

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

Welcome everyone to this RESULTS US Poverty webinar for January 2018—our first for 2018!

Happy New Year and I hope that you each had at least a little bit of time to be with family and friends over the holidays. And that you got some rest and fun and could turn off the newsfeed on your phones for a little while and get a bit of respite.

As we gear up for this critical year, I want to start by taking a moment to acknowledge and celebrate what we accomplished this last year.

Because I think we need to own our accomplishments, especially in challenging times, to give us energy and hope going forward.

What we've been able to do shows us what we can do going forward. What we can build on.

Organization wide in 2017, we mobilized early and strongly and throughout the year and we had

- Over 800 media pieces published
- Over 800 meetings with Members of Congress and staff
- And we now have volunteers active on our issues in all 50 states

On US Poverty issues, you...

- Generated an amazing 442 media pieces in 2017
- Held 179 face-to-face meetings with MOC and hundreds more with staff!
- Held 118 outreach events
- And 80 percent of RESULTS U.S. Poverty groups (plus 18 Free Agents) were represented when we gathered at our 2017 International Conference in Washington DC

Most importantly, with those efforts — your media, your outreach to members of Congress, your powerful stories---the kind of sophisticated and powerful engagement you had, we played a key part, with others across the country in

Stopping cuts to SNAP and other nutrition programs—those cuts were a real potential early last year.

And we helped stop multiple bills, as you remember, that would have decimated Medicaid as a part of dismantling the Affordable Care Act. Early in 2017, almost no one thought that would be possible.

And while we didn't stop the recent tax bill, we did help raise national awareness about who really benefits and who doesn't. And this tax bill itself was only the first part of the battle.

This tax bill will create massive deficits on the order of \$1.5 trillion and that deficit will be used as a justification to drive deep cuts to critical anti-poverty programs including Medicaid and SNAP and refundable tax credits and more.

This is the second part of this tax battle that will play out this year. And this one we can win. But only if we don't let up. If we make clear what the actual impacts of those cuts would be. And if we reclaim the language and the narrative — this is not deficit reduction, this is not welfare reform. This is cutting proven effective programs that provide health and nutrition for millions of people in our country, programs that are the most important tools in reducing poverty.

Starting now, we have a critical role in protecting these programs in budget battles.

And as we move into the later part of 2018, we also have a key role to play in making issues of poverty and inequality election priorities.

As you're doing 2018 planning — some of you tonight and some later this month, strategize together on how you can expand your network — how you can build more local alliances and partnerships, how you can also find folks who want to take actions that will matter like writing letters to Congress and helping deliver them directly to members of Congress—Kristy Martino will talk later in the call about an exciting campaign plan around that. If we can create more political muscle then we can not only be even more effective in protecting these critical programs, but also move beyond playing defense. I truly believe we can come out of this moment stronger and be in a position to actually strengthen and expand effective programs, innovate new strategies and make greater inroads against poverty and inequality.

2017 Tax Bill Recap and 2018 Campaign Preview

Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

- Tax legislation adding \$1.5 trillion to the federal deficit passed in December – despite a huge public outcry that you helped create.
- Final tax bill includes a slight increase in the Child Tax Credit for low-income families (see this [good Vox explainer](#)) – and Senate Republicans are now on record supporting an expansion of tax credits for low-income families.

INCREASE IN THE CHILD TAX CREDIT IN THE FINAL GOP TAX BILL

Compared to current law, 2018

Single mother with two children earning \$14,500 (full-time, minimum wage)

