

# June 2014 RESULTS U.S. Poverty Conference Call Summary

Call-in number: (888) 409-6709. The slides, recording, and summary will be posted at:  
[https://www.results.org/skills\\_center/results\\_national\\_conference\\_calls/](https://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/).

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

- So thrilled to have all of you on today's call, and special greetings to anyone joining us for the first time!
- You can download the [conference call slides](#) from the RESULTS Homepage in the Take Action box.
- Looking forward to seeing many of you next week in DC

## Guest Speaker: Dr. Maya Rockeymoore, Washington, DC

### Introduction

[Dr. Maya Rockeymoore](#) is President and CEO of [Center for Global Policy Solutions](#), a Washington, DC-based policy firm that makes policy work for people and their environments.

*A former adjunct professor in the Women in Politics Institute at American University, Maya has also served as the vice president of research and programs at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), senior resident scholar at the National Urban League, chief of staff to Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), professional staff on the House Ways and Means Committee, and as a CBCF legislative fellow in the office of Congressman Melvin Watt (D-NC) among other positions.*

*Maya's areas of expertise include health, social insurance, income security, education, women's issues and youth civic participation. She is the author of *The Political Action Handbook: A How to Guide for the Hip-Hop Generation* and co-editor of *Strengthening Community: Social Insurance in a Diverse America* among many other articles and chapters. Rockeymoore serves on the board of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and the National Association of Counties and is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. The recipient of many honors, she was named an Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellow in 2004 and is the recipient of Running Start's 2007 Young Women to Watch Award.*

*A regular guest on radio and television shows, Maya has appeared on NPR, CNN, Black Entertainment Television, ABC World News Tonight, Fox News, Al Jazeera and C-SPAN. She received her degree in political science from Prairie View A&M University (TX) and received her M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University.*

### Opening Remarks

Thanks to everyone on the phone today – this is important

Thanks to Rep. Barbara Lee for the recommendation (from our May National Conference Call), she's a stalwart on racial wealth gap and poverty

We hear so much about income inequality, but nobody talking about racialized aspects of inequality

"Color of wealth" = white

50 years beyond Civil Rights Act

- People of color now allowed to walk in front door of restaurants, access some schools
- But when comes to racial wealth gap we see a stark contrast

Report [Beyond Broke: Why Closing the Racial Wealth Gap is a Priority for National Economic Security](#) – codified in the [conference call slides](#)

Part of "experts of color" network funded by Ford Foundation, focused on economic disparities and asset building for communities of color

Beyond Broke focuses on wealth (not income) inequality

- Income is a part of wealth

- But wealth also includes
- Wealth= what you own minus what you owe
- Assets beyond income provides security
- Intergenerational stepping stone out of poverty
- Home/businesses/savings help families, especially subsequent generations

Legal practices creating wealth inequality, Structural factors create patterns of disparities

- opportunities differ

Based on 2011 Census data, liquid wealth (cash or assets can convert to cash -- median):

- whites have \$23k
- Asian Am \$19k
- Latinos \$340
- African Americans \$200. When remove retirement, only \$25!

1/3 of Af Am and Latinos have no tangible assets whatsoever – zero or negative wealth

- Many in debt
- Why report called “beyond broke”

Financial assets (vs. tangible like cars), ex. Who has retirement assets

- 28% of Latinos
- 32% of African Americans (only 55% have checking account)
- 58% of Whites

What about the recession and recovery?

- African-Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinos experienced dramatic loss
- 2005-5009:
  - Latinos lost 55% of net worth
  - African Americans lost 53%
  - White 16%
- 2009-2011

“Headline news” – for every \$1 of white wealth:

- African Americans 6 cents
- Latinos 7 cents
- Noteworthy that Asians overall “doing well” = 83 cents, but some subgroups are really struggling.

Why? Housing market

- Asian Americans and Latinos lost a lot of their equity, Whites and African Americans
  - Because disproportionately concentrated in states that experienced worse of housing/foreclosure crisis
  - And targeted by subprime lenders, targeted deliberately
- 25% of African Americans underwater with mortgages, 28% of Latinos, only 15% of whites

Need to understand racial disparity of median net worth

- Racial wealth gap exists in every income group, huge difference in every income quartile but especially in lowest income levels

So need to look beyond income inequality to wealth.

