



National Meeting Summary

Experts on Poverty Share

Maxine Thomas, RESULTS Indianapolis

Hello everyone and thank you for your time. My name is Maxine Thomas and I am the group Leader for the RESULTS U.S. Poverty group in Indianapolis. I am also one of the RESULTS Experts on Poverty. The Real Experts are a collective group of individuals like myself who are living in poverty here in America. The new Experts group has developed a family-like relationship which we support each other and share our personal stories and have grown by finding ways to empower our community on issues on poverty. I know firsthand what it's like to be faced with poverty. Working full time and when pay day comes, my check isn't enough to pay everything like rent and even gas to fill up my van for the week).

I first heard about RESULTS when I met Myrdin Thompson, a former RESULTS staff at my Circles group here in Indianapolis one Thursday evening. I felt the compassion she had regarding ending poverty. I went online and registered to receive updates from RESULTS. I soon, learned of the International Conference in Washington, DC and I was quite interested in attending. Weeks later, there was an announcement made to our Circles group of those who would like to attend the IC. I was ecstatic and I submitted a letter of my desire to attend. I was selected to go. Woot Hoot.

Not understanding fully what I was to do in DC at the Conference, I along with 2 other Circles Leaders split up to attend different sessions. I took very well to the Global aspects of RESULTS. I thought I was going to change the world because of the needs internationally. Well, the night before lobby day, which I was still learning these terms. We were grouped with our respective state groups. That is when I discovered and soon learned about our issues here in the US. Even more important, my own reasons as to why I should be there. It was then that I found out the threat to the EITC/CTC! The Earned Income Tax Credit has helped my family where we are able to pay our bills that are in disconnect to keep from being without power and lights, fill my van up with gas without the stress of it coming from rent money, and even take my kids to the mall to get a new pair of shoes, that are so needed after they have worn out their shoes since the beginning of the school year, or because they have outgrown the pair they have.)

So, now I was filled with much emotions and disbelief that this was even a discussion or threat. I lobbied my congress on Capitol Hill and expressed my truth by sharing my story and the importance of this program. A year later, I was asked to be a speaker for the Experts panel during the 2015 RESULTS Conference. Thanks to Kristy Martino, Jos Linn, and Meredith Dodson.

What's most fulfilling is I have found my VOICE with RESULTS by speaking out on issues of Poverty in the US, and now I have the great opportunity to meet with my Congressman this Tuesday to share my story, talk about what we do here at RESULTS and ask for his support to protect the EITC and CTC.

Welcome

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

Welcome to this month's webinar. You can [download the slides](#) from the Take Action Box on the RESULTS Homepage

Thank you for your fabulous media work last month.

- Your media is keeping the EITC and CTC fresh in lawmakers' and your communities' minds – in fact, you're leading the way in getting attention on this in the media
- Since September 1, you've gotten 26 media pieces published – 3 editorials, 6 op-eds, and 17 LTES
- This brings our yearly total to 137, only 7 away from breaking our all-time record (143 set in 2013)

Working to keep the pressure on Congress this month by meeting with MoCs and calling tax aides about saving the EITC and CTC provisions

Agenda for the Call

- Guest Speaker: Gideon Bragin of Sen. Sherrod Brown's office
- Overview of October Action
- Success stories from your recent media work
- Fundraising Announcement from Jerusa Contee
- Final Announcements

Economic Mobility Campaign Update and October Action Review

Jos Linn

Congress is working to finalize a number of big issues this fall, including making certain business tax credits permanent. Yet, key provisions of the EITC and CTC will expire in 2017, which would force 16 million people into or deeper into poverty, half of them children. We need to make sure these families don't get lost in the mix!

Congress will be focused on a number of things over the coming weeks, including:

- House leadership battles
- Extending the United States Government's Debt Limit

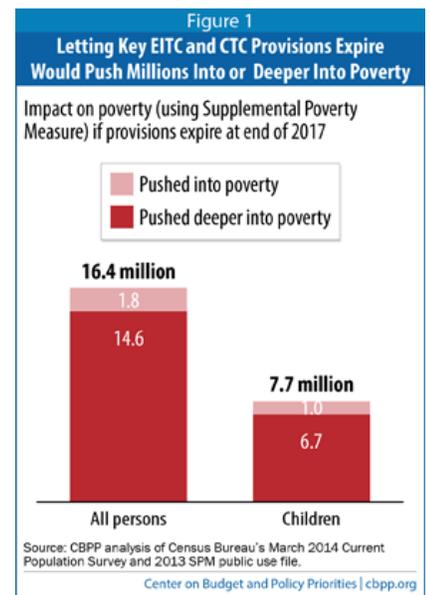
- Sequestration/averting a government shutdown
- And meanwhile, there is less likelihood of a broader highway/tax deal

