policies would you recommend as effective in reducing the racial wealth gap?

- EITC and Child Tax Credit are front and center
- We must turn our attention to full employment. HR 1000:
 - Full employment – measured regionally and locally, so really know what's going on throughout US
 - Document what the market has done to people of color, and know what we are moving towards

Joanne: we'll have several hundreds of RESULTS volunteers on Capitol Hill next month, hope to see you at our Capitol Hill reception (July 21)

Rep. Conyers: I look forward to your reception, and reach out to members and organizations to connect with others that realize the importance of our struggle to close this incredible disparity between those who have and those who have not. There is nothing more important that I should be working on than everyone understanding that full employment is a need in our nation.

Racial Wealth Gap Quiz

Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns (Des Moines, IA)

The racial wealth gap is a very important issue, but one that is not talked about enough. As a result, many of us are not aware of just how deep it goes.

To educate ourselves better on the issue, let's test our knowledge on the racial wealth gap with a little quiz.

1. In 2011, how much wealth did Black and Latino households own for every \$1 dollar White households owned?
 - A. A Black family held 30 cents and a Hispanic family held 20 cents
 - B. A Black family held 6 cents and a Hispanic family held 7 cents
 - C. A Black family held 50 cents and a Hispanic family held 63 cents
2. The average top 0.1 percent of households gets how much in benefits from homeownership tax programs?
 - A. \$17,276
 - B. \$10,276
 - C. \$3
3. As of 2013, what is the ratio of Black wealth to White wealth?
 - A. 10:1
 - B. 13:1

- C. 9:1
4. How many Latino families do NOT hold financial assets?
 - A. 1 in 5
 - B. 1 in 4
 - C. 1 in 3
 5. Which of the following is true?
 - A. A Black college graduate owns less wealth than a White high school dropout.
 - B. A Latino college graduate owns less wealth than a White high school dropout.
 - C. Both A & B
 6. What is the largest driver of the racial wealth gap?
 - A. Inequalities in education
 - B. Inequalities in homeownership
 - C. Inequalities in income
 7. What is redlining?
 - A. A practice that denies or charges premium prices for mortgages and other services in certain neighborhoods, specifically those of color
 - B. A federal tax program that benefits helps middle income Americans buy a home
 - C. A policy that targets specific neighborhoods for urban renewal and fair housing policies
 8. Which of the following is considered the most significant cause of the racial wealth gap?
 - A. Lack of educational attainment
 - B. Racially-motivated/discriminatory public policies
 - C. Natural occurrences with such a diverse country
 9. What percentage of Black workers weren't included in the original Social Security Act created by FDR?
 - A. 65 percent
 - B. 50 percent
 - C. 25 percent
 10. How can we begin to close the racial wealth gap?
 - A. Equalizing homeownership rates
 - B. Fair tax policies
 - C. Both

Answers

1. In 2011, how much wealth did Black and Latino households own for every \$1 dollar White households owned?

B. A Black family held 6 cents and a Hispanic family held 7 cents in wealth

Source: http://globalpolicysolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Beyond_Broke_FINAL.pdf

2. The average top 0.1 percent of households gets how much in benefits from homeownership tax programs?

A. \$17,276

The U.S. tax code spends over \$540 billion per year in asset building programs and incentives, the overwhelmingly majority of which goes to the wealthiest families.

Source: http://cfed.org/assets/pdfs/Upside_Down_to_Right-Side_Up_2014.pdf

3. As of 2013, what is the ratio of White wealth to Black wealth?

B. 13:1

This ratio has actually grown since the Great Recession. Pew Research Center points out that financial assets (stocks and investments), which White families are much more likely to own, recovered quicker than housing assets.

Source: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/12/racial-wealth-gaps-great-recession/>

4. How many Latino families do NOT hold financial assets?

C. 1 in 3

35 percent of Hispanic households had no tangible or financial assets in 2011. By comparison, only 14 percent of White households had no financial assets. In addition, 33 percent of African Americans and 28 percent of Latinos have either no or negative net worth, compared to only 13 percent of Whites.

Source: http://globalpolicysolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Beyond_Broke_FINAL.pdf

5. Which of the following is true?

C. Both A & B

Often times, education is seen as the vehicle of opportunity for people to be economically mobile. However, in terms of wealth, education alone will not be nearly enough to close the racial wealth gap.

Source: <http://www.demos.org/blog/9/23/14/white-high-school-dropouts-have-more-wealth-black-and-hispanic-college-graduates>

6. Currently, what is the largest driver of the racial wealth gap?

B. Inequalities in homeownership

Homeownership counts for 27 percent of the racial wealth gap, the largest driver, compared to 20 percent for income, and 5 percent for education.

