RESULTS the power to end poverty

March 2019 RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Webinar Make Housing Assistance a Priority in Congress

Login at: https://results.zoom.us/j/873308801 or dial (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 873 308 801.

RESULTS is a movement of passionate, committed everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. Poverty cannot end as long as oppression exists. We commit to opposing all forms of oppression, including racism, classism, colonialism, white saviorism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, and religious discrimination.

At RESULTS we pledge to create space for all voices, including those of us who are currently experiencing poverty. We will address oppressive behavior in our interactions, families, communities, work, and world. Our strength is rooted in our diversity of experiences, not in our assumptions.

With unearned privilege comes the responsibility to act so the burden to educate and change doesn't fall solely on those experiencing oppression. When we miss the mark on our values, we will acknowledge our mistake, seek forgiveness, learn, and work together as a community to pursue equity.



There are no saviors — only partners, advocates, and allies. We agree to help make the RESULTS movement a respectful, inclusive space.



Welcome from Kali Daugherty

RESULTS volunteer and Expert on Poverty in Milwaukee



- Homelessness is first and foremost a housing crisis and can be addressed through the provision of safe and affordable housing.
- All people experiencing homelessness, regardless of their housing history and duration of homelessness, can achieve housing stability in permanent housing.
- Some may need very little support for a brief period of time, while others may need more intensive and long-term supports.
- Everyone is "housing ready." Sobriety, compliance in treatment, or even criminal histories are not necessary to succeed in housing. Rather, homelessness programs and housing providers must be "consumer ready."
- Many people experience improvements in quality of life, in the areas of health, mental health, substance use, and employment, because of achieving housing.
- People experiencing homelessness have the right to self-determination and should be treated with dignity and respect.
- The exact configuration of housing and services depends upon the needs and preferences of the population.
- The principles of Housing First can be applied to many interventions and as an overall community approach to addressing homelessness.

Welcome to the RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Webinar. We are so glad you could be with us this evening. My name is Kali Daugherty and I am a RESULTS volunteer from Milwaukee and one of the Experts on Poverty.

I have been a volunteer with RESULTS for the past 3 years starting as a Real Change Fellow and then joining our Experts on Poverty group which consists of volunteers that have lived experience with poverty and assistance programs. I wanted to volunteer with RESULTS because of their work to end poverty and ensure that individuals have access to needed services and I am so happy that they have now focused on housing I work for the Milwaukee County Housing Division and have worked in homeless services for the past 7 years. Previously I have worked in several shelters and various housing programs for low income people. Something most people don't realize is that those experiencing a housing crisis have a difficult time getting other needed supports. When someone doesn't know where they are going to sleep that night you can't expect them to be able to focus on other things. By giving someone a safe and stable place to be it gives them the opportunity to work on finding employment, pursuing education and addressing medical and mental health needs. In Wisconsin and other parts of the country we use the "Housing First" model to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.

This approach is different than how social services has looked at housing in the past. Previously individuals had to gain full time employment, stop any use of drugs or alcohol, and be enrolled in mental health services. Housing First means that individuals that are in need go into housing and then the services are wrapped around them once they are in a stable home.

This approach was started in Milwaukee in September of 2015 and at that time we had 1,537 individuals who were street homeless. As of January 2018, we had just over 800 individuals who were street homeless.

To provide these services, we are required to use the Coordinated Entry per HUD (housing and urban development). This system gathers the information of all of those who are current experiencing a housing crisis. They are prioritized by their vulnerability to decide who will have access to services first. For example, if there were an elderly woman who had been sleeping outdoors for 1 month, had no income and had medical and mental health issues she would receive services before a young adult male who was newly homeless, had income and did not have medical concerns. They developed this system to ensure that those who are in most need of services get them first.

Though as a community and with the assistance of the Coordinated Entry system we try to ensure that vulnerable individuals are getting the assistance they need as quickly as possible we still must rely on community partners to make this a reality.

