

# 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

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

- Welcome to the October U.S. Poverty National Webinar
- Congratulations on a great media month in September
  - **49 media pieces published since September 1**
    - 44 letters to the editor, 4 op-eds, 1 article
    - 43 letters on SNAP
    - 5 letters on public charge
    - 1 letter on citizen advocacy
  - **235 media pieces so far in 2018**
    - 192 letters to the editor, 31 op-eds, 2 editorials, 10 articles/radio/TV
    - 216 on SNAP, 33 on tax policy, 27 on Medicaid, 3 on the racial wealth gap, and 5 on public charge
  - **35 states covered**
    - States we need: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Review of the call agenda

## Guest Speaker: Jackie Vimo of the National Immigration Law Center

Facilitated by Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

### Bio:

- Policy Analyst for the National Immigration Law Center (<https://www.nilc.org>)
- Has worked for almost two decades on a broad range of public policy issues in California, New York, and Argentina, where her family is from and still lives.
- Prior to NILC, was Director of Advocacy at the New York Immigration Coalition, a statewide umbrella organization for organizations working with immigrants in New York State.

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- Has taught at the City College of New York and the
- New School University; currently teaches graduate courses in immigration policy at Hunter College.
- **Public Charge Presentation** (see [slides](#) for more details)
  - The Trump administration is trying to change Public Charge, and what we can do to fight back.
  - A public charge assessment is made when a person applies to enter the U.S.
    - It is important to note that a public charge assessment is *not* made when applying to become a U.S citizen.
  - When the test is being administered they look at someone's full circumstances, it cannot be based solely on what has happened in someone's past. It is used to see if someone is likely to be a public charge in the future. Some things they look at when deciding the case is your age, health, family status, education and skills, and affidavit of support.
  - Under the current policy since 1999 Public Charge has been defined as someone who is *primarily dependent* on the government for subsistence. Only looked at cash assistance programs (e.g. TANF) and long-term health care assistance (e.g. nursing home care under Medicaid)
  - Back in 2017 this policy began to change. There were 4 executive orders leaked that deal with immigration.
    - Rule announced on September 27
    - Merely receiving benefits will be examined
    - More programs included
      - SNAP, non-emergency Medicaid, housing assistance, rental assistance
    - Would look at past 36 months for activity (or likelihood of going on assistance if not in U.S. yet)
    - Rule would not be retroactive to the date it is enacted
      - Current immigrant families are giving up services they need and are legally entitled to receive out of fear of the rule, even though the rule has not been enacted yet and wouldn't be retroactive
  - Negative factors
    - Not a student, no prospect of future work.
    - Earning less than 125 percent of the federal poverty line (FPL), even if you've never used public assistance
  - Heavily weighed positive factor if your family makes 250% of the FPL

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- In a family of four that would equal \$63,000 The median household income in 2017 in The United States was 61,400. This is even higher than what the average family makes
  - 1 in four children have an immigrant parent. This will impact them. As many as 26 million people in families with immigrants might be chilled from participating in programs that make their families healthier and stronger.
  - Talking Points
    - If finalized this regulation would be a significant and harmful departure from current policy.
    - This allows the Trump administration to essentially move the goal post—in normalizing terrible proposals by comparing them with even more terrible ones.
    - Parents and child well-being are inextricably linked. Parents who report they are in good health are more likely to have children who are in good health. There is in fact no specific way to target individual immigrants without hurting their children.
  - Timing
    - As of now this has not been scheduled in the Federal Register (FR) yet.
    - Will come out any time [announced after webinar that it will come out on October 10]
    - Once it appears in the FR, public will have 60 days to comment
      - Our goal is to get 100,000 comments as well. Comments need to be unique (do not cut and paste form messages). If there's duplicated comments they only count as one.
    - After comment period, comments will need to be read (the more comments, the longer it takes to review them) and then Admin will decide whether to implement rule or not
  - This is an attack on low income families, and people with disabilities.