Source: http://iasp.brandeis.edu/pdfs/2013/Roots_of_Widening_RWG.pdf

7. What is redlining?

- A. A practice that denies or charges premium prices for mortgages and other services in certain neighborhoods, specifically those of color.

Redlining was a practiced widely used by banks and insurance companies in the early to mid-20th century. Neighborhoods that were primarily comprised of racial minorities were denied bank loans and other services and directed to instead to subprime lending options. Therefore, communities of color across the country were denied access to the tools of upward mobility, leading to a severe disinvestment in their communities. Although outlawed in the 1970s, its effects are still being felt.

Source: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1050.html>

8. Which of the following is the most significant cause of the racial wealth gap?

- B. Racially-motivated/discriminatory public policies

It is easy to assume that this wealth gap is because people of color do not attain enough education, or earn enough, or that it [just happened](#). But history shows that policies at the federal, state, and local levels (especially housing policies) explicitly or implicitly denied communities of color access to wealth building opportunities that were available to White Americans.

Source: <http://www.epi.org/publication/modern-segregation/>

9. What percentage of Black workers weren't included in the original Social Security Act created by FDR?

- A. 65 percent

Originally the Social Security Act of 1935 – a huge success at lifting millions of older Americans out of poverty – disallowed benefits for domestic workers and many farmers. Black Americans primarily worked in these industries and thus were prevented from building retirement savings. These workers were not permitted to participate in the program until 1954.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/06/03/a-second-look-at-social-securitys-racist-origins/>

10. How can we begin to close the racial wealth gap?

- C. Both A & B

It will take intentional public policies – both within the [housing and tax spheres](#) – to be able to begin decreasing the gap.

Luckily, we have you to help make it happen!

Source: <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118425/closing-racial-wealth-gap>

Additional Resources about the Racial Wealth Gap

- [Beyond Broke: Why Closing the Racial Wealth Gap is a Priority for National Economic Security](#) from the Center for Global Policy Solutions
- [The Racial Wealth Gap](#) from Demos and the Institute for Assets and Social Policy
- [Modern Segregation](#) by Richard Rothstein (Economic Policy Institute)
- [The Making of Ferguson](#) by Richard Rothstein (Economic Policy Institute)
- [The Case for Reparations](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates (The Atlantic)

June Action – Tell Congress to Prioritize Working Families

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

The [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) and [Child Tax Credit](#) (CTC) are key supports for low-income working families and can play a role in combatting wealth inequality.

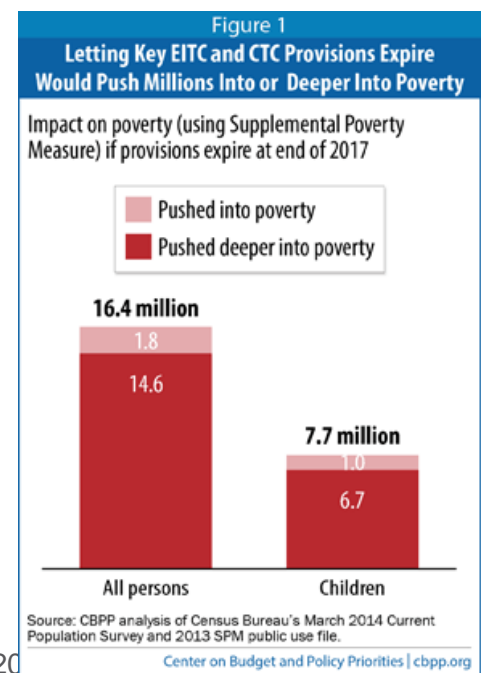
We will continue to educate ourselves on other ways to address wealth inequality and the racial wealth gap, our key priority is to ensure the EITC and CTC improvements are permanently extended.

Help amplify your voice on this issue in upcoming lobby meetings at the [RESULTS International Conference](#) or back home by generating letters from people in your community protecting and expanding the EITC and CTC.

June Action – Urge Your Community to Take Action on Tax Fairness

http://www.results.org/take_action/june_2015_u.s._poverty_action/

1. **Create a list of 10 or more people you'll ask to take action.** Look to your local action network, friends and colleagues at work, online contacts through Facebook and Twitter, and others you know.
 - Quick brainstorm: who can you target?
2. **Make it easy for people to engage.** Plan to go to events in your community and invite people to write letters (e.g. community events, religious services, college campuses, etc.). Share our [EITC/CTC outreach action sheet](#) or [our online tax credit action](#) for them to use (can print off the online version).
3. **Share why you care about this issue.** Share why you are passionate about tax fairness and ending poverty. Also, stories from people who have directly experienced poverty or know the importance of the EITC and Child Tax Credit for their own families make a huge impact.



4. **Let people know that their letters will make a difference.** Tell people you would like to hand-deliver their letters to members of Congress at the RESULTS International Conference or in an upcoming lobby meeting in your state. Afterwards, share a picture of you in the Congressional office so they can see the impact!