So now it looks like the fight over whether to just extend or make some tax provisions permanent will extend into December (or even early January). No matter when they make such a deal, we need to keep pushing that if they make permanent ANY business tax breaks, they must also save the EITC and CTC provisions. The conversations you have directly with senators and their staff are critical!

Set up face-to-face meetings with your senators and representatives this month and urge them to save the EITC and CTC provisions (Congress is on recess October 12-16). We also urge you to call Senate tax aides to reiterate this message.

For information on how to set up a face-to-face meeting with senators and representatives this month, see our Activist Toolkit at: http://www.results.org/skills_center/milestone_12/. Find the names of tax aides at: <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>. Use the talking points below when talking to senators:

1. **Introduce yourself** as a RESULTS volunteer who cares about children and families living in poverty.
2. **Ask them** if they are familiar with the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.
3. Remind them that **the EITC and CTC are pro-work tax credits** that lifted 9.8 million people out of poverty in 2014, including 5.2 million children.
4. Tell them that studies show that children who live in EITC households **grow up healthier, do better in school, and earn more as adults.**
5. Explain that **key provisions of the EITC and CTC will expire in 2017.** If that happens, 16 million people, including 8 million children, will fall into or deeper into poverty.
6. Tell them that some members of Congress want to make certain business tax credits permanent this year, while ignoring the needs of low-income working families.
7. Tell them **you oppose any tax legislation that makes tax breaks for business permanent and does not save the EITC and CTC provisions as well.**



8. Urge them to talk to Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch and Ranking Member Ron Wyden and tell them to save the EITC and CTC provisions by making them permanent in any tax legislation that comes up this year.

If you schedule a meeting or plan to attend a town hall, contact Meredith Dodson (dodson@results.org) for help in getting you and your group ready. After any meeting or town hall event, be sure to follow up with the congressional staff and also fill out the RESULTS Lobby Report Form at www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF.

Guest Speaker – Gideon Bragin, Tax Policy Aide for Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

Facilitated by Ginnie Vogts of RESULTS Columbus

Biography of Gideon Bragin

- Senior Policy Advisor on tax and pension issues for Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- Before joining Sen. Brown's staff, Gideon was a senior advisor for the Senate Democratic Policy and Communications Committee
- Served as tax, manufacturing, and education policy advisor for Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA-17)
- Was a Teach for America Corps member, teaching secondary education in Oakland, CA
- Received his Bachelor's Degree from Hampshire College and a Master's in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University

Questions for Gideon Bragin:

1. **What is the current status of saving the 2009 EITC and CTC provisions and what opportunities do you see for our volunteers to make that happen this year (maybe touch on timing)?**

These credits are so important to so many families, yet unlike many business tax breaks, even small ones, they don't have an army of lobbyists. You all are what we've got. What RESULTS volunteers do is critical – letting representatives know what's important – in DC, at home.

Message for Republicans: if tax cuts for businesses, also for working families. If business needs certainty, so do families (NOTE from RESULTS staff: this is a message not just for Republicans; we need to be talking to Senate Democrats too)

Tell story of how the tax credits are important

You will be hit by two concerns:

1. "Fraud"
 - Be ready to counter – right now improper payments being conflated with "fraud" and includes when error about who claims kids or are underpayments.

- Can simplify process and also understand that the vast majority of tax fraud (\$50 billion!!!! per year) is by business.
- 75 percent of EITC/CTC fraud is by paid preparers; Congress should embrace bipartisan proposals to regulate.
- Plus, we should support VITA and other free prep sites.

2. Immigration:

- Most of the parents claiming the Child Tax Credit with ITIN (because parents are not citizens) have kids who are U.S. citizens.

Timing of possible tax legislation this year?

- Lots of turmoil generally
- And unclear if Rep. Paul Ryan will become speaker [remember: he is now the chair of the tax writing committee]
- Might get tacked onto highway package (unlikely) or when government funding runs out 12/11 or House might be so ungovernable that we just extend it again.