There are many barriers that individuals looking for housing face even when they have this housing assistance including:

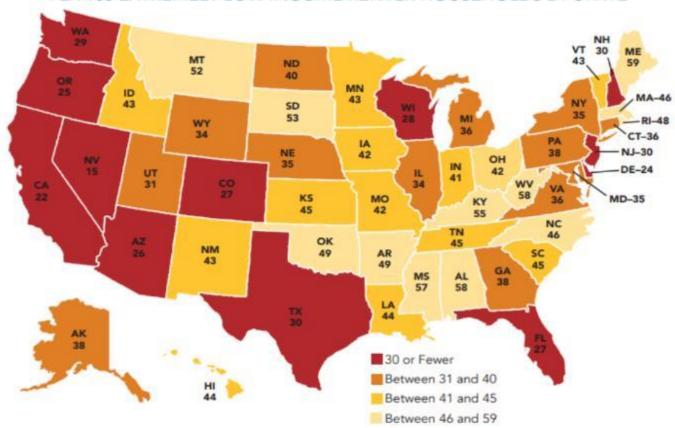
- Income restrictions- many property owners will put in their adds that people must make a 2-3x the rent which restricts low income renters and those with rental assistance vouchers.
- Credit score restrictions- property owners often put in place state that a renter must have certain credit score to qualify.
- Application fees: Often charged for all adults in the household. This is difficult for individuals with low and fixed incomes.
- Limited areas accept housing assistance: While many areas including Milwaukee have adopted housing vouchers as a protected class that can't be discriminated against many landlords do not follow this. Many times, when I am assisting someone in finding housing I am told that the voucher would be accepted in high crime high poverty neighborhoods and not in suburban areas.

 While there has been a substantial decrease in homelessness in our community, the need for affordable housing grows every day. 71 % of extremely low-income Americans spend more than half of their income on housing costs. We get calls daily from individuals who are struggling to pay rent and who are looking for a subsidy. Unfortunately, there is not enough support for those who desperately need it.

We have a good webinar planned for you tonight. In a moment, I will turn the call over to Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns Meredith Dodson to introduce our guest speaker. We are excited to have RESULTS' own Crickett Nicovich as our speaker tonight. She will help us better understand the budget process and how best to leverage your influence on housing issues. After that, Meredith will coach us on how best to talk about housing if you speak to members of Congress but are pressed for time. We'll hear some shares from the grassroots about recent successes and then close out the call with announcements and our final action. Thank you all for joining us tonight and now let me turn things over to Meredith.

We Must Address the Housing Crisis

FIGURE 6: RENTAL HOMES AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE
PER 100 EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS BY STATE



Note: Extremely low income (ELI) renter households have incomes at or below the poverty level of 30% of the area median income Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2016 ACS PUMS Data.

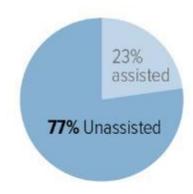


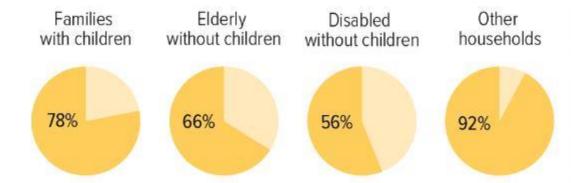
Meredith Dodson mdodson@results.org

The Need for Rental Assistance

Three Out of Four Low-Income At-Risk Renters Do Not Receive Federal Rental Assistance

All low-income renters with housing needs

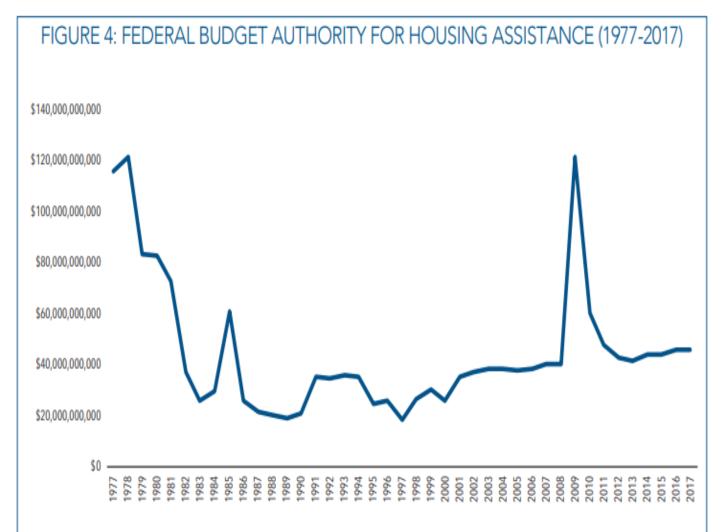




Note: Low-income renters are considered "at-risk" if they pay more than 30 percent of their monthly income for housing and/or live in overcrowded or substandard housing. Households are considered low-income if they earn 80 percent or less of the local median income.

