

# RESULTS

the power to end poverty

RESULTS December 2014 U.S. Poverty National Conference Call  
*Celebrating 2014 Successes and Looking Ahead to 2015 Campaigns*  
Saturday, December 13, 12:30 pm ET, (888) 409-6709

# Welcome from RESULTS Executive Director Dr. Joanne Carter



# Congratulation on Your Amazing Successes in 2014!

## Meetings with Members of Congress

You've set a new record for face-to-face meetings

**121 meetings with 76 different members of Congress in 2014!**

90 meetings with representatives and 31 meetings with senators

81 meetings with Democrats and 40 meeting with Republicans



# Congratulation on Your Amazing Successes in 2014!



## Media Success

You've had 119 media pieces published in 2014

96 letters to the editor

17 op-eds

6 articles or radio interviews



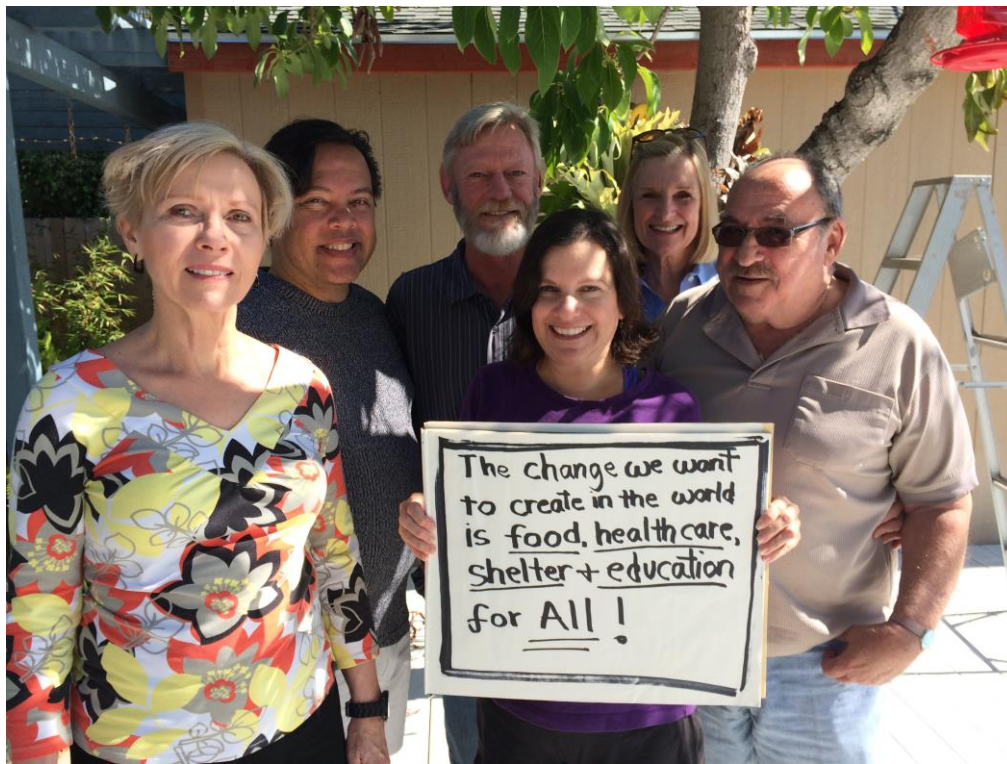


# Shares

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



(Jos, right, with Sen. Tom Harkin and RESULTS Iowa volunteers Maddy Becker and Frank Driscoll)



# Shares

Being persistent with  
members of Congress

**Daria Flores**

**RESULTS San Diego**

(Daria, second from right, with RESULTS San Diego volunteers Donna Shanske, Patrick Ambrosio, Scott Smith, Michele Lagoy, and Jeff Brosbe)



# Shares

Supporting RESULTS  
through fundraising

**Lydia Pendley**  
RESULTS Santa Fe

(Lydia, second from left, with fellow  
former/current RESULTS Grassroots  
Board members Beth Wilson, Heide  
Craig, and Ginnie Vogts)