2. Our action this month includes talking to tax aides about saving the expiring EITC and CTC provisions. What are the main points you would urge them to highlight in these conversations?

- Republicans won't sign on to [S. 1012](#), Sen. Brown's EITC/CTC bill
- Not sure what action they can take outside of generally supporting it – public indications would be helpful (especially making link to business breaks)
- When talking to members of Congress (especially Rs), mention Paul Ryan, Senators Marco Rubio and Mike Lee support the EITC. But important to note for ourselves that they talk about in context of reforms of safety net programs that many of us would NOT support. When you hear they support it, doesn't always mean you can take it to the bank.

Grassroots Question: Paul Hoffinger (Minnesota). Are there bipartisan economic arguments for EITC/CTC that can be made?

I think they are and they are effective – mention history (EITC started by Ford, massively expanded by Reagan; CTC by George W Bush) and extremely effective tools to reward work. Twice as many mothers entered workforce because of EITC as any of 1990s welfare reform.

Grassroots Question: Albuquerque. Are any Senate Democrats opposed?

Manchin and Donnelly not on Sen. Brown's bill for fiscal reasons; they don't support any unpaid for tax cuts. Rare for leadership to sponsor bills but Senator Reid has cosponsored.

Grassroots Question: San Diego. What is the best way to get the attention of a tax aide for member of Congress? And any general do's and don'ts?

Staff is designed to manage people like you – they have staff to take meetings and feel like they were heard. I believe the best way to lobby members of Congress is to lobby them at home first – and that's the best way to get the attention of people like me. If members of Congress get questions at home, they very quickly put it on the agenda of their staff in Washington. For DC meetings, be extremely persistent – but don't keep going crazy asking for member meeting, you aren't going to get it if already refused. It's also tough to meet with staff – Gideon gets 50 meeting requests/day. Make the most of constituent coffees – often you get more time than you would at a meeting.

To close, I want to say that when we started working on this, seemed impossible. But now some bipartisan sense that it might happen, and that is because of the work you do.

October Action Training

Jos Linn

We want you to focus your efforts this week on getting face-to-face meetings during the Columbus Day recess. These meetings are very important in reminding members of Congress that any tax bill that passes this fall must include a permanent extension of the EITC and CTC provisions. If you do get a meeting, or plan to attend a local town hall meeting, please contact Meredith as soon as possible so she can help you and your group get ready.

But what if you can't get a meeting this week? The next best thing is calling the tax aide to talk about the issue. That's what this month's training is focused on. However, we're not going to spend time on what to say in these meetings. We've talking about the EITC and CTC for 6 years, so most of you already know what to say when you talk to them. And if you don't, the October Action has the talking points you need and sample responses to possible questions you may get.

Instead, I want to focus on planning for your call to the tax aides. Many of you may not have called an aide before, or feel intimidated if and when you do, and that prevents you from calling. It's understandable but also counter-productive because we don't call, we aren't advocating. So let's set up a plan here and now so that when you do call the tax aide about the EITC and CTC, you'll be ready to go.

1. **Who is going to call?** Each of your groups should have a point person for a member of Congress. That person is usually responsible for requesting meetings and building relationships with aides. However, each group is different or you may not have designated those point persons as of yet. So let's do it today. Let's take 1 minute and each of you decide who in your group will call to schedule a meeting and also call the tax

aide to talk about the EITC and CTC. Make sure you have someone for both senators and the reps your group cover. You can find contact information on our Elected Officials page.