We have a substantial wealth gap, cuts by gender – where do we go?

- Need to use asset building as strategy to address poverty
- See “Asset House” graphic in PowerPoint
  - Foundation: social insurance inc Medicare, unemployment insurance, education, citizenship (need to think of as societal asset)
  - First floor: what we need to put into place – tax structure works better for upper income Americans. Need to change priorities for tax policy, education, health programs, safety net. Need to “flip the switch”
  - Second floor: community assets that are important to families – kinship networks, faith institutions, etc.
  - Third floor: savings accounts, etc., are built on top of the other layers.
- See recs
  - Include expanding social security, strengthen
  - Target new investments to low-wealth households. 1 approach from Congressional Black Caucus 10-20-30:
  - Targeted universalism, pull levers
- Website includes videos and full report

### **1-3 Questions from volunteers**

- Native Americans?
  - Census data doesn’t include
  - Generally numbers similar to African Americans and Latinos
  - Several native groups prioritizing asset building in native communities, they are part of the closing racial wealth gap initiative
- Role of corporations?
  - Was just at rally with Senator Durbin, discussed “patriot corporations”
  - In addition to not shifting resources overseas
  - Need to focus specifically on communities of color
  - Sen. Durbin wants to address corporate tax policies, can fit into this
  - Notion of “responsive capitalism” – corporations can play a huge role
    - But when don’t invest in hiring policies that focus on job creation for marginalized communities, see continued marginalization
    - Government can’t be only employer
    - Need to support women- and minority-owned businesses
    - How they choose to use their wealth matters
  - Beyond US companies – “cat’s out of the bag with regards to globalization”
  - So corporations need to be responsible wherever they are in the world.

## **Economic Mobility Campaign Update – Meredith Dodson**

Unfortunately, actions by many policymakers in Washington offer evidence about the need to speak out for policies that create economic mobility and make ending poverty a priority. Here is just one key example of misplaced priorities in Congress (and why your work is so important):

In May 2014, the House of Representatives passed a portion of a 6-bill tax package that would benefit many large corporations [274-131](#). In addition, House Ways and Means Committee Chair Dave Camp (R-MI) has proposed another set of tax breaks for corporations. In total, these corporate “tax extenders” will cost [\\$570 billion over the next ten years](#). The House bill does not offset the cost of these corporate tax breaks, meaning the cost will be

added to the federal budget deficit.

Meanwhile, House tax proposals allow critical tax provisions for low-income working families to expire -- if these improvements expire, [12 million Americans, including 7 million children, will fall into poverty or deeper into poverty](#). When many members of Congress use deficit concerns to oppose even small increases in funding for anti-poverty programs that help millions of struggling Americans, it is unfathomable that they would now rubber stamp hundreds of billions in tax cuts for some of the wealthiest corporations in the world without a second thought.

This is why I am so thrilled many of you are coming to DC next week! ...

This month, work to engage your community in pushing Congress to expand economic mobility in America. Many RESULTS volunteers will be traveling to Washington, DC next week for the [RESULTS International Conference](#) to lobby Congress to protect and expand the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) and [Child Tax Credit](#) (CTC), as well as enacting the [Financial Security Credit](#) can help address the growing wealth gap. Let's reinforce the conversations in DC by mobilizing others into action!

## June Action Preview – Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns (Des Moines, IA)

Hi folks, this is Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns. We're excited about this month's action because it lets everyone take part in the RESULTS International Conference, whether you're coming to DC or not. We're using the conference as the spark to ignite action in your communities this month. Here's what you can do:

