

National Webinar Summary

Find the Webinar recording, slides, summary on our National Webinars page:
http://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/

Welcome

Joanne Carter, Executive Director, RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund
(Washington, DC)

Welcome everyone to this month's webinar.

REMINDER that you can download the slides for this month's call from the Take Action Box on the RESULTS Homepage

First I want to say again how critical your work is right now to help build support for a meaningful anti-poverty agenda in this election year —meetings with your members of Congress FTF, ongoing deep engagement with their staff.

And the media work you are doing right now to promote key positive action like expansion of the EITC to childless workers. And, as importantly, to prevent cuts and/or dismantling of essential anti-poverty, anti-hunger programs--particularly SNAP-- that could very likely be under threat in policy and budget proposals. You are shaping the election year agenda—keep at it. Every letter and op-ed and editorial counts and many have impacts you'll never know.

We have a fantastic call today starting with one of the true champions on poverty and social and economic justice, Congresswoman Barbara Lee of California.

Congresswoman Lee, on the call today you have RESULTS advocates from across the country, and hundreds of our volunteers will be on the Hill this June to raise these and other issues.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee bio:

Congresswoman Lee represents California's 13th CD and was first elected to Congress in 1998. We're very fortunate that she is a senior member of the very important House Appropriations Committee that determine how monies in the federal budget are allocated. And also sits on the Budget Committee where she plays a key role in defending our nation's safety net.

She has dedicated her life to social and economic justice, international peace, and civil and human rights.

In 2007, she helped form the Congressional "Out of Poverty" Caucus to find concrete solutions to end poverty.

In 2013, Congresswoman Lee became chair of the Whip's Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity—in order to raise the awareness about the crisis of poverty in America, and the need for a comprehensive national effort to eradicate poverty.

We've also worked extensively with Congresswoman Lee on global health and poverty issues and she has literally authored or co-authored every major piece of legislation dealing with global HIV/AIDS issues since she was elected to Congress.

Guest Speaker – Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-13)

Facilitated by Joanne Carter (Washington, DC)

Bio of Barbara Lee

- Represents California's 13th District
- First elected to Congress in 1998
- Serves on the Budget and Appropriations Committees
- Dedicated to social and economic justice, international peace, and civil and human rights.
- In 2007, helped form the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus bringing lawmakers, organizations, community leaders, and other key stakeholders together to find concrete solutions to end poverty.
- In 2013, Congresswoman Lee became chair of the Whip's Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity to raise the awareness about the ongoing crisis of poverty, the positive human and economic impacts of reducing and eliminating poverty, and the need for a comprehensive national effort to eradicate poverty.
- Has authored or co-authored every major piece of legislation dealing with global HIV/AIDS issues since she was elected to Congress, including the creation of PEPFAR.
- Started her career as an intern in the office of her predecessor, Congressman and Ron Dellums, where she eventually became his Chief of Staff.
- Before being elected to Congress, she served in the California State Assembly and in the California State Senate for 8 years.

Opening Comments from Congresswoman Lee

- Thank you for your advocacy, we need to use the political process to end poverty and create opportunity
- RESULTS is remarkable: inside and outside strategy
 - You certainly know how to make sure members of Congress pay attention
- Put together Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity
 - I've been fighting for those living in poverty
 - Asked to Chair by Reps. Pelosi and Hoyer
 - Now over 100 members, focused on how to advance agenda to alleviate poverty and create opportunity
 - Website: <http://www.democraticwhip.gov/PovertyTaskForce>
- Speaker Ryan created Poverty Task Force
 - Pleased to see interest