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) custom tabulations of the 2015 American Housing Survey; 2016 HUD administrative data; FY2016 McKinney-Vento Permanent Supportive Housing bed counts; 2015-2016 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS grantee performance profiles; and the USDA FY2016 Multi-Family Fair Housing Occupancy Report.

RESULTS Housing Focus for Early 2019



1. Increase federal rental assistance by \$5 billion over FY 2020-2021 -- will fund 340,000 new "Section 8" vouchers over two years. 2. Support bipartisan efforts to ban discrimination against people who get housing assistance

Building Momentum to Address the Crisis

RESULTS longer-term priorities:

- Shift tax priorities to increase support for low- and moderateincome renters via a "Renters Credit" and target homeownership policies to reduce racial wealth inequality
- Address other barriers to affordable housing and racial equity including inclusive zoning, credit scores, and application fees
- Support emergency stabilization funds for families facing eviction



Housing and Racial Wealth Inequality Resources

- Lots on our website→
- NETWORK's 2020
 Vision: Mend the Gaps
 https://networklobby.org/2
 020vision/
- Local housing data:

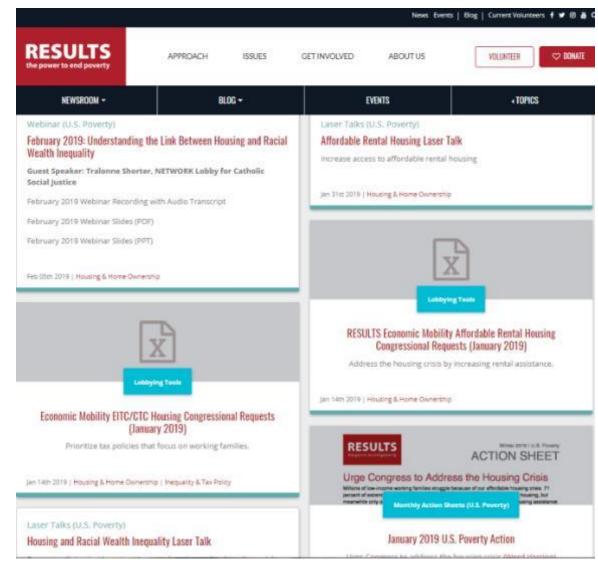
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- CBPP data on housing vouchers by race/ethnicity:
 https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/where-families-with-children-use-housing-vouchers



Guest Speaker: Crickett Nicovich RESULTS

- Senior Advisor, Global Policy & Government Affairs
- Leads our anti-poverty policy and appropriations work on Capitol Hill
- Represents RESULTS with the administration, on Capitol Hill, and across multiple D.C. area global health and global policy coalitions
- Co-chairs the government relations working group for the Reach Every Mother and Child Act Coalition
- Crickett is an AmeriCorps alum and a graduate of Millsaps College in Mississippi



Crickett (left) with Meredith Dodson

How is the U.S. government funded?

Your federal taxes!

BONUS: with the tax bill (TCJA) that passed at the end of 2017, how much less per year does the fed expect in revenue?