\$75

Married couple with two children earning \$30,000

\$800

Married couple with two children earning \$100,000

\$2,000

Married couple with two children earning \$400,000

\$4,000

Source: CBPP calculations

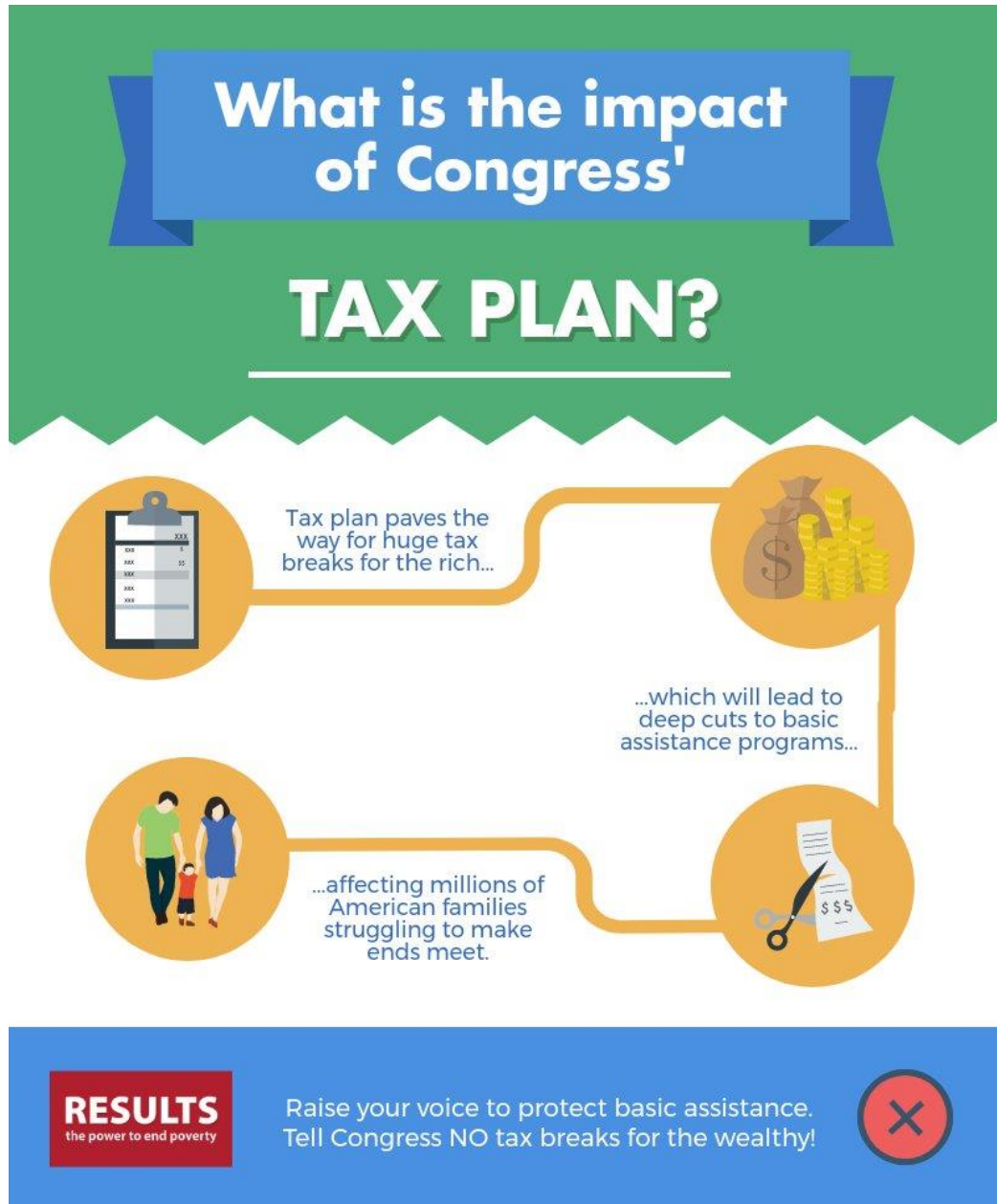
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

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“We can, and we must, win this second part of the fight.”

- [RESULTS Executive Director Joanne Carter after the tax vote](#)



Primary Campaign for Early 2018: Protect Anti-Poverty Programs at Risk in Upcoming Budget Battles

- House leaders want to push deep cuts to assistance programs in their next budget
- Targets are SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, EITC, CTC, etc.

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- While there is [some pushback from the Administration and the Senate](#) whether to prioritize cuts to health and basic assistance, we need keep up the pressure – and tell Congress to strengthen these programs!



2018 Group Planning

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

“A goal without a plan is just a wish.”

- Planning last January is what set you up for a record year in your advocacy work with RESULTS

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- Planning focuses your efforts on maximizing your strengths and improving in areas where you want to get better
- Planning opens up resources to help you be successful
- **The Essentials You Will Need**
 - Individual Planning Form
 - Group Planning Guide
 - Group Planning Summary (turn this form in by January 31)
- All group planning resources can be found on the RESULTS Group Resources and Administration page: http://www.results.org/skills_center/group_resources_and_admin

Group Planning Summary

- Start discussion with outlining your group norms
- Be sure to consider norms that address how your group will work to combat forms of oppression and promote inclusivity
- Also assess your group's current health – be honest about where you are.
- We will use 2018 to better support and strengthen our groups and volunteers



2018 Group Planning Summary

Group or Free Agent Name: _____

Primary Focus Area: U.S. Poverty / Global Poverty (circle one)

I. Our Group Norms

Please articulate your group norms. Norms can include attending meetings, following through on actions, sharing leadership, having fun, welcome new members, etc. Be sure to include what norm(s) your group will "live into" to address issues of oppression and inclusivity.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

