

# National Webinar Summary

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[http://www.results.org/skills\\_center/results\\_national\\_conference\\_calls/](http://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/)

## Welcome and Update on SNAP and the Farm Bill

Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

Welcome to the June 2018 U.S. Poverty National Webinar

- Your advocacy worked! Because of the tireless working of advocates in Congress, the House Farm Bill failed [198-213](#). Your work made a difference! So far this year:
  - 19 face-to-face conversations with representatives, plus hundreds with House staff.
    - You built on what's unique about RESULTS: relationships with key congressional aides, emailing back and forth as staff advised their bosses how to vote.
  - 12 face-to conversations with senators.
  - 125 printed media pieces, most of them focused on SNAP

## Overview of House Farm Bill and What to Expect Next

SNAP plays a key role in helping millions put food on the table

### House:

- House Farm Bill (H.R. 2, the *Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018*): net cut of \$19 billion from food assistance
- Understanding the proposals to take food assistance away from people who do not meet work requirements
  - Tip: don't shorthand to "work requirements"
  - SNAP already has work provisions, H.R. 2 will make much worse
    - Will impact parents (tip: make sure your audience understands this impacts kids!) and older adults
  - H.R. 2 includes just an average of \$30 per person per month for job training = inadequate
  - Taking food away from people doesn't help them find work
- Result: 9.8 billion SNAP meals lost over the next decade (via Feeding America)
- Our guest speaker will talk more about the other proposed changes – and how H.R. 2 could exacerbate the "cliff effect"
- House vote: tentatively set for June 22
- Let's push congressional leaders to learn from the House's failure – we need a bipartisan Farm Bill that protects SNAP.

## Senate:

- Bipartisan Senate Farm Bill could be released this week.
- We need to make sure they craft a bipartisan bill that protects SNAP, which helps over 40 million people in this country buy groceries and put food on the table.

## Overview of June Action

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

### Use Effective Advocacy Tools to Protect SNAP

- Focus on protecting SNAP in the Farm Bill
- Keep the pressure on Congress through the end of the RESULTS International Conference on July 17th
- Use ALL the tools at your disposal
- Focus on getting at members of Congress from different angles – so they remember the message to leave SNAP alone!

### How Many Actions Can Your Group Accomplish?

- Send** an e-mail urging Congress to protect SNAP
- Write a letter** to each of your members of Congress urging them to protect SNAP. Use stories to illustrate the importance of this vital program to people facing hunger.
- Call** your House and Senate DC offices and tell them to protect SNAP from cuts in the Farm Bill. Find contact information on our [Elected Officials page](#).
- Meet** (via phone or in person) with House and Senate aides to talk about the importance of SNAP to people in your district and state
- Write a letter to the editor** telling your members of Congress by name to protect SNAP.
- Mobilize others** you know to write letters through our [#LettersGetLOUD](#) campaign – and urge them to share their own letters via social media.
- Schedule local lobby meetings** (invite new letter-writers to join you in these meetings) and lobby meetings at the [2018 RESULTS International Conference](#) to deliver your #LettersGetLOUD letters

### Tips for Success

- **Divide and conquer** – have each person in your group take an action (or actions to complete)
  - **Free Agents** – be the rock stars you are and do them all if you can
- **Make it game** – have a friendly competition with your group members or other advocates in our network to see who can get them all done first
- **Empower new people** – encourage new people from [#LettersGetLOUD](#) to take the lead on an action

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- **Keep it personal and local** – share stories about how SNAP is helping people in your community and use local/state data when available
- **Use the Activist Toolkit** – [http://www.results.org/skills\\_center/activist\\_toolkit](http://www.results.org/skills_center/activist_toolkit)
- **Share your progress** – for each action your accomplish, post it on the [RESULTS Volunteers Facebook page](#) and use the hashtag #Voices4RESULTS on [Twitter](#) to encourage others to do the same

### June Action Resources

- Read the June Action Sheet at: [http://www.results.org/take\\_action/june\\_2018\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_action](http://www.results.org/take_action/june_2018_u.s._poverty_action)
- Use [local SNAP data](#) in your advocacy
- Use our online template for letters to the editor at: <http://www.results.org/take-action/action-center?vsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f54070%2frespond>
- [Learn all the details](#) about the House Farm Bill
- See our Activist Toolkit for help in taking different kinds of actions: [http://www.results.org/skills\\_center/activist\\_toolkit](http://www.results.org/skills_center/activist_toolkit)

### Questions (Jos and Meredith)

1. Question: Where can we get a copy of the slides?
  - Jos: On the RESULTS homepage, type National Webinars in the search bar and click on the National Webinars page when it comes up
2. Question: How can we try to make our own SNAP grievances leave a lasting impression? Sharing our stories is one way, however, do you believe reinforcing this issue with kitchen table talk will be more affective? How can one leave the best impression with members of congress to vote against this?
  - Meredith: Knowing your own member of Congress, being based on the community and knowing what matters to them. Seeing the members' of Congress priorities and seeing what they have been saying about it in the media.
3. Question: Will the next house bill be different than the one that just passed?
  - Meredith: The House intends to bring up the exact same bill (H.R. 2, bill that failed last month), although, they changed the rule about when the House will debate because of the recent immigration issues going on. We'll see it towards the end of June. We hope that the Senate releases a good bill that protects SNAP, and as a result, the House says they have debated the issue already and that they will take up on the Senate bill. We want the final product to be a bipartisan bill that protects SNAP.