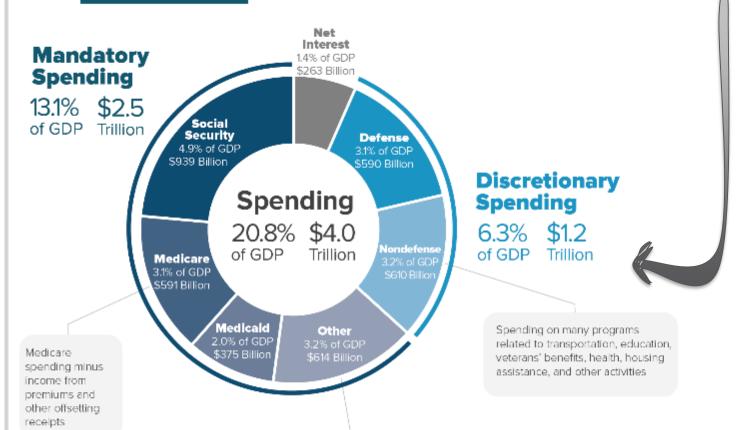
On average \$150 billion per year less for the next 10 years! (Adding \$1.5 trill to deficit)

Approximately how much is the annual U.S. budget?

Total U.S. budget = about \$4 trillion

THE FEDERAL BUDGET IN 2017

For our housing work, we focus on the Non-Defense Discretionary spending.



Spending on unemployment compensation, federal civilian and military retirement, some veterans' benefits, the earned income tax credit, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and other mandatory programs, minus become from effecting recoilets.

Discretionary vs. Mandatory

- Housing is considered discretionary spending
- Discretionary spending is optional spending that Congress decides on and funds through a yearly process known as appropriations. Currently, we have Defense (DOD – our military operations) and Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD – current housing programs for low-income families, education, scientific research, infrastructure, national parks, environmental protection, international affairs, etc...) funding.
- This is different from *mandatory spending*, which is spending that does not have to be approved every year and is required by law. (Examples: Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security as well as certain other programs including SNAP).

Discretionary Spending 2015: \$1.11 trillion

Government \$72.9 billion / 7%

Education

\$70 billion / 6%

Medicare & Health \$66 billion / 6%

Veterans Benefits

\$65.3 billion / 6%

Housing & Community

\$63.2 billion / 6%

International Affairs

\$40.9 billion / 4%

Energy & Environment

\$39.1 billion / 4%

Science

\$29.7 billion / 3%

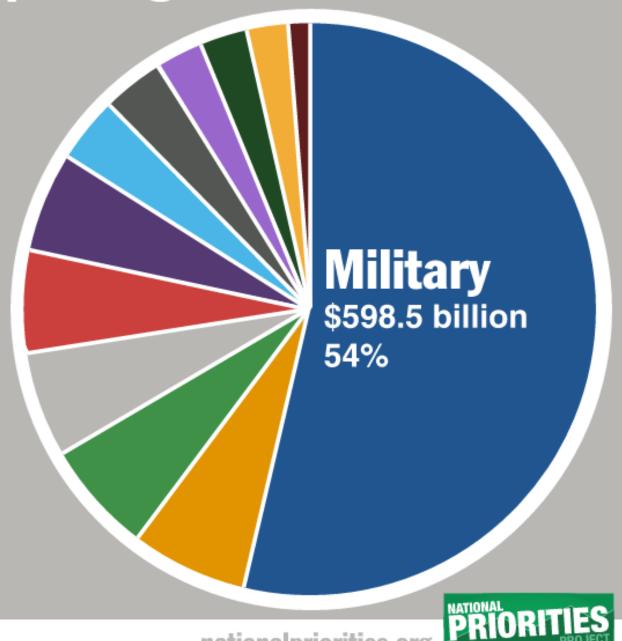
Social Security, Unemployment, & Labor \$29.1 billion / 3%