III. Our Group Health

Group Attribute	How are we doing?	How can we build on this?
We are a welcoming, fun group where everyone's opinions and ideas are valued	Fair Excellent 1 2 3 4 5	
Each member of the group takes on a meaningful leadership role and actively participates in the monthly actions and goals of the group	Fair Excellent 1 2 3 4 5	
The group regularly engages in outreach to add new members and creates a welcoming culture for new members and gets them into action early	Fair Excellent 1 2 3 4 5	
Group members are accountable to each other for actions and group health	Fair Excellent 1 2 3 4 5	
The group meets regularly, ideally twice monthly	Fair Excellent 1 2 3 4 5	
The group is actively working to diversify its membership, including those who have lived experiences with poverty	Fair Excellent 1 2 3 4 5	

Other Group Health and Norms ideas:

- Spent time on outlining roles for your groups
- Remember, taking on a role is ensuring better health for your group
 - When everyone participates it means greater group strength and less work
- You can find our "Grassroots Roles" list on the [Group Resources page](#)
- Also, make up your own role if you need a new one to help your group strive and thrive

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II. Our Group Roles

Group/Free Agent Name: _____

Who will fill the key ROLES in our group in 2018?		
Role	Name	E-mail
Co-Group Leader		
Co-Group Leader		
Sen.....Point Person		
Sen.....Point Person		
Rep.....Point Person		
Media Point Person		
Other Roles:		

Other Group Roles Ideas:

- Note the language – outcomes v. goals
- Fill out the form as if it one year from now
- What do you want to look back on and say that your group accomplished in 2018
- Start with the end in mind

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+	III. Our 2018 Group Outcomes	Group/Free Agent Name: _____
By the end of 2018, we want to say that our group stayed healthy and strong by MEETING in person _____ times each month. Our meeting days and times were:		
By the end of 2018, we want to say that our group deepened relationships with LAWMAKERS by:		
Meeting with Sen. _____ or her/his staff _____ times before the end of June and _____ times between July and December. The ways we further developed our relationship with his/her office was by:		
Meeting with Sen. _____ or her/his staff _____ times before the end of June and _____ times between July and December. The ways we further developed our relationship with his/her office was by:		
Meeting with Rep. _____ or her/his staff _____ times before the end of June and _____ times between July and December. The ways we further developed our relationship with his/her office was by:		
By the end of 2018, we want to say that our group used the MEDIA to influence the debate about poverty in our community by getting _____ media pieces published before the end of June and _____ pieces published between July and December.		
By the end of 2018, we want to say that our group LED THROUGH ACTION by holding _____ public meetings to engage new people in our work. We had _____ meetings where we generated _____ letters before the end of June and _____ meetings where we generated _____ letters from July to December, which we <i>hand-delivered to members of Congress</i> in our local meetings with their offices.		
Out of these meetings, we recruited _____ new members to our RESULTS group and _____ new members to our local Action Network. We also reached out to the following persons/organizations to broaden and diversify our membership and partnerships in our community:		
We also supported the work of RESULTS by raising \$ _____ for RESULTS through event / online (circle one) fundraising. Our fundraiser(s) took place (approximate dates):		
By the end of 2018, we want to say that our group made our voices heard in Washington, DC at the 2018 RESULTS International Conference (July 14-17). We sent _____ people from our group to the Conference. These people's names are:		
We also invited _____ new people to join us at the Conference for the first time.		

2018 #LettersGetLoud Campaign

Kristy Martino, Senior Campaigns Organizer

What is it?

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Throughout the year, we'll be mobilizing our grassroots network and engaging new members to craft powerful letters to share and deliver to Congress. The more letters we write, the more our #LettersGetLoud!

Why are we doing this?

We must make the fight against poverty the issue of 2018. One letter is powerful but if we all write letters, together we can draw on the collective impact of our stories, our letters, our voices to influence decision makers and bring an end to poverty. Congress needs to hear from you, and they need to hear how policies affect real people!

How we'll do it:

- LEARN the issue
- ORGANIZE our communities
- USE our voices
- DELIVER our letters

Group Planning – Getting Started

- If you are not planning tonight, please **set a date to do planning in January**
- Find all the resources you need to do your 2018 group planning at: http://www.results.org/skills_center/group_resources_and_admin, including the Individual Planning Form, the Group Planning Guide, the Group Planning Summary, and Grassroots Roles Descriptions
- **Please submit your completed Group Planning Summary to Jos Linn by January 31**
 - Scan the Summary form and e-mail it to jlinn@results.org; if you cannot e-mail it, contact Jos for other options
- The **January U.S. Poverty Action** has tips to help with planning and a guide to requesting your first lobby meetings for the year: http://www.results.org/take_action/january_2018_u.s._poverty_action/
- Contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) with questions about the planning process, your group outcomes, and submitting your plans. Contact Meredith Dodson (mdodson@results.org) with questions about our 2018 policy campaigns.