- But all members are on record supporting deep cuts to important programs
- Concerned about Republican Study Committee recommendation
<http://rsc.flores.house.gov/files/uploads/RSC%20Submission%20-%20Poverty%20Opportunity.pdf> (critique:
<http://www.democraticwhip.gov/content/republican-study-committee-s-misleading-report>)
- In the next few weeks, monitoring child nutrition
 - Proposal in House would make it harder to feed kids
 - Address hunger, especially summer hunger, and monitor threats to nutrition standards
 - I have a new op-ed
- Pushing Obama to put out National Strategy to Alleviate Poverty
 - Similar to AIDS
 - Reducing crime is related to poverty, need to support community policing
- I am focused on holding policymakers accountable
 - Elections have consequences and we can see what is taking place
 - Current policies from political environment that allowed Tea Party to control
- So glad RESULTS engages with members of Congress
 - Thank you for fighting back on threats to anti-poverty programs
 - So important to engage in political process

Questions for Congresswoman Lee:

1. ***As a member of the Out of Poverty caucus in Congress, you have been a champion of policies that lift and keep people out of poverty. As you know, Speaker Ryan has set up a Task Force to make recommendations on how best to deal with poverty in America. Do you have an idea what they will recommend and when, especially with regard to SNAP (formerly food stamps)?***
 - Will recommend we block grant SNAP
 - More work requirements
 - Consolidate and cuts, in particular cuts to SNAP
 - Don't expect proposals to raise the minimum wage
2. ***In anticipation of the Task Force recommendations, this month our volunteers are working on getting letters to the editor and op-eds published about protecting SNAP. Typically, do members of Congress pay attention to local media and do you ever use media from your constituents to try to influence your colleagues in Congress?***

- Op-eds, LTES, TV interviews are important
 - social media: people to people contact, go directly to them without filters to understand what policymakers are
 - Urge reporters to ask candidates the right questions
3. ***In addition to media, how can RESULTS volunteers best shape the debate over ending poverty both before and after the Task Force recommendations are released?***
- Important to get involved in the election, we need members of Congress and President committed to ending poverty
 - Defeat members of Congress who push policies

Questions from volunteers:

Marty Karnopp (RESULTS Aurora, CO): How do you find out if members of Congress is on your Task Force? Is mine?

- Info on Rep. Lee's Task Force <http://www.democraticwhip.gov/PovertyTaskForce> (but Meredith cannot find a list of members online)

Paul Hoffinger (RESULTS Twin Cities, MN): *My Representative is on the Ryan Poverty Task Force, how can I engage with him?*

- Ask Rep. Kline to support her legislation: cut poverty in half in 10 years – more info: <http://capwiz.com/results/issues/bills/?bill=72112636>

May Action Overview

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

Use the [May Action](#) for talking points to send a letter to the editor today about protecting SNAP:

1. **Respond to a recent coverage about Congress, poverty in your community, the elections,** or [new data on how many Americans are struggling to put food on the table](#).
2. **Let readers know SNAP (formerly food stamps) is a powerful anti-hunger program:** [SNAP lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2014](#).
3. **Highlight the importance of SNAP for millions of Americans – and share your own story if possible.** [Eighty percent of SNAP benefits go to households that include children, people with severe disabilities, and senior citizens](#). Note: You can find SNAP data from your state at: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets>).
4. Also mention that **SNAP is an effective response to hunger in times of emergencies or economic downturn.**
5. **Express your concern that the House Poverty Task force may propose restructuring SNAP,** which would undermine this effectiveness and could result in millions of people being forced off the program.

6. **Call on your members of Congress by name to oppose cuts or changes to SNAP** that would harm vulnerable children and families, increase hunger, and reduce SNAP's effectiveness.

Note: To find media outlets in your area visit our Media Guide at <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/media/>. In addition, see our Activist Toolkit pieces on [writing a letter to the editor](#) and [generating an op-ed](#). Be sure to send your published piece to your members of Congress!