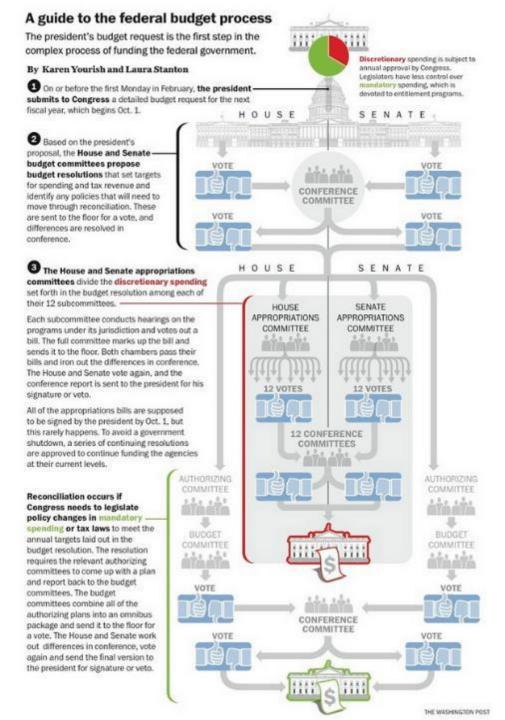
Transportation

\$26.3 billion / 2%

Food & Agriculture

\$13.1 billion / 1%





- President's Budget usually comes out in February (this year: March 11)
- House and Senate Budget
 Committees (sometimes) pass
 their own budget resolutions
 which set the top-level funding
 amounts for each committee.
- House and Senate Appropriations Committees:
 - The 12 sub-committees in each chamber draft and mark-up bill
 - Full committee marks up
- Bill goes to floor of both chambers for a vote.
- Conference/ reconciliation if needed.

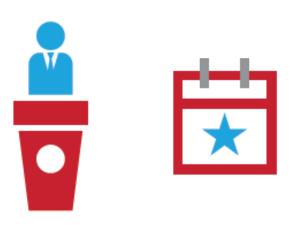
"Budget" or "Budget Request"

- The administration, led by the Office of Management and Budget and White House officials, begin preparing for the next fiscal year, about 18 months ahead of the start of the Fiscal Year.
- Often considered a policy document part of the administration's vision.
- If Executive and Legislative branches are of the same party, this is often worked on/ negotiated together.
- President's budget last year was seen as "dead on arrival", even by many in his own party.
- If new policies are presented, often previewed in the State of the Union address before budget released.

Agencies and Office of Management and Budget begin working on future budgets.



President sends proposed budget to Congress the first Monday in February.



"Budget Resolution": What's supposed to happen...



The House Budget Committee holds hearings, questions administration officials and drafts a budget resolution.



The House budget resolution goes to the floor for a vote.

The Senate Budget Committee drafts a budget resolution.

Also the time when hearings are held, and administration officials answer questions.



The Senate budget resolution goes to the floor for a vote.





But in reality...

- The budget resolutions are then supposed to pass both the House and Senate, then go to conference, and set the funding allocations for all 12 sub-committees.
- This is supposed to all happen by mid-April for next year... In 2017, Congress passed their FY 2017 budget resolution in January and then a FY 2018 budget resolution on October 26.
- In 2018, Congress never passed a budget resolution.



"Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made."

But: We Need a Bipartisan Budget Deal

Unless Congress & the President reach a new budget agreement, both non-defense *and* defense discretionary program areas will face deep cuts in 2020 & 2021

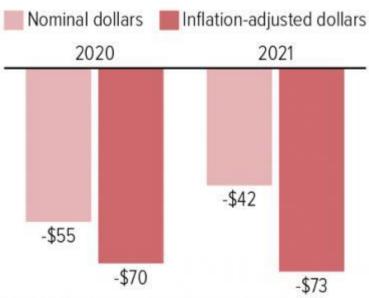
NDD programs on average would have to be cut 11 percent in 2020 after adjusting for inflation.

But... opportunity to address the affordable housing crisis by including a substantial increase in Housing Choice Vouchers in the budget "caps" deal!

 Which then ultimately gets written into an Appropriations bill...