## Campaign Update and Engaging Candidates

Meredith Dodson

- RESULTS Public Charge Resources
  - [RESULTS Blog post](#) includes other resources.
  - [public charge letter to the editor to action](#)
  - [press statement](#)

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- When the rule is published, weigh in and talk about how this would harm you, your family, community, and institutions that serve all of us by filing your comment via <http://www.ouramericanstory.us/>
- What can Congress do?
  - Speak out against the rule with immediate statements, press and social media (use #ProtectFamilies #MyImmigrantStory #OurAmericanStory).
  - Submit official comments to DHS to demonstrate overreach by the executive branch and the impact on constituents and specific programs.
  - Educate constituents
- **Quick review of Census poverty data** via slides
- **SNAP update:** Congress will return to DC during the “Lame Duck” session, will try to reach a deal on the Farm Bill.

### October Action (1st Half) – Engaging Candidates

- Make sure that candidates prioritize anti-poverty policies by attending campaign events and raising issues you care about.
- Resources:
  - our [Action Sheet](#) has short candidate questions
  - [slightly longer laser talks](#).
  - Personalize questions with stories and local data!
  - Tips and more resources: [https://www.results.org/issues/2018\\_elections](https://www.results.org/issues/2018_elections)
  - Report candidate interactions: [Candidate Engagement Tracker](#)
- Also, if you plan to attend a town hall or candidate event, or secure a face-to-face meeting, please contact Meredith Dodson ([mdodson@results.org](mailto:mdodson@results.org)) to get coaching on how best to prepare.

## Engaging Your Community – October Action

Jos Linn

- Connecting with other volunteers
  - Why?
    - Lots of people are paying close attention to this election
    - More people are engaged than ever, especially for a midterm election
    - But as you know, making policy doesn’t end on election night
    - People need to stay involved *after* the election if they want to see the changes they desire

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- You and RESULTS provide them the formula to do that
- How?
  - Volunteer for a candidate or issue on the ballot in the upcoming election and talk to fellow volunteers about your work with RESULTS
  - Strike up a conversation with someone you can identify as a potential ally (i.e. someone at a candidate town hall or local organizing meeting)
  - Check out what your friends are doing on social media and reach out to ones talking about current issues
  - Host an “Election Night Watch Party” and talk about your RESULTS work as the returns come in
  - Offer to do a candidate engagement training for a local group or school (contact Jos Linn ([jlinn@esults.org](mailto:jlinn@esults.org)) for resources)
- Exercise
  - Take out a sheet of paper
  - Write down the names of at least 5 people – who are NOT part of your local RESULTS group – that you know are interested in this year’s election. Leave about 2 inches of space under each name.
  - Can you talk to all of them before November 6 (Election Day)? If not, add the name of someone you can talk to to your list.
  - Based on your relationship with each person, what is the best way to get in touch with them to set up a time to talk (phone call, e-mail, text, social media)? Write down the answers under each person’s name.
  - When will you reach out to each person to schedule a time to meet in person or talk over the phone? Write down the date under each name.
  - Using this Laser Talk as a guide, how would you phrase for each person you plan to talk to? You want to tailor what you say to that particular person. What things about your work with RESULTS do you want to highlight? What things about RESULTS do you think would interest them? Write down your answers under each person’s name.
  - Laser Talk

*Elections give us a chance to decide what kind of future we want to see. By voting, we make our voices heard and take a stand on things we care about. But change doesn't happen just because we vote. It doesn't happen just because there are new faces in Congress. It happens because we tell lawmakers what we care about and what we want them to do about it. We make calls, we write letters, and we meet with them. Change happens because we demand it happen.*

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*As a volunteer with RESULTS. I am part of a movement of passionate, committed everyday people, using our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. [Include information about your personal RESULTS work] Election day is just the beginning. As an advocate with RESULTS, you can help write the rest of the story.*

