

RESULTS

the power to end poverty

February 2018 RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Webinar
#LettersGetLOUD!

Login online at: <http://fuze.me/32255914> or dial (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID:
32255914#

Welcome from Joanne Carter Executive Director, RESULTS



Guest Speaker – Ana Hicks



- State Strategies Manager in the Food Assistance Division at the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)
- Supports state non-profits to strengthen and improve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Prior to CBPP, served four years as chief of staff to the Speaker of the Maine House
- Also worked at Maine Equal Justice Partners, where she worked to strengthen Maine's critical safety net programs.
- Has also worked for the Alameda County Community Food Bank, the Children's Defense Fund, and RESULTS!
- Master's Degree in Urban Policy and Child Development from Tufts University.



The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

Powerful and Effective in Alleviating Hunger

Ana Hicks

State Strategies Manager

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

February 6, 2018

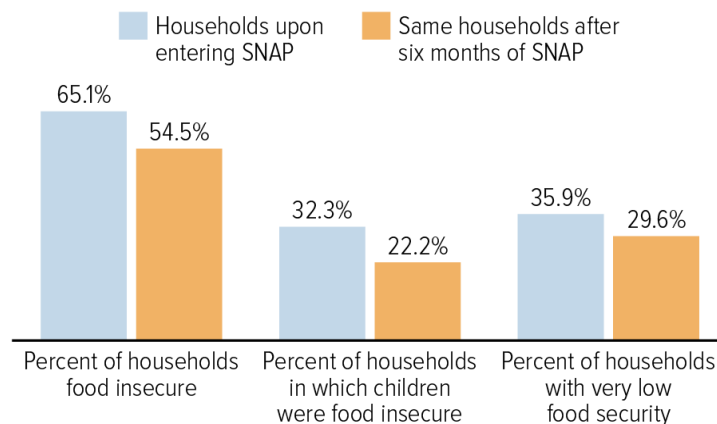
SNAP Puts Food on the Table; Reduces Food Insecurity

SNAP is one of the most powerful and effective poverty-reduction programs in the country.

Households are less likely to be food insecure after participating in SNAP for 6 months.

SNAP helps millions afford groceries.

SNAP Helps Families Afford Adequate Food



Note: "Food insecure" = household lacks consistent access to nutritious food at some point during the year because of limited resources. "Households with food insecure children" = households in which both children and adults experience food insecurity during the year. "Very low food security" = one or more household members have to skip meals or otherwise eat less at some point during the year because they lack money.

Source: Agriculture Department, "Measuring the Effect of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation on Food Security," August 2013. This chart shows the results of a study that looked at longitudinal data comparing SNAP households upon beginning to receive SNAP, and six months after SNAP receipt.

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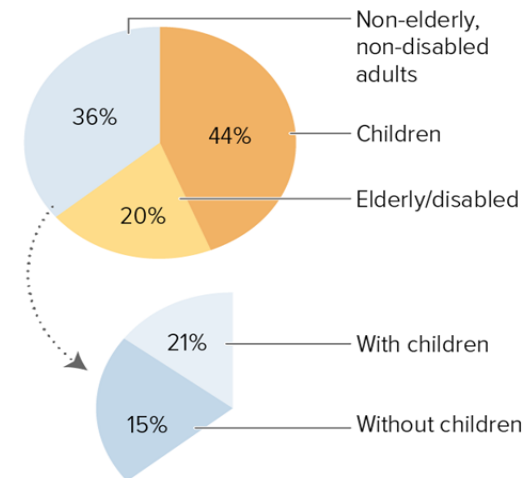
SNAP Reaches Many Who Need Help Affording Food

Too many Americans are struggling financially and are at risk of going hungry.

Millions turn to SNAP when they hit hard times or are struggling to get by on low wages.

Nearly two-thirds of those who use SNAP are children, the elderly, or people with disabilities

Close to Two-Thirds of SNAP Recipients Are Children, Elderly, or Disabled



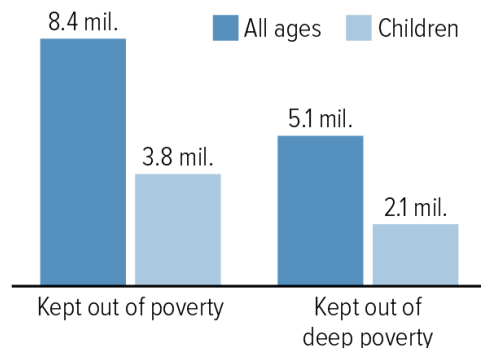
Source: CBPP tabulations of USDA 2015 SNAP household characteristics data.