2. **Set a time to call about your meeting.** Since they are now on recess, we urge you to do it as soon as possible. Be sure to ask about town halls they may be doing this week too. If you are responsible for calling, please take ten seconds to write CALL MONDAY and the time you plan to call that day in your notes. The more specific you are, the more likely you are to do it. If you cannot get a meeting, contact the tax aide to set up a time to talk.
3. **Decide who will participate.** If you get a meeting or plan to call the tax aide, who in your group will participate? It's better to have a group go or call than just one person. Take two minutes to map out days when most or all of you could attend a meeting or participate in a call? Note that when planning a call to the tax aide, decide if you all will be together around a speakerphone and if so, where, or whether you'll use a conference call number. If the latter, you can ask the aide if they have one you can use or you can set one up through www.freeconferencecalling.com.
4. **Set a time to practice what you'll say.** As with most things in life, practice makes perfect. The same goes for advocacy. Before you do a meeting or make a phone call, you want to practice what you're going to say. For this month's action, we encourage you to do the same. We urge you take time after today's call or sometime next week to practice your talk with member of Congress or tax aide. If it's one person speaking, let them practice in front of the group and get feedback. If more than one person is speaking, divide up the speaking parts and practice with each other. This not only lets you hone your message, it helps you feel more confident about the conversation. As reviewed before, the October Action has talking points to help. Also, if you need help, contact Meredith to set up a lobby prep call (dodson@results.org); to practice a call to a tax aide, feel free to contact me (jlinn@results.org).
5. **Plan for follow up.** Remember that your follow up from meetings and phone conversations is extremely important. Follow up gives you the chance to thank them again, reiterate your request, provide any supplemental information, and check on the status of your request. As you plan your meetings and calls today, make sure you know exactly who will handle the follow up and please designate time in your schedule to get it done.

Here are a list of resources to help with taking the October Action:

- [October Action](#): includes talking points and responses to possible objections
- [RESULTS Summary](#) of new Census poverty data and impact of EITC and CTC
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [EITC and CTC State Fact Sheets](#)

- CBPP: [Number of people by state](#) who would lose EITC and CTC benefits in 2017
- [American Fact Finder](#): find state and local 2014 poverty data

Grassroots Shares

Facilitated by Tia Lewis, U.S. Poverty Intern

Sara Buckingham, RESULTS Baltimore

Sara submitted a [letter to the editor](#) to the Baltimore Sun on the EITC/CTC thanking Maryland reps and senators for supporting the bills to make the 2009 provisions permanent. She then called out Rep. Ruppertsberger to support these bills as well (Rep. Ruppertsberger was not even Sara's representative). After the letter was printed, Rep. Ruppertsberger's office called her and she explained why they wanted his support. As a result, he signed onto the House EITC and CTC bills. Persistence pays off. For more details about Sara's story, listen to the [webinar recording](#).

Barbara Drake: RESULTS Tampa

RESULTS has had a longstanding relationship with the Tampa Tribune regarding global advocacy issues, Numerous global op-eds, including 3 of mine have been published; however, The editorial writer Joe Guidry has never published letters or opinion pieces that I have submitted for RESULTS' U.S. Poverty issues.

I had my first face-to face meeting with Joe in September. Ken and Linda Schatz, retired RESULTS members were present. Ken introduced the request for global media, and I then explained the importance of making the 2009 improvements to the EITC and CTC permanent. I emphasized the Florida poverty rate and the need for bipartisan support. We talked about the timeliness of the article because of the possible vote in October and upcoming census data.

After our meeting I immediately sent Joe Guidry the RESULTS editorial/media packet. A little less than 2 weeks later Joe's editorial supporting the tax credits appeared in the Tampa Tribune, and he even quoted RESULTS. It may have also been helpful that we submitted 2 topics for Joe's consideration.

Our outstanding and new U.S. poverty advocates each used a different topic in response to the editorial and submitted their letters to the editor; all were printed. . Simultaneously, I had begun working with a new member of our group, Susan Datz, to write a letter for the Tampa Bay Times. It was published during the same week.

For the two Tampa Bay area papers we had an editorial and a total of 5 letters published about the EITC. The results were exciting and beyond my expectations. Other readers in the bay area responded to the editorial as well.

We all thanked the editor and look forward to continuing our relationship.

Each advocate submitted their letter to their respective Representatives and Senator's tax aides and we continue to follow through.

Thank you, Sara and Barbara, and everyone else out there who submitted op-eds and letters or worked to get editorials published. It makes a difference. And please know, the issues are still very current so if you haven't tried for a media piece yet, it's not too late. Find links in last Tuesday's Weekly Update to help you or contact one of us on the U.S. Poverty Team.

Now let me turn it over to Jerusa Contee, our Senior Development Associate, to discuss our fall fundraising campaign and close the call with our final announcements.

Announcements

Jerusa Contee, Senior Development Associate

\$100,000 Grassroots Fundraising Goal!