May Action Resources

FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND OP-EDS:

- **RESULTS May U.S. Poverty Action:** http://www.results.org/take_action/may_2016_u.s._poverty_action/
- **CBPP SNAP State Fact Sheets:** <http://www.cbpp.org/research/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets>
- **RESULTS Activist Toolkit** (find resources to help with generating media): http://www.results.org/skills_center/activist_toolkit/

FOR EDITORIALS:

- **RESULTS April U.S. Poverty Action:** http://www.results.org/take_action/april_2016_u.s._poverty_action/
- **RESULTS EITC/SNAP Editorial Packet:** http://www.results.org/newsroom/here_is_what_speaker_ryan_s_plan_to_fight_poverty_should_look_like/
- **RESULTS April Laser Talk:** http://www.results.org/take_action/u.s._poverty_laser_talk_generating_an_editorial_on_protecting_anti_poverty/
- **CBPP EITC State Fact Sheets:** <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/state-fact-sheets-the-earned-income-and-child-tax-credits>

Questions from RESULTS volunteers

1. *Child nutrition -- School lunches: if enough folks are eligible in a community, rather than fill out applications?*
 - **Sign House Child Nutrition Reauthorization Organizational Letter.** Last month, House Republicans introduced their [Child Nutrition](#) Reauthorization bill ([H.R. 5003](#)). As feared, this legislation would reduce the number of children who have access to school meals and lower nutrition standards. For more information on the bill, see our [RESULTS Blog post](#) and a [detailed summary of the bill](#) from our friends at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). The House Education and Workforce Committee has delayed their markup of the legislation, but it could still come up in the coming weeks. RESULTS has joined other organizations to sign on to a broad letter expressing opposition to the bill. The

letter is open to national, state, and local groups. We strongly urge your [local RESULTS groups sign on](#) as well.

Experts on Poverty Share

Qiana Torregano, RESULTS New Orleans

Qiana shared details of the RESULTS Texas-Oklahoma Regional Conference in April and presentations she and others did. Please refer to the webinar recording for the details.

Grassroots Shares

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

Stephen Blobaum, RESULTS Des Moines

Hello, this is Stephen. I just want you to know that anybody hearing my voice can do what I'm about to describe to you. You don't even have to be a registered voter just live in the state or district of your representative and senators. You can google who they are or go to the web site that defines all advocacy web sites - our very own RESULTS web site. The RESULTS gives you the link to your rep or senators' sites where you can usually find their calendar to see where they will be during a recess.

This is what I did to find out where Iowa's own Senator Charles Grassley would be. He had scheduled several town hall meetings in south central Iowa over the course of 3 days. I found one a little less than an hour's drive away. I let Jos know who in turn asked our group if anyone would like to go with him. I said I would. Since Jos and I had an hour in the car to get there, we decided talked about how we would handle the meeting. Jos said he'd like to ask a question about supporting the expansion of EITC to childless workers. I chose a question about the status of SNAP. We also decided to sit apart to increase our chances of being called on.

We got there and got our seats. The meeting was in a small community that quickly got very crowded and very hot. Jos first thanked Sen. Grassley for signing onto the REACH Act, one RESULTS' global priorities, and then asked his question. Sen. Grassley said he was glad the EITC issue had bipartisan support and that he'd talk to Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch about it. Later in the meeting I got called on and I asked that if SNAP came out of Representative Paul Ryan's Poverty Task Force as a block grant, would that separate it from the overall farm bill and thus jeopardize its passage? Knowing there would likely be farmers in the room, I wanted to remind them that SNAP's success was linked to the Farm Bill. Sen. Grassley said the Farm Bill and SNAP was a rural vs. urban issue and that he doubted SNAP would ever be separated from the Farm Bill and that the Farm Bill would probably not pass if SNAP were turned into a block grant.

We were pleased and went home. We decided Jos would fill out the RESULTS Lobby Report Form and do the follow up, which he did. Later, we learned that Sen. Grassley tweeted about the town hall and mentioned the issues we brought up.

Dave Fleming, RESULTS Houston

Recently, on April 26, three volunteers from the Houston RESULTS chapter (Kathleen Duncan, David Costello, and Dave Fleming) succeeded in achieving the RESULTS' April action goal to have a viewpoint article published in local media. In our case, the media target was the city's main daily newspaper The Houston Chronicle. Our article was very close to 700 words.