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SNAP Lifts Millions Out of Poverty

SNAP Kept Millions Out of Poverty and “Deep Poverty” – Below Half the Poverty Line – in 2014



Note: Figures show the number of people lifted above the poverty line using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) with corrections for underreporting.

Source: CBPP analysis of 2014 Census Bureau data from the March Current Population Survey, SPM public use file; corrections from underreporting from HHS/Urban Institute TRIM model.

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SNAP keeps more than 8 million people out of poverty, including nearly four million children.

And millions of others are lifted out of deep poverty (below half the poverty line).

When you're able to cover a basic need like putting food on the table, you can get back on your feet more quickly.



SNAP Benefits are Modest

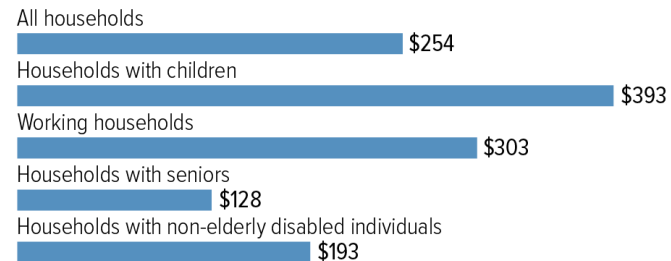
Average only \$1.40 per person per meal

The food assistance SNAP provides is already extremely modest.

If SNAP is cut any further many of the households it helps could go hungry.

SNAP Benefits Are Modest

Average monthly SNAP benefit by demographic group, 2015



Source: Department of Agriculture, "Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2015."

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SNAP is Our Largest Child Nutrition Program

One in four children, and almost one-third of pre-school children, meet their basic food needs with help from SNAP.

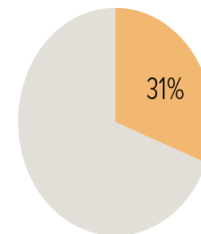
Two-thirds of SNAP benefits, go to households with children.

There is growing awareness that the consequences of adversity during the early years of life can extend well beyond childhood.

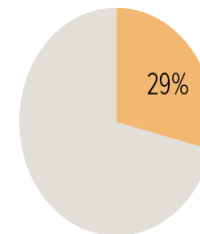
SNAP Helps Large Share of U.S. Children

Share of U.S. children who participate in SNAP in an average month

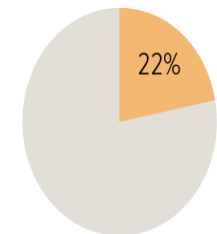
**Preschool children
ages 0-4**



Children ages 5-11



Children ages 12-17



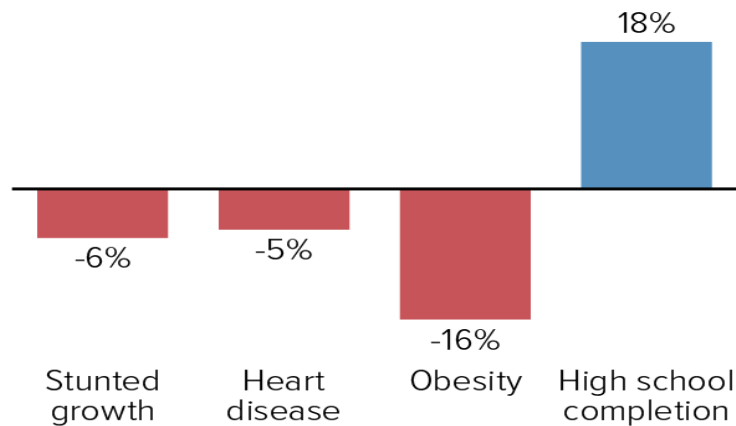
Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Characteristics of SNAP Households, Fiscal Year 2015," and U.S. Census Bureau 2015 population estimates

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SNAP's Positive Benefits Can Last a Lifetime

Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later

Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults who received SNAP as children, compared to adults who did not receive SNAP as children



Source: Hoynes, Schanzenbach, and Almond, "Long Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net," National Bureau of Economic Research, November 2012.