- All year, RESULTS staff and development team have been working to secure the critical resources needed to power RESULTS' mission and are not done yet. They continue to cultivate donors, both large and small, and are in the midst of preparing to launch the annual End of Year Campaign.
- But RESULTS grassroots volunteers are a critical part of RESULTS' fundraising and we need your help. Unrestricted funding from individuals is essential to support our advocacy work as well as allow us to maintain our independence to work on the issues and strategic projects where we will have the most impact.
- To those of you who have not yet taken the opportunity to participate in a fundraising campaign in 2015, we invite you join us in committing to help RESULTS raise an additional \$100,000 through the Grassroots Fundraising Campaign.
- I know that \$100,000 can seem like a daunting number, but I also know the power that your collective impact has had in mobilizing 10x that number in funds around the world. If each of you or your groups would commit to raising \$1,000 we can raise the funds we need in no time. That is asking 10 people to make gifts of \$100, or 100 people to donate \$10.
- In the last two weeks, we have five volunteers and groups commit to participating in a fundraising campaign, committing to a total of \$16,000 towards the \$100,000 goal. And three of those are RESULTS staff members! Your own Jos Linn, Lisa Marchal, and Ken Patterson are in the middle of inviting their friends and family to support them in our work.
- Will you join them by launching your own individual or group effort? *Jerusa will talk through the different types of campaigns that can be launched.*

- Myself and Jen D. are here and ready to help you all launch your own online page, share our tips for spreading the news of your campaign to friends and family whether via social media, email, mailed letters, or the personal ask! **Jen DeFranco:** jdefranco@results.org or 773-688-8707; **Jerusa Contee:** jcontee@results.org or 202-783-4800, x.131.

A few final Announcements:

- Remember that we will do another partial rebroadcast of this webinar with live Q&A this **Wednesday, September 16 at 8:00 pm ET**. We replay highlights from the call and then RESULTS staff will answer your questions. Anyone is welcomed to join – just call or login from wherever you are. Also, if you have group members who are not here today, please invite them to join us Wednesday night. Login online at: <http://fuze.me/28130766> or by phone at: (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 28130766#.
- Don't forget to contact Meredith if and when you get a face-to-face meeting to help you prepare. Also, once you've had your meeting, please fill out our Lobby Meeting Report Form. www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF
- The **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents will be meeting on Tuesday, October 20 at 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET** for their monthly support call. Login at <http://fuze.me/27491886> or by phone at (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 27491886. Contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) for details. If you'd like to join, contact Jos Linn for more details.
- If you or someone you know want to learn more about RESULTS and our work, join our next RESULTS Introductory Call on **Friday, October 30 at 1:00 pm ET**. Register for this or another call on the [Get Involved page](#) under the Join Us tab on the RESULTS website.
- Find these and other events in the [Events Calendar](#) on the RESULTS website.
- RESULTS /RESULTS Educational Fund is looking to fill one of the four grassroots board position to serve a three year term beginning in November. Grassroots board members represent the volunteer body on the Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee of the Board. Grassroots board members play a particular role in representing grassroots perspectives on the board. Our grassroots board candidates include Mark Campbell of CA; Lisa Peters of Washington, DC; and Beth Wilson of WA State. We will include links to the nominee bios and webpage where you can vote in the webinar summary and next Tuesday's Weekly Update. You must vote by Monday, November 9 at midnight ET. You may vote for one candidate. You can click to view candidate bios at: <http://capwiz.com/results/utr/1/DCOHVHJVXM/EYKCVHKDIS/11015097151> and can vote here: <http://capwiz.com/results/utr/1/DCOHVHJVXM/EYTWVHKDIT/11015097151>>.

- RESULTS is also working to grow this fall. If you know people in the following areas, please invite them to attend one of these exciting event.
 - **October 15: RESULTS Group Start in Raleigh, NC.** 6:30-8:00pm ET at the NC Justice Center. RSVP at: results-nc.eventbrite.com. Contact Kristy Martino for details (kmartino@results.org).
 - **November 3: RESULTS Group Start in Kansas City, MO.** 6:30-8:30pm CT. Location: TBA. For details, contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org).
 - **November 12: RESULTS Group Start in Chicago, IL.** 6:45-8:45pm CT. Location: TBA. For details, contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org).
- **Finally**, stay tuned for details about a **big outreach push in November** including an exciting guest speaker on our next webinar. Speaking of which, our next U.S. Poverty National Webinar will be **Saturday, November 14 at 12:30pm ET**. Same “bat” time, same “bat” channel.

And in that spirit, let’s end the call by having Jos unmute all the lines so we can wish each other a “Happy Halloween!”