# Shares

**Making the most of  
local partnerships**

**Sharvonne Williams**  
**RESULTS Indianapolis**

Sharvonne at the 2014  
RESULTS International  
Conference in Washington, DC



# Shares

Using REAL Change to  
make a difference



## **Sarah Miller**

### **RESULTS St. Louis**

(Sarah, third from left, next to Rep. Lacy Clay (D-MO-1) and RESULTS St. Louis volunteers Amanda Beals, Cindy Levin, Yara Levin, Summer Levin, Thomas Herring, and Jackie Heymann)

# RESULTS Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns Meredith Dodson

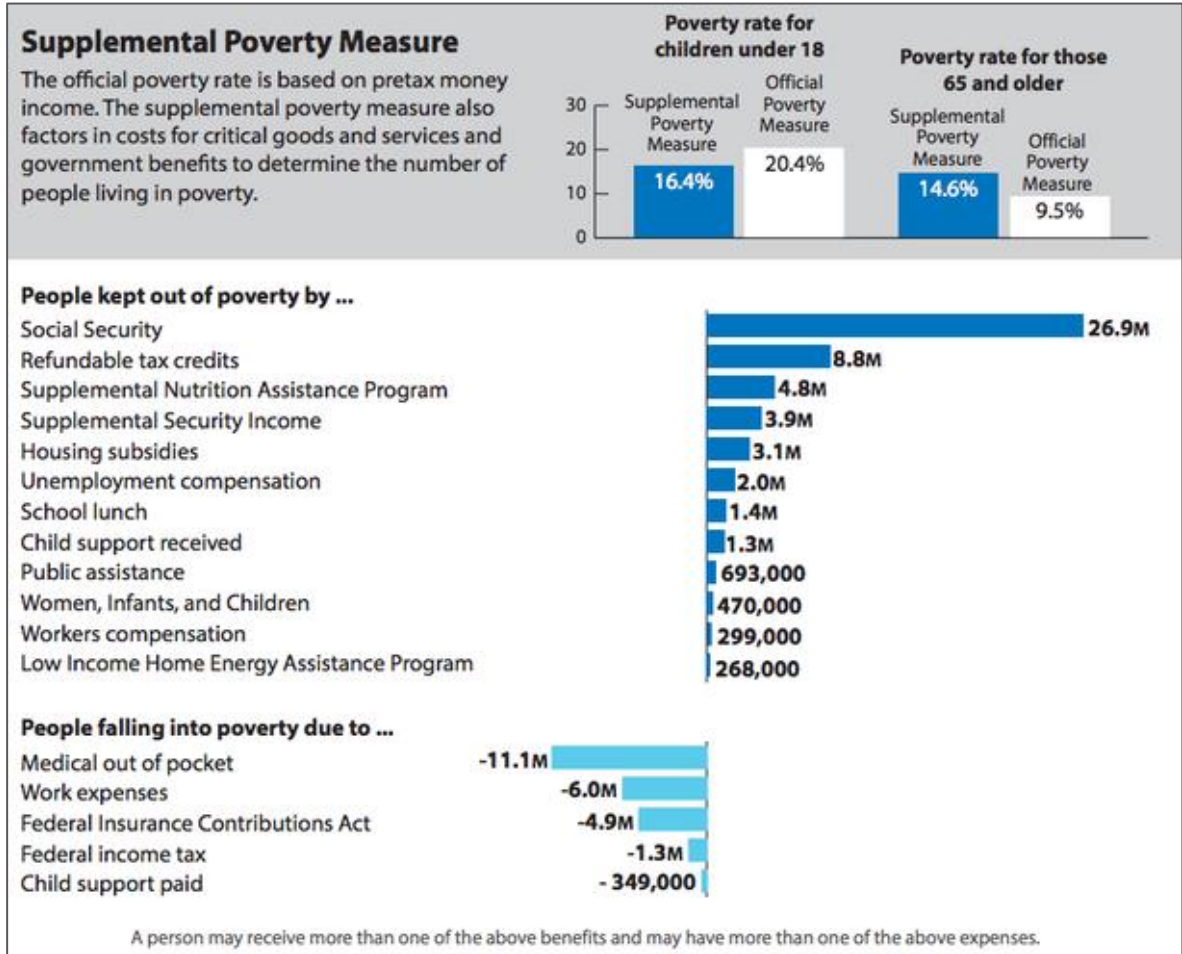
(Meredith with daughter Iris and friend Elena at a MomsRising event on Capitol Hill for children's health in November)