Non-Defense Discretionary Funding Will Fall After 2019 Without a New Budget Deal

Cut from 2019 NDD funding level (\$597 billion), in billions



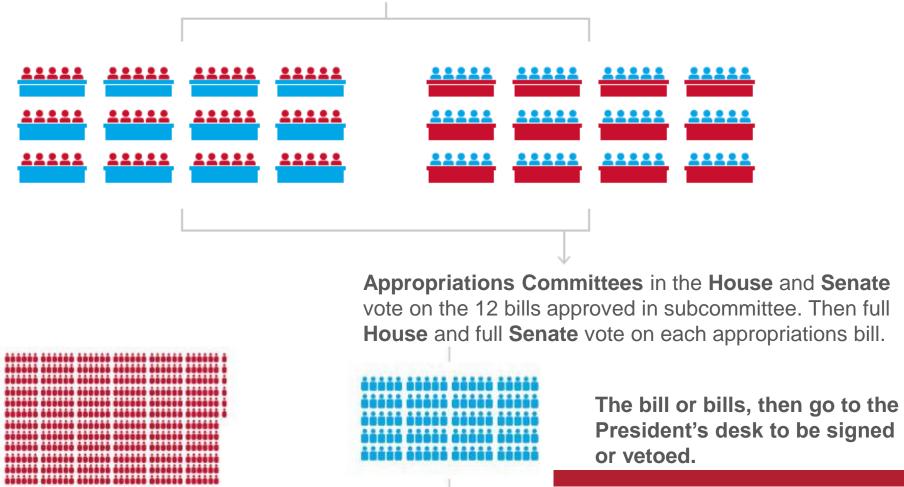
Note: All amounts exclude funding for disasters, emergencies, program integrity, and Overseas Contingency Operations.

Source: CBPP analysis of data from the Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES I CBPP.ORG

"Appropriations" - What's supposed to happen...

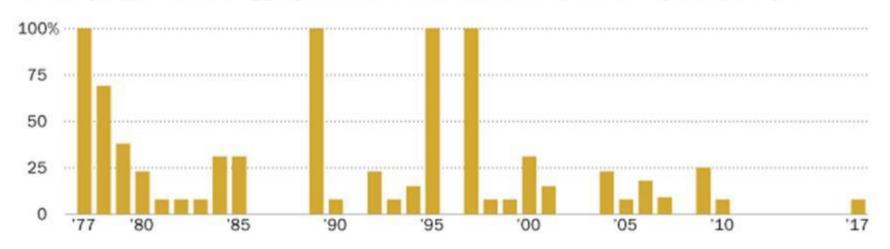
Twelve appropriations subcommittees in the **House** and twelve appropriations subcommittees in the **Senate** hold public hearings and **prepare appropriations bills**. Discretionary spending limits are set by the budget resolution, which also constrains tax or entitlement bills.



But in reality... While the process may seem complex, in reality it is even more complicated!

U.S. Congress rarely passes spending legislation on time

Percentage of stand-alone appropriations bills enacted on or before Oct. 1 of each fiscal year



Note: Although each fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, bills enacted by or on Oct. 1 are considered to be "on time." Source: Pew Research Center analysis of legislative data from Congress.gov; Congressional Research Service.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The last time all of the appropriations bills were passed as stand alone bills was in 1997, that's only happened four times since 1977.

EVERYONE DESERVES





Education



CONGRESS DECIDES WHERE OUR MONEY GOES



Congress decides how to spend money during the appropriations process.



This funding can support health, education, and economic opportunity for families around the world.

HOW DOES CONGRESS DECIDE HOW TO SPEND MONEY?



YOU TELL THEM WHAT MATTERS.

Tell Congress to prioritize ending poverty.

Take action at results.org.



"Don't play opossum, or you'll be dead. Make some noise."

Hill staffer



Ways RESULTS influences appropriations

Contact the key aide and/or meet with your members of Congress personally to ask them to make a request to the Appropriations Committee Leadership.

- **Step 1:** Reach out to the key aides in your representative and senators' offices and ask when and how they prefer to receive our appropriation requests.
- Step 2: If you need assistance in fulfilling their requirements contact RESULTS staff at cnicovich@results.org
- Step 3: Contact the scheduler for your representative and senators and ask for an in-person meeting with your members of Congress so you can make the requests in person.



Ways RESULTS influences appropriations

Ask your members of Congress to sign on to a "Dear Colleague Letter": A "sign-on" letter, also known as a "Dear Colleague" letter, is circulated by members of Congress. It is like a petitions sent to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations subcommittee by their Congressional peers. The more signers on the letters, the more sway they have – especially if both Republicans and Democrats sign on! This can be an entry level action if your members of Congress have never taken an appropriations action before.

- Step 1: Chose which sign-on letters you want to send to your representative or senator
- **Step 2:** Pay attention to timing each sign-on letter varies on its deadline for closing.
- **Step 3:** Send an email to the key aide with the letter(s) and appropriate RESULTS background document(s), asking them to sign onto it. Follow up with a phone call.