Research shows that adults who received food stamps as young children are more likely to graduate from high school and less-likely to suffer long-term health problems like obesity and heart disease.



The Farm Bill and SNAP

The Farm Bill includes SNAP and other nutrition programs

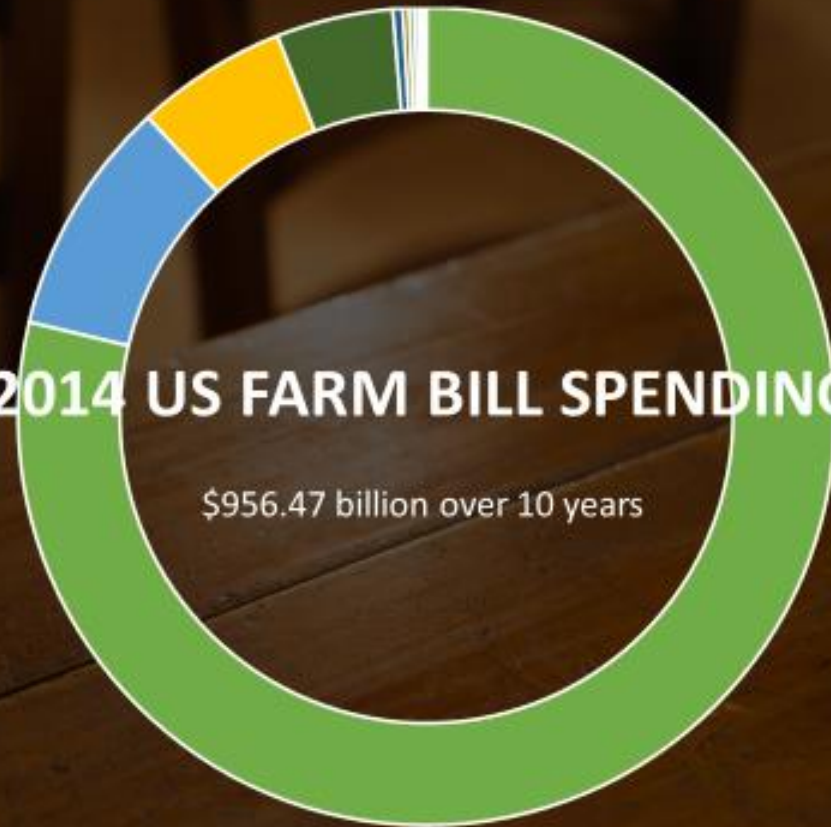
Since 1933, the Farm Bill has set food and farm priorities for America, shaping our entire food system from production to conservation to nutrition. The Farm Bill includes policies and programs that offer stability and provide a safety-net for farmers and for all American households.

Nutrition is a major component

Nutrition	- \$756.43 billion
Crop Insurance	- \$89.83 billion
Conservation	- \$57.60 billion
Commodity Programs	- \$44.46 billion
Trade	- \$3.70 billion
Misc.	- \$2.30 billion
Credit	- \$2.24 billion
Horticulture	- \$1.76 billion
Research and Extension	- \$1.26 billion
Energy	- \$1.12 billion
Rural Development	- \$0.24 billion
Forestry	- \$0.01 billion

2014 US FARM BILL SPENDING

\$956.47 billion over 10 years



For “Work-Ready” Population (18-60, working < 30 hours per week and not-exempt)

No Minor Children

With Children (over age 6) in the Household

Mandated 3-month Time-limit:

If 18-50 unless
Working 20+
hours per week.
Waivers for high
unemployment.

No requirement to
provide a
qualifying work
slot.

State Flexible Employment and Training Programs

Option 1: Compulsory/Mandatory Work Requirements

States must: assess and appropriately assign individuals, provide child care and transportation costs, impose sanctions for failure to comply.

Option 2: Work Training, Education and Engagement for “Volunteers”

Who Are ABAWDs?

In one Ohio county, the Association of Foodbanks found:

1 in 3 reported working in the last year.

1 in 5 are at-risk young adults, under 25, including youth aging out of foster care and exiting juvenile justice systems.

1 in 3 reported physical or mental disability that limits their ability to perform daily activities.

30 percent had no high school diploma or GED. Many were marginally and functionally illiterate.

More than 1 in 3 reported having a felony conviction.