## Grassroots Shares

- **Yvonne Wyborny of RESULTS Detroit**
  - Set up meeting with Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence on 5/25
    - Thanked her for opposing the House Farm Bill
    - Brainstormed how to protect SNAP and gave 25 letters from our church through [#LettersGetLOUD](#)
    - Rep. Lawrence is a member of Congressional Black and Women's Caucuses, which passed resolutions about protecting SNAP
    - She will chair of the Women's Caucus in next Congress
    - This issue impacts women and mothers
    - Added that she may need RESULTS' help when she becomes chair
    - We also talked about RESULTS media, delivered a letter to the editor on the REACH Act
    - The meeting helped us build an even stronger relationship with her
  - ON June 2, Mary Albertson and I attended a fundraiser and Sen. Debbie Stabenow was there (Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee)
    - We talked to her about the Farm Bill
    - She said negotiations will be going on for two weeks and will be doing her best to protect SNAP
    - She will tell us if Senators should support the Farm Bill or not
- **Ginnie Vogts of RESULTS Columbus**
  - I've been participating in the [Poor People's Campaign](#) (PPC)
    - William Barber is leading the Poor People's Campaign (Started with Moral Mondays in North Carolina in 2013)
    - PPC now underway, 40 Days of Action starting on Mother's Day going through Juneteenth
  - PPC is addressing [several issues](#)
    - Next week is focused on wages, income, and housing, and social services
  - If you are in a state doing [PPC events](#), please attend
  - Picture in the slides is of me coming out of Ohio state house
    - We were trying to get arrested, wanted to make a strong statement
    - Cops threw us out the first week but did not arrest us

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- This last week, people laid down in the street and got arrested
- It made me think: why is so hard for white middle class people to get arrested and so easy for black/brown people getting arrested for simply going about their business?
- Day before I was nervous but it was an amazing experience and I am very grateful for work I get to do with RESULTS and others who care

## RESULTS International Conference

Funke Aderonmu, 2018 RESULTS Emerson Hunger Fellow

### Come learn more about Housing and the Racial Wealth Divide!

- We'll have session examining the legacy of federal housing policy in exacerbating the racial wealth divide today
- A panel of experts from Urban Institute, National Fair Housing Alliance, Prosperity Now, and a RESULTS Expert on Poverty!
- Leave with resources to further understand the links between housing and racial wealth inequality

### There's still time to register!

- Register at [www.resultsconference.org/register/](http://www.resultsconference.org/register/)
- Also, if you need financial assistance to attend the Conference, we still have scholarship money available for active U.S. Poverty volunteers. Apply at [www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSScholUS](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSScholUS)

In addition:

- **Please book your hotel now!** Our discounted hotel rate expires on June 10. If you have not reserved your room yet, please do so this week at: <https://book.passkey.com/event/49412157/owner/544/home>
- Find all our **Conference resources** at: [http://www.results.org/skills\\_center/2018\\_international\\_conference\\_resources](http://www.results.org/skills_center/2018_international_conference_resources), including our IC Checklist, information about the agenda and speakers, and sample lobby meeting requests.
- Finally, if you're coming, please be on the lookout for an **e-mail from Susan Fleurant** next week about setting up Lobby Prep Calls this month to get you ready for your lobby meetings in DC

I look forward to seeing you all there!

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## Guest Speaker: Allison Bovell-Ammon

Facilitated by Meredith Dodson

### Bio

Allison Bovell-Ammon is Deputy Director of Policy Strategy for [Children's HealthWatch](#). In her role, Allison leads the federal policy work of Children's HealthWatch. She does this by working closely with the Executive Council, Executive Director, and Deputy Director of Innovative Partnerships, to identify Children's HealthWatch policy priorities, develop advocacy and communications strategies and foster partnerships for maximizing the impact of Children's HealthWatch to inform policies that improve child and family health. In coordination with the Leadership Team and the Communications and External Relations Specialist, Allison works with members of the Advisory Board to advance the mission of the organization. She also co-leads with Dr. Sandel Housing Prescriptions as Health Care, an innovative project connecting high-health care utilizing families experiencing housing instability with services tailored to improve housing stability and health.

Previously, Allison was the Boston-Site Coordinator for Children's HealthWatch where she supervised data collection in the Boston Medical Center Emergency Department before transitioning to the Headquarters team as the Research, Policy and Communications Coordinator. In that role, she coordinated the Healthy Families EITC Coalition and was the primary liaison for Witnesses to Hunger.

Before joining Children's HealthWatch, Allison worked with Drs. Frank and Rose-Jacobs' on the Primary Care Enrichment Program (PEP) research study at Boston University, which is a longitudinal study that explores the effects of in-utero substance use on the development of children. Allison has previously worked and volunteered with several direct-service non-profit organizations.