Support Robust Funding for International Basic Education and the Global Partnership for Education in FY2017

Please join Reps. Reichert (R-WA) and McDermott (D-WA) in the call for robust funding for

Prease join Keps, Keichert (R-WA) and INCOMMON (D-WA) in the can for robust randing for international Basic Education and the Global Partnership for Education in fiscal year 2017.

For additional information, or to sign onto the letter, please contact Colin Swanson (Reichert) at 5-7761 or Colin Swanson@mail house gov. or Laura Hughes (McDermott) at 5-0105 or

The closing date for this letter is COB March 16, 2016.

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

We are writing to urge you to strongly support international basic education programs in the fiscal year 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. Through robust funding of global basic education, we can help reduce poverty through economic growth, build markets for U.S. exports, education, we can nesp require poverty through economic grown, build markets enhance stability and security, and promote effective development across sectors.

Unfortunately, education is increasingly under attack by extremists who feel threatened by the power off education. Attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria and the Taliban in Pakistan are shocking examples of education. Attacks by Doko Haram in regeria and the Tantoan in Pakistan are snocking examples of this fear. We must join with young people like Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani girl who defied the Taliban and righted her life described to the Taliban and right the Taliban and risked her life demanding the right to an education. Through quality basic education programs, we can help ensure all children are able to fulfill their potential and have access to a better

Improving the education of the world's poor is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, violence, amproving the education of the world's poor is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, violence, and to strengthening communities. Education equips millions with the tools needed to forge a path to self-sufficiency and better lives. Mounting evidence shows that educating girls is one of the most to sen-summercy and better rives, informing evidence snows that educating girls is one cost-effective ways to spur development and create a ripple effect throughout society.

In many countries, the school is the center of the community and can serve an important role in also In many countries, the school is the center of the community and can serve an important role in also facilitating health and food programs. Obstitute of location has been shown to lower child and material.

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

Support Robust Funding for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition

DEADLINE: March 16, 2016

Dear Colleague,

The biggest gains in global health have been made in just the last 25 years. With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its global partners, the number of children under the age of five dying annually has fallen at an astonishing rate, from 12.6 million in 1990 to 5.9 million in 2015. This drastic decrease in mortality means more children are surviving and thriving. In that same time maternal mortality worldwide dropped by over one-

While progress have been made, over 16,000 children still die each day - mostly from treatable causes like diarrhea, pneumonia, or malnutrition. Over 800 women die daily from complications with pregnancy and childbirth. This is why USAID laid out a clear roadmap in 2014 to ending preventable child and maternal deaths globally within a generation by prioritizing cost-effective interventions based on country needs. This roadmap will help save 15 million children's lives and 600,000 women's lives by 2020. With a plan now in place, it is critical to support strong investments in the evidence-based interventions that work to drive down the leading killers of

o achieve this priority goal, we urge you to sign the below letter encouraging the ppropriations Committee to consider allocating robust resources for the Maternal and Child alth (MCH) and Nutrition accounts in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill Fiscal Year 2017. The MCH and Nutrition accounts together support the delivery of lifeng services for newborns, children, and mothers throughout the developing world. The nal and child health account provides critical support to polio eradication efforts and to the Vaccine Alliance, for underutilized vaccines in developing countries. The nutrition t aims to prevent malnutrition in particular in moms and babies during the 1,000 day

come of the most cost-effective and results-driven programs, it is critical that the MCH and the nutrition accounts have robust resources to directly impact some of the most vulnerable victims of poverty and instability. In addition to the value of the lives saved, these programs serve America's long-term economic interests and national security.

