

National Webinar Summary

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Welcome

Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns, RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund (Washington, DC)

- Welcome everyone to the October 2017 RESULTS Domestic Poverty webinar.
- We cannot start conversation without celebrating what happened with health care legislation
- Graham-Cassidy bill did not succeed and reconciliation instructions on it expired at the end of September
- There are more threats ahead, however
- I am inspired by all the work you did to help in the effort to protect Medicaid
- Your work has been making a difference

Guest Speaker – Chye-Ching Huang, Deputy Director, Federal Tax Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Facilitated by Meredith Dodson

Bio

Chye-Ching Huang is Deputy Director, Federal Tax Policy with the Center's Federal Fiscal Policy Team, where she focuses on the fiscal and economic effects of federal tax policy. She rejoined the Center in July 2011 after working as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, where she taught graduate and undergraduate tax law and conducted research in tax law and policy. She first joined the Center in 2008 as a Fulbright Sir Wallace Rowling Memorial Fellow and was a Research Fellow on the Federal Fiscal Policy team from June 2008 to March 2009.

Chye-Ching previously worked on economic policy issues at the New Zealand Institute, and has also practiced as a tax solicitor. She holds an LL.M. from Columbia Law School, and a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

Questions:

Thankful for field engagement and advocacy of RESULTS to protect Medicaid, made facts matter to policymakers!

Next big fiscal fight on agenda is tax/budget related

Tax agenda that House Republicans and White House have laid out:

- 80% of benefits go to top 1% of Americans by 2027
- Full of specific policies that are each very costly, benefit wealthy and corporations
 - Cutting of corporate tax rate to 20%
 - Cutting top tax rate on individual income
 - Repealing estate tax (impact only the top 0.2% of wealthy estates)
 - And more...tax cut after tax cut
- Rhetoric says middle class will benefit, but not proof
 - \$200,000+ for top 1%
 - \$1 million+ for top .01%
 - Percentage change for the rest of us is minimal
- Low and moderate income, and middle class see “giving with one hand and taking with the other” ex:
 - Doubling standard deduction and increasing Child Tax Credit (CTC). This sounds good but changes in other provisions in the plans eliminate counteract these benefits (repealing personal exemption, increasing tax rate for low- and moderate-income people)
 - Essentially, it becomes a wash for those people
 - Lowest income families being left out completely. Even with the promise of an increased CTC. The increase in the maximum credit will not be applied to refundable portion of the credit, therefore low-income families will not benefit
 - Their incomes are too low
- So, in summary the plan has specific, huge cuts for those at the top, it's a wash for moderate incomes, and lower income people are completely left out

Connecting the budget to taxes:

- Tax plans themselves not the only thing we should be concerned about
- In order to enact trillion dollar tax cuts, they will have to make budget cuts to pay for them and they are paving the way for cuts to critical programs we care about
- Justify this by pointing to existing deficits, claim “out of control spending”; we must take this as a warning that they may put tax plan on the deficit
- Budget resolutions have clear, targeted cuts to critical anti-poverty programs

Timing for this year:

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- Republicans in Congress clear they want to use reconciliation to achieve tax cuts (and cuts to programs)
- Reconciliation = partisan fast tracking for major legislation, cannot be filibustered in the Senate
 - Same process at attempts to repeal ACA
- Current goal to pass budget resolution in both House and Senate
 - Senate could vote on their budget resolution next week
 - Must urge your members of Congress to oppose
 - Dangerous mechanisms
 - Let's reconciliation cut Medicaid and Medicare, SSI, many other programs as well (to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy)
 - In the Senate budget plan, every dollar cut from entitlement programs can be dollar added to tax cuts on top of \$1.5 trillion
 - We know from broader budget visions that low and moderate income people will be overlooked, top will benefit
- Two stage fight ahead
 - 1. Stop bad budget resolution (BR)
 - 2. If BR passes, stop the bill itself
- Pressure points:
 - Bad Senate BR (policymakers will portray this as merely a technical process)
 - Conference
 - Stop a bad bill
- Remember what we did well in health care debate/fight
 - Messaging around benefits for wealthy vs harm to critical programs effective
 - Lawmakers must know their constituents understand links between tax breaks, revenues, downside of cutting critical programs
 - Make it real, humanize the impact, illustrate what is at stake

Keep the Pressure on Congress

Meredith Dodson

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RYAN'S TAX & BUDGET PLANS

Tax Giveaways vs **Harm to Families**

\$1.8 Trillion

Corporate tax rate cut

\$1.5 Trillion

Cut to Medicaid & other health care spending taking health care from millions of people

www.americansfortaxfairness.org

RYAN'S TAX & BUDGET PLANS

Tax Giveaways vs **Harm to Families**

\$188 Billion

Tax cut from repealing tax on estates worth more than \$5.5 million

- Allows rich heirs to inherit their fortunes tax-free!