*You can do that too. Are you interested?*

- Take a few minutes to write down your thoughts
- Continue finishing your answers after the webinar

## Resources

- **October Action:** [https://www.results.org/take\\_action/october\\_2018\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_action](https://www.results.org/take_action/october_2018_u.s._poverty_action)
  - **NEW!** The Action Sheet includes a **sample agenda** for your monthly meetings and an **action to send your local action networks**
- **Updated Issue Laser Talks:** [https://www.results.org/take\\_action/summer\\_fall\\_2018\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_laser\\_talks](https://www.results.org/take_action/summer_fall_2018_u.s._poverty_laser_talks)
- **RESULTS Elections page:** [https://www.results.org/issues/2018\\_elections](https://www.results.org/issues/2018_elections)
- **RESULTS Staff:**
  - Meredith Dodson, [mdodson@results.org](mailto:mdodson@results.org)
  - Jos Linn, [jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org)

## Grassroots Shares

Meredith Dodson

### Mary Albertson of RESULTS Detroit

She met with Detroit Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). She spoke how there was a meeting with someone from her house district which is a crucial seat to flip if Democrats wish to take back the House. Rep. Dingle, Lawrence, and Clark all showed up to talk about how important it is to protect certain safety net programs.

### David Plinski of RESULTS Spearfish (SD)

Background on how the group started. He had a friend named Dani who moved from Chicago to South Dakota and she was looking to start a group in South Dakota. Brooke is the chairperson of the local Democratic party. This RESULTS group is new and has only been around since last summer however, they have accomplished a lot already. When Brooke came to DC, she met with both senators from South Dakota.

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## Fundraising Update – Join the Virtual Thanksgiving Feast!

Mea Geizhals, Grassroots Fundraising Manager

- Raise critical resources this November to end poverty
- *New for the 2018 Virtual Thanksgiving Feast:*
  - Fundraising prizes
  - Updated resources
  - Special announcements
- More information coming soon!

Contact Mea Geizhals with questions or if you plan to join at [mgeizhals@results.org](mailto:mgeizhals@results.org) or 202-783-4800 x131

## Announcements

Jos Linn

**Join the RESULTS Action Network Community of Practice**, Wednesday, October 3 at 8:30pm ET. To join, log in: <https://results.zoom.us/j/427674133> or dial in: 669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 427 674 133.

**Join our Anti-Oppression Webinar: Call-in/Call-out Training**, Monday, October 15 at 1:00 pm ET. We are repeating this webinar to discuss ways we as anti-poverty advocates can better support our communities. We'll go over why anti-oppression work matters for our advocacy, discuss methods of responding to oppressive behavior using the new RESULTS Call-in/Call-out Guide, and provide an open space for sharing our experiences and learning from one another. To join, login at: <https://results.zoom.us/j/292298302> or dial (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 292 298 302.

**New Advocate Orientations** are Thursday, October 11 and 17 at 8:30pm ET and Friday, October 26 at 1:00pm ET. Get started [here](#).

**U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls**, Tuesday, October 16 at 1pm and 8pm ET. To Join via <https://results.zoom.us/j/324294681> or by phone at (669) 900-6833 or (929) 436-2866, meeting ID: 324 294 681.

**Save the Date for the 2019 RESULTS International Conference!** Please mark your calendars for the 2019 RESULTS International Conference, July 13-16, 2019 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. Learn more at [www.resultsconference.org](http://www.resultsconference.org).

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

Thank you for being on tonight's webinar! The next U.S. Poverty National Webinar is **Tuesday, November 13 at 8:00pm ET**. Note that this is a week later than normal so as not to conflict with Election Day.

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## Final Action

Jos Linn

### Speak Out on New Public Charge Rule

Speak out against the new public charge rule. Use [our new public charge letter to the editor to action](#) to urge public support to oppose this harsh new rule.

*Be on the lookout for information on how to submit your public comment opposing the rule when it gets published. Plan to urge as many people as you can to submit comments too.*