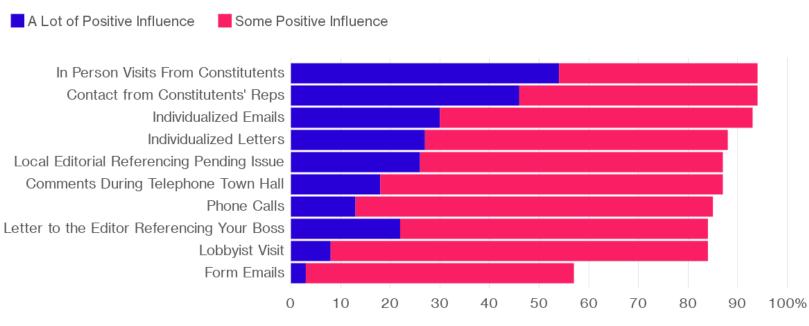
For information, or to sign onto the letter, please contact Colin Swanson (Reichert) at 5-7761 or Colin.Swanson@mail.house.gov, or Jenn Holcomb (McCollum) at 5-6631 or



Set the Agenda: Get Meetings with Congress

Want To Be Heard? Show Up!

Influence on Washington D.C.-based congressional staffers by communication type.



Source: Congressional Management Foundation

*Bars do not add up to 100 because not all surveyed categories are displayed

Bloomberg 💵

March Action: Meet with Members of Congress

- Upcoming recesses: March 18-22, April 15-26
- Use our meeting request templates (<u>online</u> or <u>Word doc</u>)
- Also look for town halls and other public appearances

RESOURCES

- March Action: https://results.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-03-U.S.-Poverty-Action-Face-to-Face-Meetings-on-Housing-Taxes1.pdf
- Full Laser Talks: https://results.org/volunteers/laser-talks/
- Lobbying Resources: https://results.org/volunteers/lobbying/
- Set the Agenda: https://results.org/issues/set-the-agenda/

Grassroots Shares



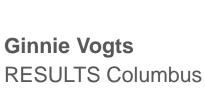


Jos Linn jlinn@results.org





Maureen Bowling RESULTS Lexington, KY





Be ready for town halls too!



If you can't get a sit-down lobby meeting this month, or even if you do, don't forget to go to public events!

Be Ready: Abbreviated Laser Talk Training

Engage: 71 percent of extremely low-income renters spend more than half their income on housing. [Or: story/local #s]

Problem: Only one in four eligible families get federal housing assistance.

Inform: Congress should lift the budget caps and include a \$5 billion increase in housing assistance in a budget deal, which could fund 340,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers (or "Section 8") in the next two years.

Call to Action: Will you tell Congressional leaders you support a budget caps deal that prioritizes housing assistance for low-income families?

We want to see YOU at the...



Registration is now open at www.resultsconference.org!

Announcements

Submit Meeting Requests. Congress will be on recess March 18-22 and April 15-26. Submit your <u>meeting requests</u> ASAP. Join the Monthly Donor Match in March. For every new monthly donor who signs up in March, a longtime RESULTS volunteer will donate \$500, up to \$10,000! Become an Investor in Change today and unlock the match today at: https://results.salsalabs.org/mgm/index.html. Please Send in Your Group Plans. Please submit your 2019 group plan using our <u>online form</u>. If you have questions, please contact <u>Jos Linn</u> for assistance. **Apply for REAL Change Fellowship.** If you or someone you know is 18-30 years old and looking for a leadership opportunity, apply for the **REAL** Change Fellowship Program today.

Announcements

RESULTS Action Network Community of Practice webinar, Wednesday, March 6 at 8:00pm ET. To join, log in: https://results.zoom.us/j/427674133 or dial in: 669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 427 674 133.

RESULTS New Advocate Orientation March 7 (8:30pm ET), March 12 (12:00pm ET), March 20 (8:30pm ET). Get started at: https://results.salsalabs.org/volunteer/index.html.

U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, Tuesday, March 19 at 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET. Join at: https://results.zoom.us/j/324294681 or dial by phone at (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 324 294 681.

Thursday, March 21: *Quiet Leadership* Book Club, 9:00 pm ET. To join, go to https://results.zoom.us/j/482992263. You can also join by phone at (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, meeting ID 482 992 263.

Find these and other events on our **Event Calendar**.

Thank you for being on tonight's webinar!

The next U.S. Poverty National Webinar is Tuesday, April 2 at 8:00pm ET.

FINAL ACTION Submit a letter to the editor urging Congress to act on housing

Use our online media alert to sent a letter to your local paper urging your members of Congress to support more resources for housing assistance.

https://results.org/volunteers/actioncenter/?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f61026%2frespond



Happy Spring!

(it can't get here soon enough)