## Legislative Update – Congress Tries to Pull a Fast One

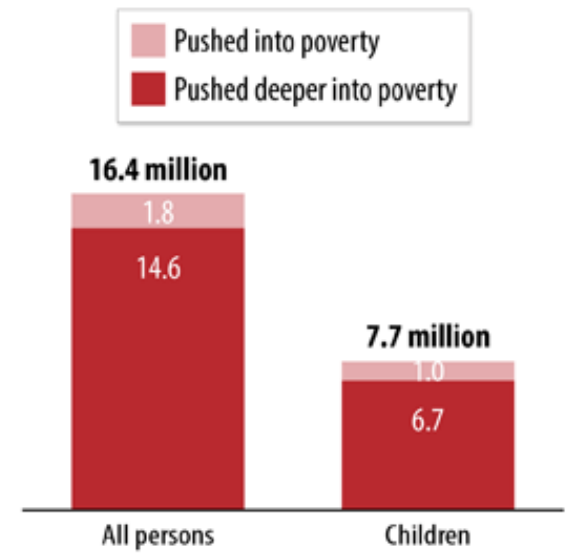
- Right before Thanksgiving, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH-8) negotiated a deal on “tax extenders” legislation.
  - Expanded and made permanent some business tax credits while extending others for a year.
  - Cost = **\$400 billion** over the next ten years, none of it paid for.
- The President quickly threatened to veto the bill because it gave huge tax breaks to corporations while doing nothing for working families getting the EITC and CTC.
- Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) spoke out against the bill for its failure to include the EITC and CTC improvements. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12) lined up House Democrats to sustain the president’s potential veto.
- Veto threat and House Democrats willing to sustain it killed the bill.
- Congress now working to pass a one-year extension (through 2014) of the extenders.

# EITC and CTC Are Helping Millions of Families



## Letting Key EITC and CTC Provisions Expire Would Push Millions Into or Deeper Into Poverty

Impact on poverty (using Supplemental Poverty Measure) if provisions expire at end of 2017



Source: CBPP analysis of Census Bureau's March 2014 Current Population Survey and 2013 SPM public use file.  
[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org](http://centeronbudgetandpolicy.org)



## December Action – Tell Tax Aides to Protect the EITC and CTC

- Congress is just about to adjourn for the year
- Before they leave, **call the tax aides in your House and Senate offices**. You can find contact information and staff names on our Elected Officials page at: <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>.
- Tell them **you're not happy with what happened** on the tax extenders bill.
- Remind them that corporate profits are at an all-time high and should not be Congress' priority right now. There are smarter tax policies to focus on: **the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC)** for low-income working families.
- Tell the aide these tax credits are our nation's **most successful anti-poverty programs for children** – they [lifted 8.8 million Americans out of poverty in 2013](#).
- Note that key EITC and CTC provisions are set to expire in 2017. If they do, about [17 million people, including 8 million children, will fall into poverty or deeper into poverty](#). Failure to include these provisions is what killed the tax extenders bill.

## December Action – Tell Tax Aides to Protect the EITC and CTC

- Also flag bipartisan support for expanding the EITC for adults without children in the home by lowering the eligible EITC age from 25 to 21 and doubling the size of the credit to \$1,000. This alone would help 13.5 million Americans, including 1.5 million non-custodial parents, and would lift 500,000 hardworking Americans out of poverty.
- Urge the aide to ask his/her boss to speak to incoming Senate Finance Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and ranking member Ron Wyden (D-OR) or incoming House Ways and Means Chair Paul Ryan (R-1-WI) an ranking member Sander Levin (D-9-MI) and urge them to:
  - **Make the expiring improvements to the EITC and CTC permanent**
  - **Expand the EITC for childless workers by lowering the eligibility age and increasing the size of the credit**
- Schedule a time to follow up by phone or email on your request.
- If you're not responsible for calling an aide this month, please send an e-mail to reinforce the message.

