

## Meet Face-to-Face with Members of Congress about Affordable Housing

Millions of low-income working families struggle to find affordable housing in the U.S. Over 70 percent of extremely low-income renters spend more than half their income on housing and studies show that there is no U.S. state where a worker making the federal minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment. Despite the problem, only one in four households eligible for federal housing assistance can get it. An increase of \$5 billion in Housing Choice Vouchers would help address the housing crisis, funding 340,000 new "Section 8" vouchers over two years.

In addition, the 2017 tax law was a boon for the wealthy and big corporations, while working families, especially those that are low-income, were left out. We need a tax code that expands income and wealth from the bottom up, not the top-down. Any new tax legislation should prioritize the needs of working families.

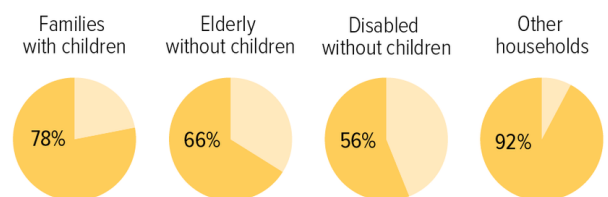
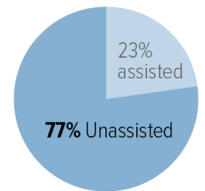
### Request a Face-to-Face Meeting

Congress will be on recess March 18-22 (and again April 15-26). Meet with representatives and senators in person to talk about the importance of affordable housing and tax credits for working families.

1. **Have the point persons for your representative(s) and senators call the schedulers to request face-to-face meetings for the March or April recesses.** Find names and contact information for the Washington DC scheduler (under "Staff") on our [Elected Officials page](#) (or call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121).
2. **Use our [online template](#)** as a script or the body of an e-mail to request the meeting.
3. **Be sure to also ask about town halls or public events** your members of Congress may be having during the recess (also check [www.townhallproject.com](http://www.townhallproject.com)).
4. Be sure to **note the name of the scheduler and thank him/her** for their assistance. If you don't get a firm answer when you call, mention when you'll be following up.
5. Once you confirm a meeting, **please contact RESULTS Director of US Poverty Campaigns Meredith Dodson** ([mdodson@results.org](mailto:mdodson@results.org)) for coaching and materials.
6. After each meeting (even staff only meetings), **please fill out the [RESULTS Lobby Report Form](#).**

#### 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.

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## Use a Strong Message for Meetings/Town Halls

When speaking to lawmakers in meetings or town halls, use our updated [EPIC Laser Talks](#) to urge lawmakers to protect anti-poverty programs.

### HOUSING

**Engage:** Millions of working families struggle to afford housing in America; 71 percent of extremely low-income renters spend more than half their income on housing.

**Problem:** We subsidize homeownership through tax breaks that often benefit the wealthy, while only one in four eligible low-income households receives federal housing assistance.

**Illustrate/Inform:** A worker earning the prevailing minimum wage cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in America. An increase of \$5 billion in Housing Choice Vouchers would fund 340,000 new “Section 8” vouchers over two years. We also need to address discrimination against those who receive assistance by preventing landlords from denying housing to people based on income source.

**Call to Action:** During budget negotiations, will you tell congressional leaders to lift the spending caps for FY2020-21 and support a \$5 billion increase in Housing Choice Vouchers over the next two years? And, will you support bipartisan efforts to ban housing discrimination based on income source?

### TAX POLICY

**Engage:** Tax policy is an incredible tool to create economic opportunity and mobility.

**Problem:** When talking about taxes, policymakers and candidates focus on the needs of select groups rather than a shared prosperity for all that includes low-income working families.

**Illustrate or Inform:** Over the last several decades, gains in income and wealth have primarily gone to those at the top, and were exacerbated by the 2017 tax law. We should restructure current tax policies to reduce inequality by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit for low-income families.

**Call to Action:** Will you support American workers by making robust expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit for low-income families a key priority in any tax proposals you support? And in any tax legislation that moves in this Congress, will you push to expand the EITC for workers without children in the home and the CTC for low-income families left out of the 2017 tax law?

#### New Tax Law Delivers Large Tax Cuts to Most Well-Off

2025

Income group	Percent change in after-tax income	Average tax change
Lowest fifth	0.4%	-\$70
Second fifth	0.9%	-\$390
Middle fifth	1.3%	-\$910
Fourth fifth	1.4%	-\$1,680
Top fifth	2.3%	-\$7,460
Top 1 percent	2.9%	-\$61,090
Top 0.1 percent	2.7%	-\$252,300

Note: Excludes effect of repeal of health reform’s individual mandate, which required most people to buy health insurance or pay a penalty.  
Source: Tax Policy Center