After reading our article, the scheduling director – by chance, an acquaintance of Dave Fleming's - for a local AM radio station (KTEK 1110) for their weekly 1-hour "Business Newsmakers [talk] Radio" program, asked Fleming to be a guest on their May 9th program. That culminated in a roughly 30 minute session between Fleming and the talk show's host, Lou Garino. The program's website is businessnewsmakers.com.

On the radio show:

- The host asked about the impetus for the article, which I provided and mentioned the timing of House of Representatives task force for poverty ;
- He offered his own view that certain federal programs are more effective when left at federal level, and I offered that is our view for SNAP specifically;
- He asked about the current EITC policy opportunity, and I explained expanding to the low income childless workers and the economic multiplier of helping these folks, and currently they get less than 10% of full EITC
- We discussed with me the importance of advocacy given a government structure like ours
- He asked how I got involved with RESULTS, and I mentioned seeing last Fall's Chronicle Op-Ed by Columbia University graduate student Isabel Soifer;
- He asked how interested listeners could learn more, and I mentioned the website, the join us/learn more link, and the scheduled be-monthly national introductory calls

Meet the Grassroots Board Nominees

Lydia Pendley, RESULTS Santa Fe

The election for a new grassroots RESULTS Board Member begins today. My second term is ending, so it is this position that will be filled. My position is one of four grassroots board members who are elected by RESULTS volunteers, both domestic and global. It has been a great privilege to serve as your elected grassroots representative for the past six years. The other three elected members are Vanessa Garcia, Beth Wilson, and Cindy Changyit Levin. The grassroots board members, in addition to carrying out general board responsibilities, represent our grassroots volunteers to the Board and Executive Committee and advocate for the good of the grassroots volunteers making their positions and concerns known to the Executive Committee and Board. It is also our responsibility to educate our grassroots volunteers about the functions of the Board and inform them of Board decisions that relate to their function as volunteers.

It is my great pleasure now to introduce the three individuals that volunteers have nominated for the open position. Thank you to those who nominated them and thank you to the nominees for agreeing to run for election:

- Tadeo Melean, with RESULTS Kansas City U.S. Poverty Group, shares (refer to the webinar recording)
- Maxine Thomas Indianapolis with RESULTS Indianapolis U.S. Poverty Group shares (refer to the webinar recording)
- Charles Wallace with RESULTS Austin, Global Group (was unable to appear on webinar)

Thank you all. We appreciate all of you being willing to take on this honor and responsibility. We wish you each of you the best of luck in the election.

For everyone on the webinar, if you want to read the full bios of Tadeo, Maxine, and Charles, go to: [http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2016 Election Grassroots Board Nominee Bios.pdf](http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2016_Election_Grassroots_Board_Nominee_Bios.pdf)

Voting for this Grassroots Board position is now open and runs through Tuesday, July 5. All active RESULTS volunteers are eligible to vote. Please vote at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016GRBMelection>

RESULTS International Conference

Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns

- It's not too late to register for the RESULT International Conference!
- We're so excited about this year's Conference. We have nationally and internationally known speakers Barbara Ehrenreich, Tavis Smiley, Tony Hall, and Paul Farmer, not to mention a whole new panel of our Experts on Poverty
- Great training and policy sessions to help you build your advocacy skills, strengthen your local groups, and learn the latest on our issues. Some sessions include learning more about how to reduce the racial wealth gap, using the best messages for protecting anti-poverty programs, and how to make hunger and poverty and issue during this year's election
- Finally, we have you! The volunteers. You are the reason our Conference is the best around. Your passion, your energy, your willingness to have fun, and your commitment to ending poverty – all that and more are why people come back each and every year.
- So please join us next month, June 25-28 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. And to make it even more enticing, we have a special FLASH Sale going on this weekend. If you register today or tomorrow, all active RESULTS volunteers can get the Early Bird registration rate of only \$125. This is a great rate for a DC conference and we want you there. Please take advantage of this window of opportunity – the rate goes back up tomorrow night at midnight. Just go to www.resultsconference.org and when it asks, enter the discount code **EARLYBIRD125!**

Once you've registered, you can start planning your trip right away.