## Don't forget about your Local Action Networks!

Urge your Local Action Network members to take action by sending an e-mail to Congress about the EITC and CTC. Copy and paste this into an e-mail to them (also in [last Tuesday's Update](#)):

*Last month Congressional leaders tried to push forward a [tax package](#) that would have made a number of business tax credits permanent while leaving low-income families in the cold. This deal fell apart, but it was a reminder that we have to keep the pressure on members of Congress to protect Americans struggling in poverty. Join me using the [RESULTS online alert](#) to tell Congress to make protecting low-income working families who get the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) and [Child Tax Credit](#) (CTC) a priority.*

Make sure remind your Local Action Network members of your local group's successes in 2014. Also thank them for taking action during the year and to be ready for more in 2015!

# December Action – Tell Tax Aides to Protect the EITC and CTC

## Resources

- RESULTS December 2014 U.S. Poverty Action:  
[http://www.results.org/take\\_action/december\\_2014\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_action/](http://www.results.org/take_action/december_2014_u.s._poverty_action/)
- CBPP analysis of what would happen if improvements expire in 2017:  
<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4228>
- CBPP EITC and CTC State Fact Sheets:  
<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4097>
- Brookings Analysis on EITC Impact by County:  
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2014/county-eitc-map-2014>
- CBPP analysis of expanding EITC for “childless workers”:  
<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=3991>



# 2014 Campaigns Review

## Creating Economic Mobility Building Ladders out of Poverty

This was designed as a multi-year campaign. Our goal through the campaign is to enact policies that ensure that all Americans have the financial means to earn enough income to make ends meet, stay on their feet while working to become financially independent, and build the savings and assets to weather financial emergencies and save for the future.

1. **Protect and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit**
  - Make the 2009 EITC and CTC improvements permanent
  - Expand the EITC for workers without children in the home
2. **Support Asset Building strategies like the Financial Security Credit**
3. **Address the cliff effect.** Ultimately, the policy landscape (i.e. the difficulties of crafting legislation across programs and agencies to address various cliffs) and political landscape (i.e. the real danger that discussing work disincentives created by the cliff could justify draconian cuts or structural changes to the programs) have made us step back from a serious push to address the cliff effect through legislation in 2014.