1. **Make a list of people you want to engage.** Think of people in your local action network, friends and colleagues at work, Facebook and Twitter friends, and others you know and list them out. Reach out to as many people as possible.
2. **Reach out to people personally and tell them what's at stake.** Contact people individually if possible and ask them to take action. Tell people why it's important, how they can make a difference, and what's at stake. Here are a few statistics you can use to engage them:
  - Use info from Dr. Rockey Moore's presentation.
  - According to the U.S. Census, 1 in 5 American children were living in poverty in 2012 (21.8 percent, 16.1 million children).
  - If EITC and Child Tax Credit improvements are allowed to expire, 12 million Americans, including 7 million children, will fall into or deeper into poverty.
3. **Give people a specific action to take.**
  - **Ask people to write letters to be delivered in DC.** If you are attending the [RESULTS International Conference](#), plan to hand-deliver letters to your members of Congress from people back home. We urge you and your group to take time after today's call to write letters urging Congress to support the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC), [Child Tax Credit](#) (CTC), and the [Financial Security Credit](#) and collect them to be taken to DC. The second half of the [June Action](#) has resources for writing your letters. Ask others you know to write letters this week collect them before coming to DC. If no one from your group is coming to DC, mail your letters to the member of a neighboring group who is or you can fax them to your congressional offices.
  - **Urge people to call and email Congress on June 24.** On Tuesday, June 24, hundreds of RESULTS volunteers will be doing lobby meetings at the [RESULTS International Conference](#). To magnify our impact that day, we are organizing a National Call in Day people call and leave a message with their congressional offices that same day. Think of how cool it will be having people sitting down with their members of Congress, telling them to expand economic mobility in America, while outside in the lobby the receptionist is fielding dozens of calls with the same message. To make calling in and getting others to call in easy, we have a printable call-in flyer ([Word version](#) / [PDF version](#)) with the number to call and what to say when you call. There's even a QR code in the flyer you can use to send an e-mail on your their phone or tablet after you call. Please send the flyer to anyone and everyone, urging them to call on June 24. We will do a role play of this action in just a minute.
4. **Amplify your work using social media.** You can post a short message on Facebook or Twitter urging

people to take action. Meredith will show us how in just a few minutes.

If you are coming to the RESULTS International Conference, plan to host a conference “debriefing” party after you get back from Washington, DC. Nothing fancy - a potluck, a dinner with friends, or a talk to a local community group. Invite people to come and tell people about your experience at the conference. Share what you learned, tell them about your lobby meetings, and tell them you hand-delivered their letters to Congress. This is a great way to help people back home share in your conference experience and hopefully inspire them to come next year.

The [June Action](#) has tips and resources to help you engage people this month. If you have questions or need help with mobilizing people in your community this month, please contact Jos Linn at [jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org).

## **June Training: Call-in Day Role Play – Kristy Martino, U.S. Poverty Organizer (Kittery Point, ME)**

This is Kristy Martino, U.S. Poverty Organizer for RESULTS, and I have the pleasure of doing our speaking training this month. As Jos mentioned, we’re wanting to generate lots of calls to Congress on June 24 talking about expanding economic mobility in America. This is a great way for those of you who cannot come to DC to be a part of this year’s conference, as well as a quick and easy way to get others to take action.

If you’ve never called Congress on a call-in day, it is very easy to do. You’re basically calling the receptionist, giving your name and where you’re calling from, and leaving your message. The people who answer the phones at your House and Senate offices keep track of these calls and what people are saying, and provide a report of them to your members of Congress. So they matter.

So for this month’s training, we’re going to role play one of these calls. I’m happy to have \_\_\_\_\_ play the operator and receptionist for me. So let’s imagine it is June 24. I’ve just dialed the Capitol Switchboard at **(202) 224-3121**. Ring, ring...

*Operator: Capitol Switchboard.*

***Kristy: Would you please connect me with Sen. Collins’ office, please.***

*Operator: Hold please.*

*Receptionist: Senator Collins’ office.*

***Kristy: Yes, my name is Kristy Martino and I’m a constituent from Kittery Point, Maine. I am very concerned that Congress is not doing enough for working Americans. The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit lift more children out of poverty than any other program. Also, the Financial Security Credit would help low-income Americans save and avoid being just one financial emergency away from poverty. Please put working Americans first. Will you tell Senator Collins to urge tax leaders to protect and expand the EITC and Child Tax Credit and to pass the Financial Security Credit into law?***

*Receptionist: Yes, I’ll give her the message. Thank you for your call.*

I would then call back two more times – for my other senator and my representative. It’s that easy. It should take you no more than a few minutes to make all three calls.

So now, pair up in your groups and we’ll take 2 minutes to practice. One person play the receptionist and the other play the volunteer, and then switch. Operator, we’ll go silent now and I’ll be back in two minutes.

Thank you all for doing that. Hopefully that exercise showed you just how easy doing a call-in is. Please send out our call-in flyer ([Word version](#) / [PDF version](#)) far and wide and urge people to call on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The more calls we generate, the bigger impact we’ll make. We’ll also send out an e-mail the morning of June 24 urging people to call, which you can forward to people as a reminder. Thank you all and good luck!

