

# Annual Successes

The logo for RESULTS, featuring the word "results" in white lowercase letters on a red speech bubble background.

## Summary of 2023 Impact

### 2023 by the numbers:

- **585+** pieces of local and national media
- **375+** meetings with Congress
- **82** media pieces and **5** events by RESULTS' cohort of Experts on Poverty
- **106** congressional meetings held by **65** RESULTS fellows age 20-35

### Setting the agenda with a new Congress

As new members of Congress found their way through the labyrinth of legislative processes and congressional offices, RESULTS volunteer advocates were busy making connections and building and deepening relationships. Between January and April, they held over 200 lobby meetings with their members of Congress and staff, both in-person and virtually, to educate them about our issues and help them [set an agenda to reduce poverty](#). In the process, they secured commitments that translated into legislative actions as the year progressed — and ultimately millions of lives transformed and saved.

### Building the path to end child poverty in the U.S.

In the midst of seemingly irreconcilable differences in Congress, [RESULTS played a key role in building a path for a bipartisan breakthrough](#) to expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to families struggling to meet their basic needs. In hundreds of congressional meetings; in calls, emails, and letters to Congress; and in nearly one published media piece a day, our advocates kept economic justice for families front and center amidst shifting political winds. They bolstered CTC champions on Capitol Hill, created new support, identified areas of alignment, and facilitated dialogue between Republican and Democratic leaders.

By late fall, leaders of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees had negotiated a bipartisan tax package that included the CTC, which they hoped to pass before the end of the year. When Congress used a continuing resolution to push funding decisions to 2024, the committee leaders decided to introduce it as a standalone bill in January of 2024. In a strong show of bipartisan support, the House approved the bill by 357 to 70. The Senate was expected to take it up at the end of February or early March.

The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 represents meaningful progress toward our ultimate goal of extending full benefits to all families with low incomes. Over the next three years, it would provide increased support to 16 million children in families with low incomes, and the families of 500,000 more children would

have the tools to lift themselves above the poverty line. The most important structural improvement fixes a problem that RESULTS advocates educated members of Congress about — currently higher-income households receive the full credit for each child, but the phase in for the credit means that lower-income households receive a smaller credit per child. The proposed legislation ensures that each child gets their own tax credit, giving families with several children more equitable support.

## Reducing barriers to claiming tax credits

Millions of families never claim or access the credits they're eligible for because of onerous filing processes and costs. As part of our work to ensure individuals and families with lower incomes access the credits they're eligible for, including the CTC and the Earned Income Tax Credit, RESULTS successfully advocated for the creation of a free tax filing tool to be administered by the IRS that could help alleviate many of the barriers and burdens for low-income families. We also helped found the Coalition for Free and Fair Filing to ensure that the service, called [Direct File](#), becomes permanent and is equitable, accessible, and inclusive. RESULTS advocates in our [Experts on Poverty cohort provided feedback](#) on the design and implementation of the pilot before it was rolled out to the public. The first phase of the roll-out in 2024 will be available to eligible taxpayers in 12 states, which is estimated to cover up to about half of low- and middle-income taxpayers, save individual taxpayers over \$100 yearly by providing a free platform, and streamline access to refundable tax credits for millions of families who currently miss out on social support administered through the tax code.

## Laying the groundwork for a renter tax credit

RESULTS worked to build momentum around a bold solution to the U.S. housing crisis that would provide relief for the millions of renters facing housing instability and homelessness. A household that is considered rent-burdened (spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent) could receive a tax credit based on how much they are paying toward rent and other factors to help them afford other critical expenses like food, childcare, and health care.

In hundreds of meetings and in the media, RESULTS advocates educated policymakers and the public about the need for and benefits of a [federal renter tax credit](#), while seeking to change the narrative about homelessness, the “working poor,” and the needs and rights of renters. We also brought together organizations working on domestic violence and human rights, policy advisors in the Biden Administration, members of key congressional committees, and academic and legal researchers. In August, the American Bar Association approved a policy resolution, drafted by RESULTS' associate director of U.S. poverty policy, supporting tax credits that benefit renters, including the CTC, EITC, and a renter tax credit. In addition, we worked with members of Congress who are proponents of the idea to

ensure that their proposals are informed by research and the expertise of those with lived experience.