## Going Forward, What Does the Tax Extenders Episode Tell Us

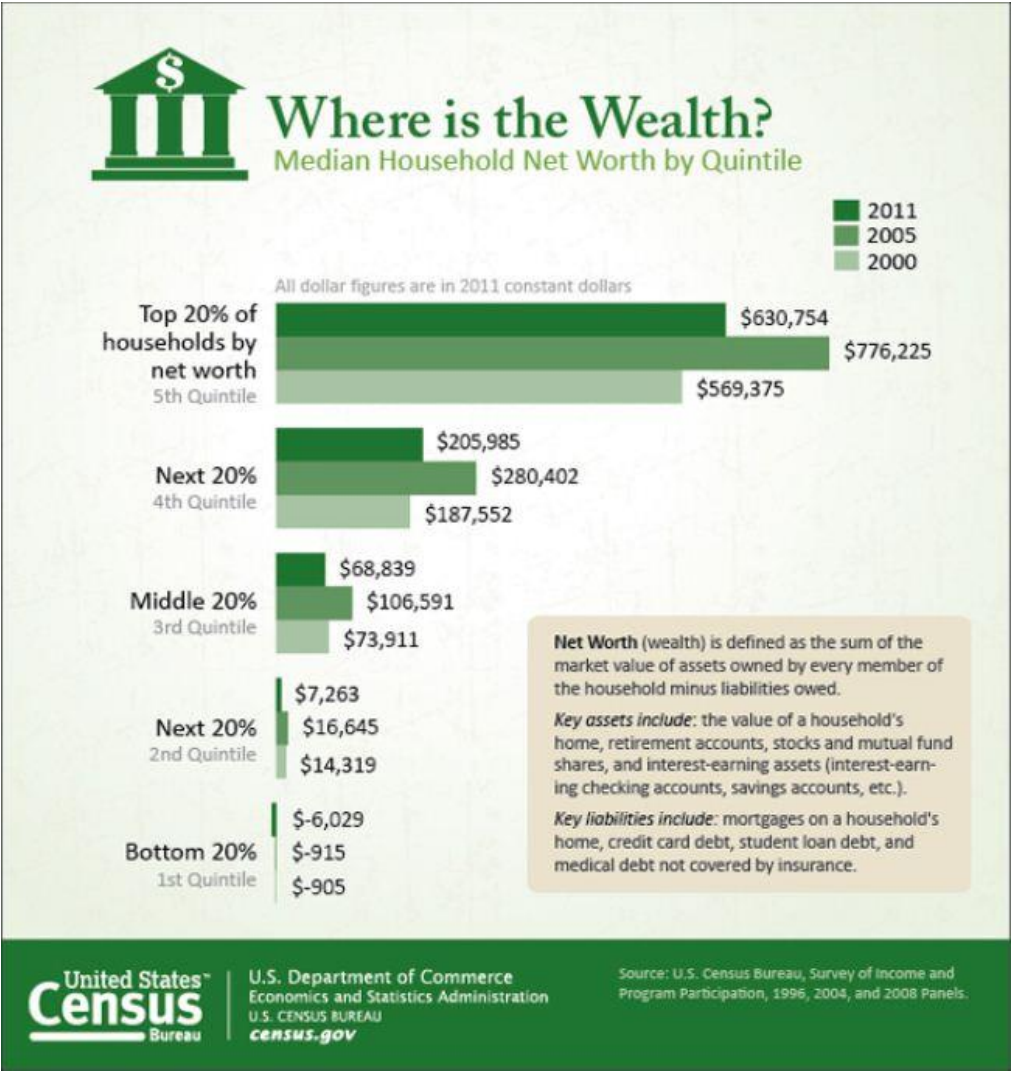
1. **Expect to be busy.** With the new Congress, expect more attempts to roll back the safety net. The EITC and SNAP will likely be big targets for cuts in FY2016 budget negotiations.
2. **We can assume nothing.** Rumors are that without the presidential veto threat, the tax extenders bill would have easily passed. Many traditional allies would have voted yes.
3. **House members are very important.** With any new attacks on anti-poverty programs, the only backstop is the President's veto pen and members of Congress, especially House Democrats, willing to sustain a presidential veto.
3. **Your voice is essential.** Your work becomes more important than ever. Educating your representatives and senators about the importance of anti-poverty programs will be vital if we are to stave off these attacks.

# 2015 U.S. Poverty Campaigns Proposal

Subject to board approval, we plan to pursue two major campaigns

1. **Continue our multi-year Economic Mobility campaign.** Given what's at stake with efforts to make corporate tax breaks permanent while ignoring low-income families, we'll continue our focus on protecting and expanding the EITC and CTC but in a broader framework:
  - Step back and look at inequality and the racial wealth gap (slides 20-21)
  - Government policies play a key role – and, tax policy is key
    - Historically, many government policies have fostered inequality
      - Slavery
      - Homestead Act
      - GI Bill
      - Homeownership policies: direct and indirect
    - Current system rewards wealth, widens the wealth gap further (slide 22)
  - We need to speak up for fairness, and specific tax policies that create fairness and accelerate economic mobility