Now let’s go to Meredith to talk about using social media during the International Conference.

## **June Training: Social Media Training – Meredith Dodson**

Amplify your work using social media – this is a great way to remind friends to call in or email Congress

1. Post a short message, like:

***“I’m outraged that Congress wants to cut tax for corporations while ignoring the needs of working Americans. Join me in taking action: <http://tinyurl.com/EconMobility>.”***

(you can “Share” a post about calling in from the RESULTS [Facebook page](#): [www.facebook.com/RESULTSEdFund](http://www.facebook.com/RESULTSEdFund) or from the retweet [@RESULTS Tweets on Twitter](#). If you are in Washington, post pictures of your lobby meetings on Facebook and Twitter using the [#RESULTScnf](#) hashtag.)

2. Ask your friends to let you know they’ve taken action.

## **Global Campaigns Update – Crickett Nicovich, Senior Policy Associate for Global Poverty Campaigns (Washington, DC)**

Since so many of you are going to Capitol Hill and will participate in lobby meetings where our global poverty focused RESULTS volunteers are presenting about our global health and other campaigns, we thought it would make sense to offer a brief update about our global campaign work on this month’s call...

Excited to see you at the International Conference, and can also take action with our global volunteers at home.

Here is an update on our major “buckets of work”

1. Follow up on appropriations work – fully funding key foreign aid programs, both House and Senate subcommittees will “mark up” their bills next week. House may still be in play and Senate may be done.  
Priorities:
  - a. Education – global Partnership for Education
  - b. Bilateral TB control
  - c. Maternal and child health accounts, funds vaccines for GAI
2. Launching work on GAVI – access to vaccines and immunizations, goal to fully fund GAVI during replenishment conference in Germany to immunize 300 million children and save 5-6 million lives. US and others set goal of ending preventable childhood deaths by 2035.

## **Shares – Jos Linn**

**Kem Spaulding**, Charlottesville, VA – Warner town hall (confirmed)

*I'm Kem Spaulding in the Charlottesville, VA group. My partner Lisa was notified that Senator Warner was coming to our town, kicking off his campaign and so we decided to go to see if we could get a question asked.*

*He spoke for about 5 minutes and then opened it up for questions. I should have put my hand up first but I wasn't ready and I was afraid I wouldn't get a chance. He said I'll take one more question and called on me. I simply said I understood that congress is considering making the tax cuts for corporations permanent while EITC and CTC are still very vulnerable and that hardly seems fair.*

*He said it isn't fair. They are the best programs we have for lifting working people out of poverty. He went on to say that he thinks EITC extensions and similar programs are bargaining chips (traded for business tax breaks) and he thinks the only way to make them permanent is through a 'grand bargain'.*

*It was very exciting for us to be 10 feet from him, have him confirm what we know about these programs and to hear how he sees how the bargaining process works in Washington. I was definitely worth our effort.*

**Jos Linn**, Des Moines, IA – Iowa MoCs definitely paying attention to local media (confirmed)

*Now I want to tell you a story about how your media advocacy can make a difference. First, thank you to everyone who took action getting media published last month. Since May 1, RESULTS volunteers have gotten 7 letters to the editor and 2 op-eds published as part of the [May Action](#). And we'll hopefully have more published. Our local group here in Des Moines got 2 letters to the editor and 1 op-ed published telling Congress to stop passing tax cuts for corporations and instead help families getting the EITC and Child Tax Credit. Like RESULTS trains us, we listed our members of Congress by name in our media pieces. In fact, one of our letters was in response to an op-ed one of our Iowa representatives had written supporting the big corporate tax cut the House passed back in May. Well, I guess this congressman reads the paper because when our op-ed ran this week on Tuesday, which again named him as well as others who had voted for the tax cut, our group was contacted by three different people on the congressman's staff. They pointed out all the things he had done to protect and expand the EITC and CTC. We explained that we appreciate his support of these tax credits and we consider him an ally but we*

want more than that – we want him talking about these issues as prominently as he did in his op-ed about the corporate tax cut. It's important to remember that even with people we consider friends, we should still push them to do more. That's the only way we'll create the political will for change. It was a polite conversation and what will come of it, I don't know. But it does show that your members of Congress pay attention to these things and that your media does have an impact. So if you haven't sent in your [letter to the editor or op-ed about protecting the EITC and CTC](#), it's not too late. You never know who might call you in response. And if you're coming to the International Conference next week, bring your published media with you to show in your lobby meetings.