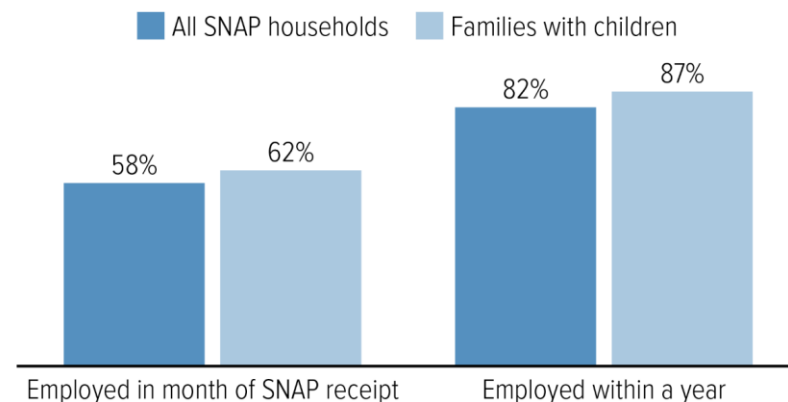


The vast majority of SNAP recipients who can work do work

- More than half of households with a working-age non-disabled adult work while receiving SNAP.
- And more than 80 percent work in the year before or after receiving SNAP.
- Rates are even higher for families with children.
- SNAP also is a critical support for workers who are in between jobs and looking for work.

SNAP Households with Working-Age Non-Disabled Adults Have High Work Rates

Work participation during the previous and following year for households that received SNAP in a typical month



Source: CBPP calculations based on 2004 SIPP Panel data.

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SNAP helps working people who:

- are paid low wages;
- have unpredictable hours and schedules; and
- are in between jobs.

**CASHIERS****CROSSING GUARDS****COOKS****TELEMARKETERS****HOUSEKEEPERS****NURSING AIDES**

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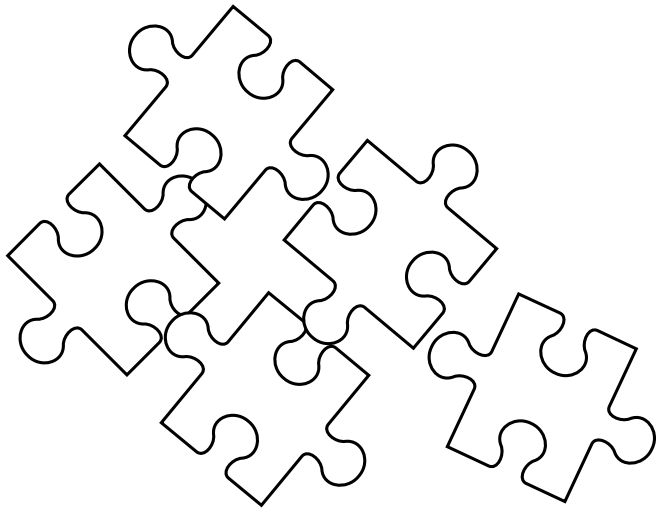
Why not make SNAP work requirements worse?



- Punishing workers for being unemployed by taking away SNAP won't help them find a better job or find work faster.
- We need to invest in quality education and job training to help put people on a path to get better jobs.
- SNAP households are always better off financially if they work while receiving SNAP.
- A strong labor market that pays a living wage for full-time work is the right way to reduce the SNAP rolls.



Putting it all together:



Cutting people's basic living standards by taking away their [healthcare/ rental assistance/help putting food on the table etc.] only makes it harder for them to make ends meet. Rather than punishing people who are already facing economic hardship [on the heels of a passing a tax bill that gives large tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations], Congress should instead focus on policies that help create jobs and boost wages.

Q&A: How to Chat



RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Webinar

Primary Campaign for Early 2018: Protect and Strengthen Anti-Poverty Programs



Meredith Dodson
Director off U.S.
Poverty Campaigns
mdodson@results.org



House Speaker Paul Ryan urged congressional Republicans to tackle “workforce development.” He messaged the somewhat amorphous phrase as a matter of “helping people”— not a budget-cutting excursion. | John Shinkle/POLITICO

Ryan renews welfare reform push

But the House speaker is once again running into resistance from the Senate.

By **RACHAEL BADE** and **BURGESS EVERETT** | 02/01/2018 12:58 PM EST



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WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Senate Republicans last December panned Speaker Paul Ryan’s pitch to overhaul entitlements. But the Wisconsin Republican is back at it again, repackaging his proposals in hopes of gaining traction on welfare reform.