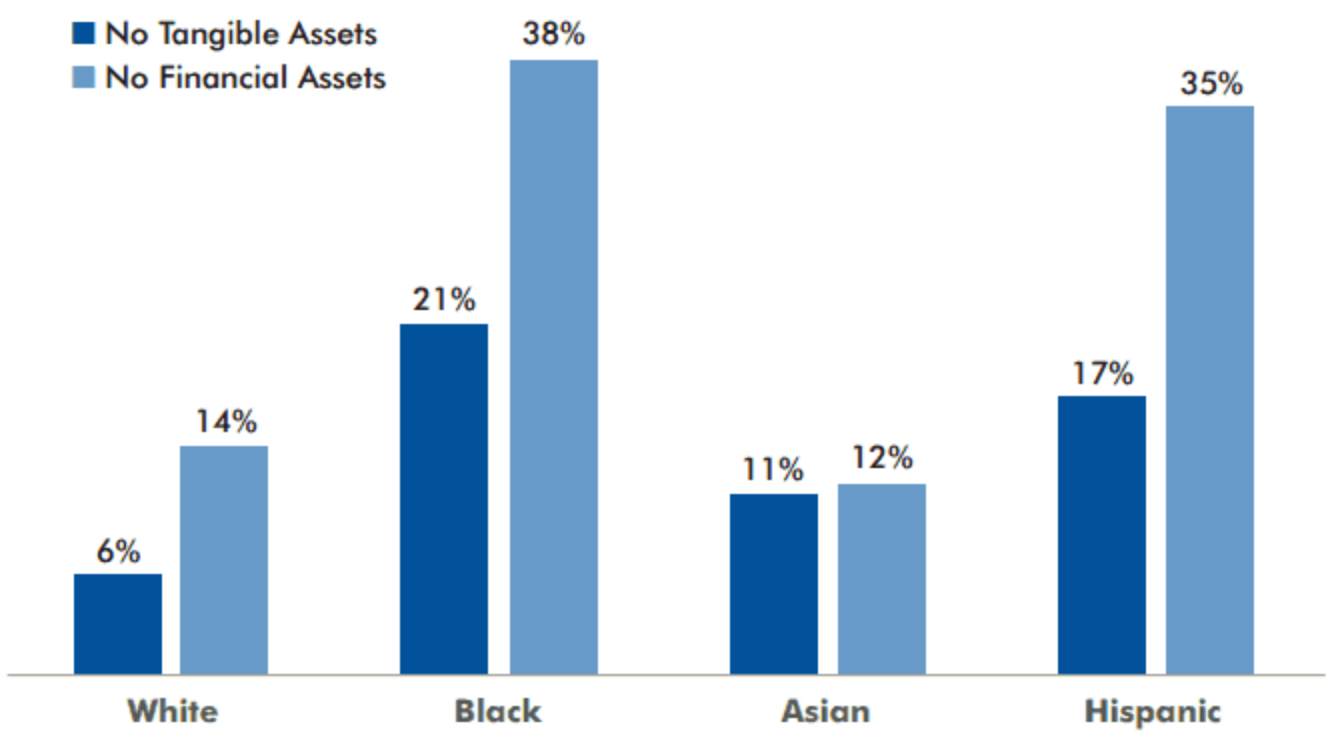
# 2015 U.S. Poverty Campaigns Proposal





# 2015 U.S. Poverty Campaigns Proposal

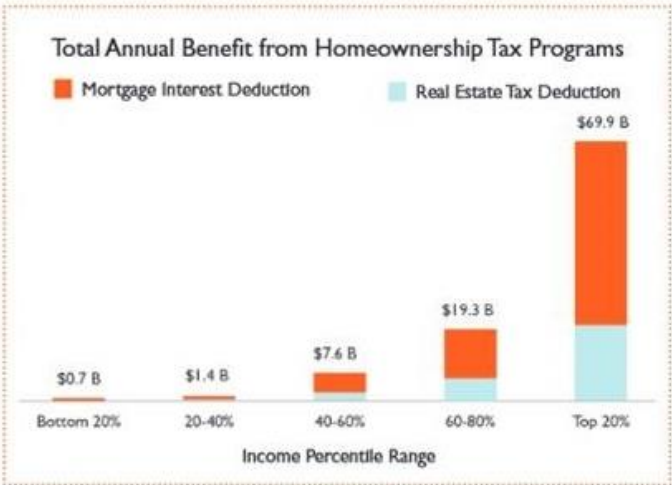
**FIGURE 2: Share of Households with No Tangible or Financial Assets by Race/Ethnicity, 2011**



Source: Author's analysis of the 2011 U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation.

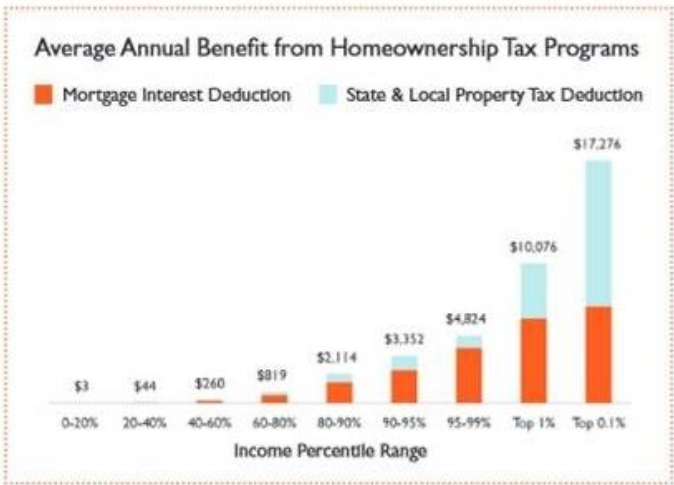
# 2015 U.S. Poverty Campaigns Proposal

*Upside Down Homeownership Tax Programs*  
**Top 20% get \$69.9 billion**  
**Bottom 20% gets \$0.7 billion**



Author's calculations based on data from [Urban Institute](#) (2014).