Note: To find contact information for members of Congress, visit our Elected Officials page at: <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>. For other advocacy tips, check out our Activist Toolkit at http://www.results.org/skills_center/activist_toolkit/.

Shares

Facilitated by Savannah Gross, U.S. Poverty Campaigns Intern

My name is Savannah Gross and I am excited to serve as an intern for RESULTS. Over the course of this summer, I will be working with the Domestic team towards the protection and expansion of the EITC and CTC. Currently, I am an undergraduate student at Emory University in Atlanta, majoring in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and Religion. I am interning through the EYA program of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, and I am interested in pursuing a Masters of Divinity after completing my undergraduate education. I am hoping to learn about legislative policy in D.C. and to explore the connections between the church and social justice institutions.

I'm happy to facilitate our Shares section this month. Our first share comes from Ginnie Vogts in Columbus, who will share about engaging others in her community to take action like our June Action.

Ginnie Vogts, RESULTS Houston (Columbus, OH)

As you know by now, our June Action is to collect letters from constituents about the benefits of EITC and CTC to take them to our elected officials when we are in DC. Nothing is better than to be able to hand something from home to your Representative when you are in their territory. One time my daughter and I made booklets from a newspaper series on hunger and presented one to each office. We went through a lot of paper and scotch tape but it was fun and impressive.

Sometimes people are shy about asking folks to do something like write letters. Rather than turn it into a big project you can try some of the following:

1. *Start with your group members who are not able to attend the IC this year. Ask them to write letters and get one or two other people to write as well. Use the sheet provided by Results as a template.*
2. *Go to familiar groups like your book club, social justice group at church, running friends, family, etc. Explain that you are going to Washington, paying for your trip yourself, attending several days of trainings and workshops and trudging up to the Hill to lobby for fair tax policy. Offering to take their personal message directly to their Member of Congress should be persuasive.*

3. Try setting up a table at your local Farmers' Market, Art Festival or 5K run. With the right props (paper, pens, background info, writing points, chairs and writing surfaces plus some goodies) you should be able to generate some authentic letters.

What I have done is take the EITC/CTC sheet to my church's Justice Action Ministry meeting. When I gave my report on the upcoming IC trip I also passed out the sheets and asked the folks there to write letters. I will collect them at church or they will mail them to me. I will also accept emailed ones that I will print out. My colleagues seemed glad that I would personally deliver their letters. Once people understand how tax policy has played such a huge role in wealth inequality and ongoing poverty they really get fired up and you can provide them with an avenue for real advocacy.

Please try some of these suggestions and if you come up with other ideas share them on the listserv so we can all have an armful of letters to deliver on July 21.

Sara Buckingham, RESULTS Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)

Hi Everyone, this is Sara from the Baltimore group. I was asked to share about how I have integrated the skills I have gained from RESULTS into my professional work as well as my excitement about RESULTS beginning to more strongly focus its work on the racial wealth gap. I will start with my professional work.

As some of you know, I am a PhD candidate in clinical and community psychology and so I spend a good deal of time at academic conferences sharing my research and learning from others. One of my specialties is community research and action – meaning that I am a member of a professional organization that seeks to translate the research we do into appropriate actions. Of course, advocating for policy is a very effective way to put research into action! However, many of us academic folk do not get training in how to translate our research to policy makers or even folks outside of the research world! I have grown my skillset so much over my time in RESULTS and have wanted to share it with academics in my field. So, Meredith and I have been developing a presentation on engaging in policy advocacy as academics, which we will be presenting at my professional organization's biennial conference in 2 weeks. I encourage you to think about who can benefit from the knowledge and skills RESULTS helps you to develop as we recruit new advocates!

Second, I wanted to note how incredibly proud I am to be part of an organization that is openly talking about the racial wealth gap. As you probably know, the death of Freddie Gray in police custody has sparked renewed conversation about racial disparities in my city, Baltimore, and across our country. Redlining, predatory lending, and unfair tax policies have pushed people of color further in poverty while benefitting white, middle and upper class members of our society. I work in the community where Freddie Gray was killed. I have seen the effects of decades upon decades of systematic oppression in my city, and I see the effects that poverty has on my clients. Truth be told, my colleagues and I often remark about how many fewer clients we would have or at least the fewer and less significant their problems if poverty were alleviated. We must talk about the racial wealth gap, and yet, the racial wealth gap is not an easy topic to talk about. Even though I care deeply about raising consciousness about the systematic oppression that happens in our society along race and class lines, as a white instructor, therapist, and researcher, it can be difficult to have these conversations with people of all backgrounds. We

must not shy away from these difficult conversations because the level of unease they cause us only suggests the more imperative change is. Few organizations are having these conversations so publically, and I'm so proud to call myself a member of RESULTS because we are. I thank you all for your work on this effort.