\$150 Billion

Cut to nutrition assistance

- Millions of low-income families would lose their food stamps

www.americansfortaxfairness.org

Congress' budget proposals threaten to slash Medicaid, SNAP, and other basic assistance.



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the power to end poverty

#HandsOff

Make Sure Congress Hears from You!

[Request face-to-face meetings](#)

- Senate recess: October 9-13
- House recess: October 16-20
- Ask about town halls/public events (also check: www.townhallproject.com).
- Research shows meeting face-to-face with members of Congress is the [most influential action](#)
- RESULTS advocates have discussed U.S. anti-poverty policies 165 times face-to-face with Congress so far this year!
- No meeting? Schedule a conference call with key aides

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Overview of October Action

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

October Action: http://www.results.org/take_action/october_2017_u.s._poverty_action/

Write letters to your members of Congress urging them to reject any budget that gives more tax breaks to the wealthy and big corporations and puts anti-poverty programs at risk.

1. **Introduce yourself** as a constituent who cares about poverty and that you're also a RESULTS volunteer.
2. Inform your member of Congress that you are dismayed **Congress would include massive tax cuts to the wealthy and big corporations in its new tax plan**, while raising taxes on low-income Americans.
3. Tell him/her that enacting these reckless tax cuts **will cost trillions of dollars** over the next decade, which will be added to the deficit, and **greatly widen wealth inequality** in America.
4. Explain that **SNAP, Medicaid, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and other basic assistance** tens of millions of Americans rely on **are at grave risk** of being cut to pay for these new tax cuts.

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5. Remind them that recent Census data shows that the **EITC and Child Tax Credit lifted 8.2 million people out of poverty** in 2016 and **SNAP lifted 3.6 million above the poverty line**.
6. Tell your member of Congress that it is unconscionable that Congress **would enact massive tax cuts for the rich and ask children, seniors, working families, and people with disabilities to pay for them**.
7. Urge your members of Congress to **reject any budget or tax proposal that gives huge tax cuts to the wealthy and big corporations and put core anti-poverty programs at risk**.

Also, continue your work from last month doing presentations and meetings to educate and engage people in your community.

- Use the budget fight to remind people about what's at stake
- Be creative and flexible in what you do
 - Doesn't have to be hard – we already have [all the resources](#) you need
 - [October Action](#) even has a sample meeting agenda to help and you can use the first part of the action to write letters
 - Piggyback on other events in your community
 - Make it as big or as small as you want
- Let us know if you need help! (Jos Linn, jlinn@results.org)

Resources

- **October Action:** http://www.results.org/take_action/october_2017_u.s._poverty_action/
- **Outreach Resources** (PPTS, Action Sheets, Forms): http://www.results.org/take_action/domestic_monthly_action_archive/
- **Fall 2017 U.S. Poverty Laser Talks:** http://www.results.org/take_action/fall_2017_u.s._poverty_budget_and_tax_laser_talks

If you cannot find the resources you need on our website, please contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org). Also, please let Jos know when you schedule an event.

October Exercise – Regrouping and Re-energizing

Jos Linn

- **What a year it has been**
 - The 2016 election was a shock to most people, throwing off many of our expectations about our 2017 agenda
 - As expected, the Trump Administration and leaders in Congress have either neglected or attacked on programs we care about – Medicaid, SNAP, the ACA, CHIP, education, etc.

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- Environment has been toxic for many
- **What is one word you would use to describe how you feel about the threats we have and are facing?**
 - Write it in the chat window
 - Raise your Fuze “flag” to speak
- **But in these challenging times, you’ve responded brilliantly**
 - 164 face-to-face meetings – A RECORD!
 - 352 media pieces – A RECORD!
 - Over 100 outreach meetings
 - **What are you most proud of in your work so far this year?**
 - Write it in the chat window
 - Raise your Fuze “flag” to speak
- **Remember, out of adversity, great things happen**
 - In 2015, we were fighting off bad corporate tax cuts while Congress ignored expiring provisions in the EITC/CTC
 - Your advocacy forced their hand and they made these provisions permanent when no one thought it would happen
 - 16 million people were kept out of poverty or deeper poverty as a result
 - **What are you hopeful or excited about in your work for the rest of 2017?**
 - Write it in the chat window
 - Raise your Fuze “flag” to speak