*Upside Down Homeownership Tax Programs*  
**Average Top 0.1% household gets \$17,276**  
**Average Bottom 20% household gets \$3**



Source: CFED

[http://cfed.org/blog/inclusiveeconomy/upside\\_down\\_the\\_211\\_billion\\_budget\\_to\\_house\\_the\\_wealthiest\\_ho  
meowners/](http://cfed.org/blog/inclusiveeconomy/upside_down_the_211_billion_budget_to_house_the_wealthiest_homeowners/)

## 2015 U.S. Poverty Campaigns Proposal

- 2. Food For Thought: Protecting Nutrition Programs.** Primarily focused on protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), also possibly WIC and other programs in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization.
- Deep threats to SNAP in budget process, especially “reconciliation”
  - Congress could also once again cut SNAP funding as a way to pay for Child Nutrition Reauthorization, as it did in 2010.

# 2015 Grassroots Goals

2014 Achievements (to date)	2015 Goals
35 U.S. Poverty groups with 240 activists Represent 30 states and 118 House districts	43 U.S. Poverty groups with 275 activists Represent 40 states and 160 House districts (add 11 new groups and 130 new activists)
121 Face-to Face Meetings (90 House members, 31 Senators)	127 Face-to-Face meetings (92 House members, 35 Senators)
119 Media Pieces Published (0 editorials, 17 op-eds, 96 LTEs, 6 “other”)	129 Media Pieces Published (6 editorials, 20 op-eds, 95 LTEs, 8 “other”)
37 existing U.S. Poverty volunteers attended the International Conference, representing 67 percent of our groups	50 existing U.S. Poverty volunteers attend the International Conference, representing 75 percent of our groups
89 outreach and/or fundraising events 27 percent of groups did fundraising	125 outreach and/or fundraising events At least 40 percent of groups fundraise

We look forward to working with you in 2015 to make these goals a reality





## RESULTS U.S. Poverty Organizer Kristy Martino



(with NPR and PBS talk show host Tavis Smiley)

## Announcements

- **Next RESULTS National Conference Call** is Saturday, January 10 at 12:30pm ET. Like last year, we will do Group Planning on the call. Plan where your group will meet on January 10 to listen to the call and do your planning. Our 2015 Group Planning materials will be available on the [RESULTS Group Resources page](#) soon.
- Remember that the **2015 RESULTS International Conference** is July 18-21, 2015 in Washington, DC. Include IC attendance in your 2015 group plans. Registration for the conference will begin in January.
- **Donate to RESULTS and RESULTS Ed Fund!** All donations made now until the end of this year will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000. Double your financial impact by donating to RESULTS today! [http://www.results.org/support\\_results/donate\\_to\\_results/](http://www.results.org/support_results/donate_to_results/)

## Announcements

- **RESULTS Introductory Call** is this Friday, December 19 at 1:00 pm ET. Find a link to the [Intro Call registration form](#) on the RESULTS Homepage.
- **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents** are this Tuesday, December 16 at 1:00 pm and 9:00 pm ET. The call-in number is (857) 232-0476, passcode 703096.
- Author and respected columnist for the *New York Times* [Nicholas Kristof](#) will be our **February 2015 Conference Call speaker!** This be a joint Global/U.S. Poverty call and we will use this event to invite new people to get involved with RESULTS. More details soon but save the date – **Saturday, February 14 at 2:00pm ET.**
- Find these events and others on our [RESULTS Events Calendar](#) on the RESULTS website.

# Happy Holidays!

All RESULTS offices will be closed December 25 through January 1.  
RESULTS U.S. Poverty staff will be on vacation from December 20 through January 4.