## **Protecting nutrition programs in the U.S.**

In our work to reduce food insecurity in the U.S., we mobilized to protect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as food stamps) and Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) from severe cuts during congressional negotiations over the debt ceiling in the summer and fall. While the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 reduced some benefits, our collective efforts prevented a more severe outcome. After we mobilized again to protect these programs in an agriculture appropriations bill, moderate members of Congress indicated they would not support the proposed cut, and the bill never made it to a vote.

We also continued to encourage the Biden Administration to engage with and center people with lived experience in department-level nutrition policies. We provided the White House working group on hunger and nutrition with input based on our advocates' first-hand experience with the department's procedures and policies around SNAP, WIC, and other nutrition programs.

## **Turbocharging the fight against global tuberculosis**

At the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, held September 22, the U.S. and other world leaders signed a new UN declaration [pledging to reach 45 million people with lifesaving treatment and testing](#) by 2027. The U.S. also announced a new initiative that includes new funding to accelerate detection and treatment in key countries, a lower price for testing and preventive therapy, and more. The historic commitments will help to turbocharge the fight against the world's deadliest infectious disease, which pushes millions of people into poverty each year. And RESULTS played a pivotal role.

In the months leading up to the meeting, we worked doggedly to get members of Congress to sign on to letters calling on Biden the administration to make a bold commitment, securing 108 signers in the House, blowing past the goal of 100 in the final hours before the deadline, and more than a third of senators. In the midst of partisanship rancor in Congress, we had helped unite a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers in the fight against TB. We also worked to secure increased funding from Congress to support U.S. TB efforts.

## **Funding the fight against global poverty**

RESULTS' advocacy in support of key global health, nutrition, and education programs also overcame bipartisan politics. Despite several challenges, including short deadlines and a divided Congress, we rallied members of Congress to publicly declare their support in sign-

on letters for robust funding for our priorities, with several of the letters receiving more support than ever, setting new high water marks for future progress:

- **The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** – 182 bipartisan members of Congress
- **Global education** – 165 bipartisan members of Congress
- **Maternal and child health and nutrition** – 196 bipartisan members of Congress
- **Tuberculosis** – 162 bipartisan members of Congress

House leaders threatened substantial funding cuts across much of the U.S. budget, and the House State and Foreign Operations subcommittee voted to cut funding for a number of foreign aid programs. However, they [protected all of RESULTS' priorities](#). Unfortunately, the foreign aid appropriations bill was not voted on in 2023 as a deadlocked Congress passed pushed final appropriations decisions into 2024. Thanks to the House vote, our issues are in a strong position for future negotiations.

## Improving foreign aid funding for global education

In November, the Senate passed the READ Act Reauthorization. The legislation, which RESULTS championed, will [help expand access to basic education](#) for the more than 250 million children out of school around the world by ensuring U.S. funding gets put to the best possible use. The legislation makes our global education programs more effective and increases the focus on literacy and numeracy to ensure children learn the basic skills that are the foundation for future learning. The act passed with no dissenting votes, which is a testament to RESULTS' persistent advocacy. We also helped shepherd legislation to improve USAID's TB programming through key House and Senate committees. We'll work to push both bills over the finish line in 2024.

## Partnering globally for greater impact

Our work to reduce global poverty was amplified by the [ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership](#). RESULTS hosts the secretariat for this partnership, which consists of 14 locally rooted independent civil society organizations working across continents driven by a shared mission to ensure equitable health outcomes for all. We collaborated on numerous efforts to increase financial commitments for global health and saw significant outcomes in our work to ensure the new Pandemic Fund and the World Bank put their resources to the best use. Through our advocacy we are pressing the World Bank to prioritize financing that supports the most vulnerable communities and pushing for equity to be at the center of the future of the global financing architecture.