Lisa Peters, RESULTS DC (Washington, DC)

Thank you for asking me to speak about how to partner with local organizations. Back in January, my husband and I dropped off donations to amazing local organization called "A Wider Circle." They gave us a postcard on their "National Conference to End Poverty." My bells and whistles went off. I got hold of the staff there, they invited us to have a table, and I asked them to help line up a advocacy session at the conference. Though it was a "national" conference, we got to tell lots of local people, now we have several people who've come to our meetings over the past few months. To help them stay engaged and not get overwhelmed, we have our experienced members mentor the new folks. We are really excited about this and looking for other opportunities!

Before we go to our Announcements, I want to briefly review your accomplishments for the year so far. You are certainly making this year another successful one.

- For media, you've generated 100 media pieces in just five and half months. Wow! You're easily on pace to break our U.S. Poverty media record of 143, set in 2013.
- For face-to-face meetings, you ahead of last year's pace with 43 meetings in 2015 (we had 36 at this time last year).
- We've started two new groups so far this year and several more in training. Speaking of which, we want to give a shout out to Indianapolis. Our U.S. Poverty group there was started as a hybrid of RESULTS and Circles. While the group is still made up of people from both groups, they are venturing out to become a stand-alone RESULTS group and today is their first meeting in that capacity. Congratulations!
- You've also had 27 outreach events this year, which is great, but we'll have to kick it up a notch to reach our goal of 100 by year's end.

Congratulations on all the success you've had in 2015, and it's not even half over. This work makes a difference. You're keeping poverty fresh in lawmaker's minds, educating your communities on what works, and teaching people every day that all it takes to create change is the will to do it. Thank you all! We look forward to more amazing accomplishments from all of you in the second half of the year.

Announcements

Susan Fleurant, U.S. Poverty Campaigns Intern

My name is Susan Fleurant and I am from Chugiak, Alaska. I am excited to join RESULTS for the summer as a U.S. Poverty Campaigns Intern. My work will focus primarily on SNAP. This fall I will be a senior at Colby College in Maine where I am a double major in Government and Sociology. My primary interest is health policy, specifically racial and socioeconomic disparities

in health. I plan on attending graduate school to pursue a Master in Public Policy. I look forward to working with the RESULTS team this summer and further developing my advocacy skills.

And now for a few Announcements:

- The RESULTS International Conference is only 35 days away. We have over 300 people registered but there's room for more. We want you there.
 - To make it easier for you to attend, we are having a **FARE SALE THIS WEEKEND ONLY!** Here's your last chance to attend the Conference at the lowest price! If you register before midnight ET tomorrow (June 14), we will waive your \$100 late registration fee. Just go to the conference registration page (http://www.results.org/events/IC_2015/) and enter code "IC100F" when you check out. That will discount your registration by \$100.
 - Come celebrate our 35th Year in Washington with us next month!
 - **Please make sure to book your hotel through the RESULTS website when you register.** We cannot guarantee rooms at the discounted rate after Monday, June 15.
 - **Also, don't forget about our Gala Raffle!** If you help someone new register for this year's conference, you could win 2 free tickets to the RESULTS Gala on July 22 (plus a free night at the hotel for June 22). The person must register by noon, Monday, June 15. E-mail Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) with your name and the person you registered. The Raffle drawing will take place on June 16.
 - Next, before you leave today, please coordinate with your group members coming to DC on dates when you can do a **Lobby Prep Call with Meredith Dodson**. These calls are very important; they help you prepare for your DC lobby meetings, including what policy aides you should ask to be in your meetings. Meredith is available for calls June 22-26 and July 6-16. Pick a few dates and times you're available and Jos will reach out to you next week to schedule the call.
 - Be sure to check out the [RESULTS International Conference Resources page](#), including the [Conference Checklist](#). The U.S. Poverty Legislative Handbook will be available June 19.
 - Finally, once you set up **conference lobby meetings**, please enter them in to [Conference Lobby Meeting Form](#).
- **RESULTS Free Agents, June 16 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) for details.
- **Join our Advocacy 101 training on June 24 at 9:00pm ET** on the basics of how to have a good lobby meeting and what to expect during our conference Lobby Day. 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](#))

- **RESULTS Introductory Call, June 26 at 1:00 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](#).
- **Fill out our Lobby Meeting Report Form** for any lobby meetings you've done recently. www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF.
- Our next U.S. Poverty National Meeting will be **Saturday, July 11 at 12:30pm ET.** We look forward to talking to you then.

Finally, let's give a shout out to all the Dads out there. Unmute your lines or press *1 on your phone and let's wish all the Dads a very Happy Father's Day next week!