During a GOP retreat here in Appalachia, Ryan urged congressional Republicans to tackle “workforce development.” He messaged the somewhat amorphous phrase as a matter of “helping people”— not a budget-cutting excursion.

POLITICO PODCASTS

But at least a half-dozen Republicans

- Congress is not expected to pass a budget resolution this year – but threats remain
- Targets include SNAP, Medicaid, housing, TANF, SSI, etc.
- We need keep up the pressure – and tell Congress to strengthen these programs!

Instead of Taking Food and Health Care Away from Working Families, We Must Strengthen SNAP and Other Policies

- Some in Congress want to add ‘work requirements’ to programs like SNAP and Medicaid. But taking away food and health care from struggling Americans doesn’t help people find work.
- We must increase SNAP benefits -- SNAP’s meal allotment of about \$125 per month, or about \$1.40 per meal per person, is inadequate to meet the nutritional needs of hungry Americans.
- We should address the “cliff effect” – without undermining the core benefits of SNAP and other anti-poverty programs.

2018 #LettersGetLOUD Campaign

What is it?

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?

With historic grassroots political energy in the country right now, #LettersGetLOUD is a chance to grow our movement and channel that energy into action. We need to 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 and 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 can we use this as a tool to grow our movement?

This is a great opportunity to engage more partners and your local action networks. Find new partners, build coalition, and reach out to your wider community – invite them to take this powerful and impactful action to move our issues forward.



Kristy Martino
Senior Campaigns
Organizer
kmartino@results.org



Learn the issue



L

Organize our communities



O

U



Use our voices

D



Deliver our letters

#LettersGetLOUD



1. Learn the issue

- Understand what the stakes are, understand the impact of policy on real people—yourself, your family, those in your own community, and around the world.
- Learn about your members of Congress and gauge where they stand on the issue. Brainstorm the best messaging approach so that they will hear you and connect with you on issues.
- Drill deeper into the details of what is most striking to you – start thinking about why you care about this, how you can connect with others on this issue.



2. Organize your community

- Gather members of your group and community for “education and action” meetings, or host an outreach event.
- Inspire others to take action -- share not only why the issue is important, but why it matters to *you*.
- Lead a letter writing skills session. Then explain that you’ll be taking these letters straight to Congress. Tell letter writers that you’ll report back or – better yet – invite them to join you in your ongoing advocacy.



3. Use your voice

- Write a letter (or letters!) to your members of Congress and make it powerful by making it personal.
- Explain to other letter writers the power of constituent advocacy – that we're not just writing letters for the sake of it: it's part of a country-wide deep advocacy movement that gets results on the issues we care about.
- Share your video letter on social media, tag your member(s) of Congress and end with a call to action for others to write their own letters – the more voices we share, the more our #LettersGetLOUD (*and don't forget to include that hashtag!*)



4. Deliver your letters

- Maximize the impact of your letters. You've written them and shared them via social media – but the real power is hand-delivering them to Congress
- Set up a face-to-face meeting while your members of Congress are on recess. Collect the physical letters from your community and deliver them during your meeting (feel free to record and share this action too!)
- **This is a great moment to invite those who wrote letters for the first time to attend the meeting with you – help them take the next step in their advocacy!**
- Let your members of Congress know that they work for you, and report back to the letter writers. Invite them to write another letter... and repeat!



Keys to #LettersGetLOUD Success



Jos Linn
Grassroots Manager
for U.S. Poverty
Campaigns
jlinn@results.org

- **Leading with Action**
 - Be the example of what can be accomplished by taking action regularly and powerfully
 - Letters are a great entry point
- **Share It**
 - Don't keep what you're doing quiet
 - Every time you take an action, let others know what you are doing and why
- **Keep It Going**
 - Give people the opportunity to do it again... and again...
 - The goal is not just to write letters (that's the tool) – the goal is to make it easy for anyone to join the movement to end poverty

Making Your #LettersGetLOUD

1. Write a letter

- Preferably at your local group meeting

2. At your meeting, read the letter out loud with your group

- Reading letters aloud has an indescribably empowering effect

3. Record the reading of letters

- Use your smartphone or camera – does not have to be complicated
- Ask each person before recording if it's OK to record and share

4. Post on Facebook (your page and the [RESULTS Volunteers page](#)), Twitter, and other social media platforms

- Most smartphones have a “sharing” function that allows you to easily post it to social media

Keys to #LettersGetLOUD Success

#LettersGetLOUD is an excellent opportunity to grow your groups and strengthen your Local Action Networks. The more people you get to take action – and KEEP TAKING ACTION – the closer we all get to ending poverty in America!