Grassroots Share

Diana Tyree-Eddy, RESULTS Kitsap/Bremerton, WA

- In last 4 months, 3 Kitsap volunteers have had a letter published per month
- All 3 of us have been looking for things in the paper as hooks for our letters and write in response to them
- We post our letters on our own Facebook pages and our local RESULTS Kitsap Facebook page and support each other by mentioning each other on Facebook and Twitter
- I don’t deprive myself of coffee before I write a letter like Willie Dickerson; I make myself comfortable and write and make it a habit like taking medicine or taking out the garbage

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Garrett Wilkinson, RESULTS Manhattan, KS (Kansas State University)

We have a RESULTS volunteer working for the school newspaper and they leaked the details of Sen. Jerry Moran's surprise visit to K-State. We immediately contacted RESULTS staff and asked for advice/policy information. We then used our networks to get as many people to our engagement as possible, drafted strategy, etc.

We shared stories and KS-specific facts on Graham-Cassidy. (I've attached photos of people sharing stories--one man from the community came to tell Moran about how the lives of his granddaughters were saved by Medicaid. It was really powerful. I attached a picture of the girls. He had it on his phone to show Moran.) We were dismayed when he said that he didn't yet have a position on the bill.

I reached out to the school newspaper about what we did, and asked for a meeting with them. I insisted on which parts of my conversation they should quote, and I informed them that the value of their reporting was that Moran would read it and understand that K-State students were calling him to action to protect Medicaid. The media complied.

Another REAL Change fellow and I have also been involved with a group called Housing Works, and we received funding from them to travel to DC for civil disobedience during the Senate hearing on the bill. We were arrested on live national television along with 185 other activists. Upon regaining our freedom from holding, we went back to Senator Moran's office and wrote him letters and spoke with his staff. The next day, members of our group spoke with Murkowski's office, made their staffers cry, and a few hours later Murkowski came out as a no on the bill. The bill was then pulled.



Students, community members confront Sen. Moran on health care

Students and members of the community initiated an impromptu conversation with Sen. Moran during a surprise campus visit.

KSTATECOLLEGIAN.COM



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Preview of Virtual Thanksgiving Feast Friends & Family Fundraising Campaign

Beth Wilson, RESULTS Kitsap (WA) and Grassroots Board Member

What is it? Online, peer-to-peer fundraising campaign.

When? November 13-28 - *Final grassroots fundraising opportunity for 2017*

Why fundraise?

- Help raise needed funds for RESULTS so we can continue to build on this year's extraordinary organizing momentum, while protecting the gains we've made against poverty.
- Spread the word about the great work your RESULTS group is doing
- Grow your network of advocates and supporters

Resources available?

- Campaign guide with sample talking points, emails to send to your networks, and social media posts
- Personal fundraising website
- One-on-one support from Development Team

Next Steps?

- Discuss with your group during next planning meeting to schedule in the Friends and Family Campaign.
- Have questions? Contact Ben McGarry at bmcgarry@results.org or development@results.org.
- Planning to participate? Let Ben or your Regional Coordinator know.
- Look for more information including the Campaign Guide and instructions to set up your online fundraising page in early November.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR FUNDRAISING FOR RESULTS!

RESULTS Announcements

Kristy Martino, U.S. Poverty Grassroots Organizer

- **We need your group info.** Please ask everyone in your groups to fill out this form www.tinyurl.com/RESVollInfo for our new database.
- **Next RESULTS Introductory Call**, Wednesday, October 11 at 9:00pm ET and Friday, October 27 at 1:00 pm ET. Sign up on the [RESULTS website](http://www.results.org).

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- **U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls**, Tuesday, October 17 at 1:00pm and 8:00pm ET. Login at <http://fuze.me/32256018> or dial in by phone at (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 32256018#. Contact [Jos Linn](#) for details.
- **Proven Tools for Bringing Out Leadership in Others webinar**, October 30 at 8:00 pm ET. Using our new [Group Leader Training Modules/Handbook](#), come for a great discussion of tips to help you be "a leader of leaders." Join at: <http://fuze.me/35674518> or dial (201) 479-4595, meeting ID 35674518.
- Save the date! The **2018 RESULTS International Conference** is from July 14-17, 2018 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C.
- Find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).
- Thank you for being on tonight's webinar! Our next National Grassroots Webinar is **Tuesday, November 14 at 8:00pm ET**.

Final Action – Tell Your Members of Congress to Reject Tax Cuts that Put Anti-Poverty Programs at Risk

Kristy Martino

Before you leave tonight, TAKE ACTION NOW against tax cuts that put Medicaid and SNAP at risk!

Go to <http://www.results.org/take-action/action-center?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f54035%2frespond> to send an e-mail to your members of Congress telling them to reject tax cuts that worsen inequality and cut basic health and nutrition assistance.

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