1. **Please be sure to reserve your hotel room.** Our discounted block of rooms is open until May 26. After that, we can't guarantee you'll get the discounted rate or even a

room. Also, if you want to find a roommate to reduce your hotel costs, send an e-mail to ic-help-share+subscribe@googlegroups.com and say you're looking for a roommate.

2. **2016 RESULTS International Conference Checklist** and other Conference resources are available on our 2016 Conference Resources page: http://www.results.org/skills_center/2016_results_international_conference_resources/
3. The **U.S. Poverty Legislative Handbook** will be available by May 27 and will be found on the Resources page.
4. We will start scheduling **Lobby Prep Calls** this week - VERY IMPORTANT!
 - a. Calls with Meredith Dodson to get you ready for your lobby meetings in DC
 - b. Each member coming to DC should be on the call (everyone in group is welcomed)

Please don't leave today without possible dates and times for a lobby prep call with your group in the next few weeks. E-mail your available dates to Jos Linn at jlinn@results.org.

Announcements

Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns

- **Road to Rio**
 - Fundraising campaign to fund the important work RESULTS does to create the political will to end poverty
 - Focused around the upcoming Summer Olympics in Rio. Called the Road to Rio because our goal is to raise \$10 for every one of the 5,000 miles between Washington, DC and Rio De Janeiro or \$50,000
 - Donations during campaigns like this help fund critical parts of our work, including the staff, resources, and training who's function is to provide you as volunteers ongoing, in-depth in your vital advocacy efforts
 - And we're in a great position to hit our target. As you can see on slide 15, RESULTS Board member Pankaj Agarwal has offered a challenge – if RESULTS volunteers can raise \$35,000 between now and June 26, he and his wife will donate \$15,000 to reach our goal.
 - It's easy to participate. On slide 16, you can see the steps to take to do the Challenge through our online Friends & Family platform. Just decided if you'll do it as an individual or group, set your goal and create your webpage, and then reach out to people you know to give. Go to www.tinyurl.com/2016R2R
 - to learn more and if you need help, please contact Jen DeFranco for assistance (jdefranco@results.org). Good luck!
- We are seeking your nominations for the **Bob Dickerson Grassroots Leadership Award**. This is your chance to nominate a RESULTS volunteer who deserves recognition for their leadership, courage, persistence, and commitment. For more than

15 years, Bob Dickerson was an inspiring RESULTS grassroots volunteer leader in Seattle - tireless in his advocacy, unstinting in his encouragement of other activists, and a generous financial supporter of RESULTS' work. From forging strong relationships with members of Congress, to generating media, galvanizing local volunteers and calling his community to action, Bob proved that an individual can exercise their power as an advocate to create remarkable change in the world. The award goes to two RESULTS volunteers who are following in the footsteps of Bob. They will be honored with this award at the RESULTS International Conference. To nominate a grassroots volunteer, please email your nomination (no more than one page) to IC2016@results.org by June 11. Please include how this volunteer has contributed to achieving the mission of RESULTS, why they are a model for powerful citizen engagement, and why they inspire you.

- Don't forget to **vote for the next Grassroots Board member at:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016GRBMelection>.
- If you know someone who'd be interested in creating a world free of poverty, invite him or her to our next **RESULTS Introductory Call** is Friday, May 27 at 1:00 pm ET. People can register upcoming Intro Call on the [RESULTS website](#).
- Our next **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls** are this Tuesday, May 17 at 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET. If you live in an area with no active RESULTS group, join these monthly calls to get training and support to take action. Join at <http://fuze.me/32256018> or (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 32256018#.
- You can find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).
- Our next U.S. Poverty National Webinar will be **Saturday, June 11 at 12:30pm ET**.
- May 14 is National "Dance Like a Chicken" Day, So stand up and dance like a chicken at being able to register as an "Early Bird" for the RESULTS International Conference!
 - **May 14 and 15 only – Register at www.resultsconference.org and enter discount code EARLYBIRD125**