Who Do You Want to Enlist in this Campaign?

- Current and former volunteers
- Your contacts from local meetings and events
- Friends and family, both local and on social media
- Grasstops leaders (e.g. faith communities, business leaders, non-profits, other advocacy organizations, academics and policy experts, labor leaders, social work agencies)
 - Remember that many organizations may not have an outlet for advocacy in their work but welcome someone else providing it

#LettersGetLOUD Resources

- **#LettersGetLOUD webpage:**
<http://www.results.org/issues/lettersgetloud?/lettersgetloud> (in the coming days and weeks, this page will have links to plenty of resources to help you including sample letters, meeting agenda, invitation scripts, etc.)
- **February U.S. Poverty Action:**
http://www.results.org/take_action/february_2018_u.s._poverty_action
- **Activist Toolkit:**
http://www.results.org/skills_center/activist_toolkit

Contact Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) for any help you need in getting started and having a successful #LettersGetLOUD campaign in your community

Grassroots Shares



Kristy Martino (Senior Campaigns Organizer) writing letters with the Seacoast NH/ME group



Ginnie Vogts (RESULTS Columbus) talking to children about hunger and SNAP



Ivan Lyddon (RESULTS Des Moines) talking about outreach in Iowa

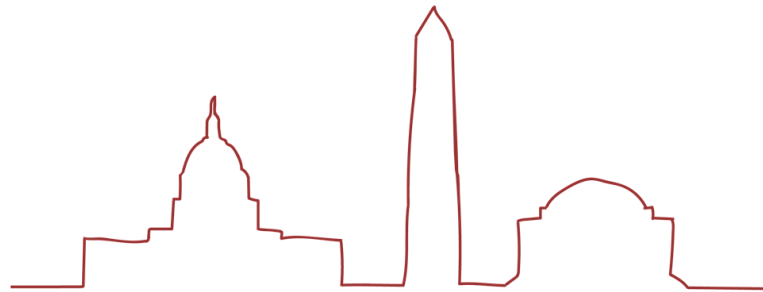


Kathleen Duncan, RESULTS Houston



WANT TO BREAK THROUGH THE NOISE IN WASHINGTON?

Join us in Washington for the **RESULTS International Conference**, and learn how to help change policy that advances education, health, and economic opportunity for all. Register today at www.resultsconference.org.



RESULTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington D.C. | July 14-17, 2018

Again, register today at www.resultsconference.org!

Watch our new 2018 CONFERENCE VIDEO ([Facebook](#), [YouTube](#)) and share it with people you know. We also now have a [printable postcard](#) for people who write letters with you inviting them to the Conference!

Announcements

2018-19 RESULTS REAL Change Applications Are Now Being Accepted.

Year-long Fellowship open to 18-30 yr olds wanting to become powerful advocates. Find out more and apply at: <http://www.results.org/realchange>.

Webinar: The Trump Budget - What You Need to Know, Wednesday, February 14 at 12:30pm ET. Sponsored by the CHN, CBPP, CAP, and FRAC.

[Register today.](#)

House and Senate Recesses, February 19-23 and March 26-April 6. After any lobby meeting, please complete the [RESULTS Lobby Report Form](#) to let us know how it went.

U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, Tuesday, February 20 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#.

Find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).

35 Upcoming Outreach

Pennsylvania “Join the Fight Against Poverty” Training, Saturday, February 17 at 10:00am ET. 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.

West Virginia Outreach Event, February 22. Morgantown, WV. More details to come. Contact [Kristy Martino](#) for more information.

Thank you for being on tonight’s Webinar!

**Our next U.S. Poverty National Webinar is
Tuesday, March 6 at 8:00pm ET**

Final Action – Email Congress Tonight!

Medicaid, SNAP, and other important programs still face serious threats this year. Tell Congress to protect Anti-poverty programs from cuts and structural changes.

Email your members of Congress at:

<https://www.votervoice.net/RESULTS/campaigns/54035/respond>