## Roll Call – Christine Humrichouse, RESULTS Johnson County (IA) volunteer

Hi, this is Chris Humrichouse from the new RESULTS Johnson County group in Iowa City, IA. I'm please to do this month's Roll Call. Here are the questions we want you to answer this month:

1. **How many people are in the room? 57 total**
2. **How many people will you ask to write letters to Congress and to call Congress on June 24 for the National Call-in Day? 648 letters**

## International Conference and Final Announcements – Jay Carroll, U.S. Poverty Intern

We are looking forward to seeing all of you coming to Washington DC next weekend for the RESULTS International Conference. This is going to be a great event and we only wish all of you could be there. Here are few items you can do to create a great conference experience, whether you're in DC or back home.

- **Read our [U.S. Poverty Campaigns Handbook](#)**, which will prepare you for the conference – especially your lobby meetings. And even if you're not coming to DC, it is a great resource for your advocacy back home.
- **Set up your lobby meetings.** If you're coming to DC, please contact your House and Senate schedulers to set up face-to-face meetings for Lobby Day, June 24. This is very important. Ask people in your group to help set up meetings if you having a tough time getting them done.
- When you get your lobby meetings set up, please **enter the meeting information into our Lobby Meeting Form** at: [www.tinyurl.com/HillMeeting](http://www.tinyurl.com/HillMeeting).
- Be ready to meet some great REAL Change Fellows – see our [blogpost](#) for more on what they will be doing.
- **Don't forget to invite your members of Congress to our Lobby Day reception.** Use our [invitation letter](#) on the RESULTS International Conference page to invite them to speak at our Lobby Day reception at the Washington Court Hotel on June 24.
- **Send us your picture.** We want you or your group represented in the opening session slideshow at the conference. After today's call, please take a picture of your group and send it to us. If possible, include a sign that completes this sentence "The change I want to be in the world is..." For example, "the change I want to be in the world is economic opportunity for all" or "...the change I want to be in the world is making poverty history." Please send the picture to Jay Carroll at [jcarroll@results.org](mailto:jcarroll@results.org) no later than this Tuesday, June 17.
- **Participate in the "Everyday Hero Dash" Virtual Race.** At the conference, we'll be doing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Everyday Hero Dash on June 21 at 7:30pm outside the conference hotel. You can run, walk, stroll, or dance any distance you want. This is a fundraiser for RESULTS and you can even participate from back home. All racers will get an Everyday Hero Medal. You can register as a racer yourself for \$25 at [www.tinyurl.com/2014EHD](http://www.tinyurl.com/2014EHD) or support someone else who is racing at [www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSrace](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSrace).

Now let's do the final announcements.

- We want to give a shout out to our newest groups in the call today – **RESULTS Seacoast, RESULTS Johnson County, Iowa, and RESULTS Spokane.** Welcome!
- **Nominate someone for the Grassroots Board.** We are looking to fill two Grassroots Board positions this year. If you want to nominate someone from our grassroots network to be on the RESULTS Board, please submit your nominations to Jack McLaughlin at [jmclaughlin@results.org](mailto:jmclaughlin@results.org). The nomination deadline is

tomorrow, June 15.

- The **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls** will also be meeting this Tuesday, June 17, at 1:00 pm and 9:00 pm ET. (443) 453-0034, passcode 703096.
- If you know someone who might make a great RESULTS advocate, please invite them to our **RESULTS Introductory Call on** Friday, June 27 at 1:00 pm ET. Register at [www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSMeetandGreet/](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSMeetandGreet/).
- You can find a full list of upcoming events, along with call-in numbers and registration links, on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).
- Thank you for being on the call today. The next RESULTS National Conference Call is **Saturday, July 12**. This will be a joint call with our RESULTS Global volunteers so please note that the call will begin at **2:00pm ET**.
- Finally, let's wish all our DC travelers a good luck for their meetings on Capitol Hill and a Happy Independence Day!