RESULTS Outreach Update and Announcements

Jos Linn

RESULTS volunteers and staff are engaging new people across the country in the new year. Connect people you know to events!

- **Louisiana Storytelling & Advocacy Training Session, Saturday, January 13 at 5:00pm CT.** Women Resource Center, 1221 Truxton Street, Gretna, LA. Featuring RESULTS

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Experts on Poverty Qiana Torregano, Maxine Thomas, and Asia Bijan Thompson. For more information, contact [Meredith Dodson](#).

- **Iowa (Des Moines) Presentation on Poverty and Young Children, Monday, January 29 at 6:30pm CT.** Franklin Avenue Library, 5000 Franklin Ave, Des Moines, IA. More details soon. Contact [Jos Linn](#) for more information.
- **Iowa (Iowa City) Presentation on Poverty and Young Children, Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30pm CT.** St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2675 E. Washington Street, Iowa City, IA. More details soon. Contact [Jos Linn](#) for more information.
- **Pennsylvania "Join the Fight Against Poverty" Training, Saturday, February 17 at 10:00am.** Featuring RESULTS Expert on Poverty Asia Bijan Thompson. Al Beech/Wood Side Food Pantry, 190 S Sprague Ave, Kingston, PA. For more information contact asiabijant@gmail.com.

Announcements

- All RESULTS offices will be closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday next Monday, January 16.
- U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, Tuesday, January 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#.
- The 2018 RESULTS International Conference is July 14-17, 2018 in Washington, D.C. Registration is **NOW OPEN!** Register and share our [new 2018 Conference flyer!](#)
- Find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).
- Thank you for being on tonight's Webinar! Remember that **starting next month, the U.S. Poverty National Webinar moves to the FIRST Tuesday of the month at 8:00 pm ET.** Our next National Grassroots Webinar is **Tuesday, February 6 at 8:00pm ET.**

Final Thought

Ginnie Vogts, RESULTS Columbus and Regional Coordinator

Self-care is something we all have heard of but not many of us practice. It can range from deep breathing to better nutrition to having a conversation with someone. As volunteers with RESULTS we engage in a certain level of energy output- writing letters, studying policy, hearing the news with a new ear, discussing an issue with an elected official or presenting to our community. We also hear about policy and statistical discrepancies which leave many families and children suffering from lack of basic necessities.

Our goal is to end poverty. For some of us, that is very personal. We have grassroots volunteers who have or are facing significant economic hardship and the stresses it creates right now. We stand with them and your fight is our fight. But for many of us, we are not directly impacted. For those people, you might ask why should I be concerned about self-care or try to avoid burnout? I'm ok. But whether you are dealing with these issues in your own life or not, we all are affected by what we see happening in our country.

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I used to work with doctors and nurses who were very dedicated. We worked on critical care units where we saw the very worst things happening to people. Sometimes we could help and sometimes we could not. After a while, we as caretakers began to notice things like mood swings, difficulty sleeping, loss of interest, increase in blood pressure. These were symptoms of cumulative stress. We were not directly experiencing the trauma but we were witnessing it and sometimes feeling helpless to do anything. The stress that built up began to cause burnout and after a while good nurses were quitting, doctors were becoming cynical. I taught these young professionals to identify and address their cumulative stress so that they could stay in the game for the long haul.

I believe many of the same principles apply to RESULTS volunteers. Whether we are experiencing poverty directly or witnessing it through our advocacy work, we all care deeply about the millions of people who are struggling to make ends meet each day. We are working and doing everything we can to change that. But change does not happen quickly and sometimes we even see progress undone. Sometimes we feel as helpless as those caretakers on the critical care units watching their patient slip away. It's stressful.

My suggestion is that we acknowledge our distress and actively do something about it rather than lose interest and fade away. Our job as advocates is important. We are needed now more than ever to push against the forces that would undermine fairness and compassion. Part of our work in 2018 should be actively countering the negative with self-care that not only keeps us from continuing but builds us up stronger.

To quote Audre Lorde: *"Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."*

We'll have more about this on future webinars but it would be great if you could dedicate a part of your group planning to discussing your need for and thoughts about caring for yourselves to remain awesome advocates. This could be as simple as taking ten deep breaths, taking a walk, or setting aside time to visit as a group before getting to business.