Allison received her BA magna cum laude from Birmingham-Southern College and Master of Divinity summa cum laude from Boston University School of Theology.

***Allison, tell us more about Children's Health Watch, the connection between SNAP and health, and how this relates to the Farm Bill?***

- Thank you for the invite, I watch RESULTS' work
- Children's Health Watch is a nonpartisan network of pediatricians and public health researches and child and help policy experts that strives to improve the help and development of young children, it is focused on children of ages 0-4
  - We also help their families by informing policies that address and alleviate economic hardship
  - It's done by talking to families as they bring their children in for a medical appointment or for an emergency in 5 different hospitals across the country
  - We have been doing this for the past 20 years

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- We've learned from these families about food insecurities and housing instabilities or inability to keep the heat and the lights on and other things that impact a child's health
  - We have talked to about 65,000 families since 1998
- We focus on policies that improve food security, stable homes, energy security (the ability to afford energy), and insuring that people can afford health care and prescription medicine without making sacrifices on paying for other basic needs
- Our research and the research of others has shown that food insecurity is linked to poor health outcomes but SNAP negates those poor health outcomes across the lifespan
  - The research from Children's Health Watch shows that in early childhood, SNAP is associated with fewer hospitalizations
  - SNAP helps children meet the developmental milestones that they need as part of the healthy growth trajectory and they are less likely to be underweight
  - Other research shows that when mothers receive SNAP during their pregnancy, their children are more likely to be with a born with a healthy birth weight
  - These outcomes are linked with other health outcomes well into childhood and beyond
- Other research shows that children of all ages have shown that SNAP reduces the risk of food insecurity
- SNAP is also linked to better education outcomes
- Into Adulthood, SNAP has helped improve physical and mental health
  - SNAP has a lifespan benefit on health outcomes; a longitudinal study shows things that happened in someone's early life and how it affected their life later
  - this study shows that SNAP helped reduce cardiac diseases in these children's adult lives
- SNAP reduces health care costs/ the avoidable costs
  - One study shows a decrease in health expenditures across lower income people and older adults
- With regard to the House Farm Bill, we want to focus on one provision of SNAP and that is Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE)
  - BBCE is a state option that allows states to eliminate the SNAP asset test and to increase gross income limits, so more people can qualify for SNAP

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- The benefits to BBCE are the supports of working families, it removes barriers to participate, it reduces administrative burdens, and it brings more federal dollars into states
- The elimination of BBCE, which was proposed in the House, would eliminate SNAP and it would reduce the amount of income they have because they now must pay for groceries, putting the family at risk of food insecurity
- Children's Health Watch looks at the issue of families being cut off or getting their SNAP reduced because having a growth in their incomes. Due to seasonal jobs, a family's income might fluctuate year-round. These families were found to experience more food insecurities which then leads to poor health which then causes developmental delays.
- We hope that you use this information and these resources to make this case about how removing SNAP causes poor health outcomes on people who benefit from it
- We want people who can work and that can find jobs to not be punished and get their SNAP taken away. We should encourage them to work and not eliminating the state option to give them SNAP no matter their wage sustainment
- SNAP helps people put food on their tables, it helps them nourish themselves and their children while they continue to work
  - SNAP is already a work support program in many ways

### Questions for Allison

1. Question: Is there any research done on children transitioning from foster homes and how they have been affected by SNAP?
  - Answer: We don't have much information on that.
  - Comment from Allison: The elimination of asset tests and asset poverties would not allow people to be safe for any disasters they may face.
  - Comment from Meredith: Also, being punished for owning a car and getting their SNAP benefits taken away.

## Announcements

Meredith Dodson

**Support Moms, Champion Kids *Extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>!***

<https://results.salsalabs.org/momsandkids>

- Why your fundraising is important – short- and long-term
- \$40,000 fundraising goal – *we're more than halfway there!*
- *Help us reach our goal of 100%* Group participation in grassroots fundraising in 2018

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- *Don't wait to fundraise!* Fundraise this spring to avoid competing with election fundraising in the fall

Questions? Contact Mea Geizhals, Grassroots Fundraising Manager, (202) 783-4800 x131 or [mgeizhals@results.org](mailto:mgeizhals@results.org)

You can see other announcements in the slides.

**Thank you for being on tonight's Webinar!** *Please remember that because of Independence Day and the RESULTS Conference, **there is no U.S. Poverty National Webinar in July.*** However, be on the lookout for a possible Facebook Live event sometime in early July.

Our **August National Webinar** will be a joint webinar with our Global Poverty advocates on **Saturday, August 11 at 2:00pm ET**

## Final Action

Meredith Dodson

### Get Started on Your Summer Campaign to Protect SNAP

- Start checking actions off your summer advocacy list tonight!
- Before you go to bed tonight, send an e-mail to your members of Congress urging them to reject the SNAP cuts in the House Farm Bill.
- Use our online template to get started: <http://www.results.org/take-action/action-center?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f54035%2frespond>