

RESULTS

the power to end poverty

June 2019 RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Webinar

Organizing Your Community to Advocate for Affordable Housing

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 Joanne Carter Executive Director, RESULTS



What is RESULTS?

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.

www.results.org



OUR HOMES, OUR VOICES

National Housing Week of Action

www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org

We want to see you in DC this summer!



**RESULTS
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

July 13-16 in Washington DC

www.resultsconference.org

Sara Buckingham
RESULTS Group Leader and Regional Coordinator
Anchorage, AK



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RESULTS is about personal growth. Like many of you, I came to RESULTS because I wanted the skills to make a difference. I wanted to understand how I could better translate research into policy. I was frustrated that I was treating individuals with psychotherapy for issues that stem from a community-level problem that could be prevented entirely – poverty. Before RESULTS, I had never written a letter to the editor let alone sat down with one of my elected officials or bird-dogged at campaign events. RESULTS helped me to understand that Congress works for us, the people. I'll never forget the time one of my legislators' chief of staff explained that our Congressman hadn't signed onto tax credits for low-income working families because – and I quote – “the Congressman cares about the issue, but his eyes glaze over whenever we discuss tax policy” – so I wrote a gentle letter to the editor publicly asking for his support. And to my surprise, I received a call from the Congressman and his chief of staff the very next day, stating that he would co-sponsor the legislation. RESULTS gave me the tools I needed to raise my voice.

Sara Buckingham
RESULTS Group Leader and Regional Coordinator
Anchorage, AK

RESULTS is about community. I don't know about you, but these past few years have taken a significant toll on me, and I'm not even directly impacted by most of the harmful policy proposals and hateful rhetoric swirling around our country. RESULTS volunteers have been a godsend throughout this time, providing inspiration and support. It's like Aesop's fable – any stick can be easily bent and broken on their own, but as a bundle, they are strong. As RESULTS volunteers we are much stronger than we are on our own. It has always been local RESULTS volunteers who have welcomed me when I moved to new communities. It's RESULTS volunteers around the country who inspire me, whether it's on these monthly webinars, weekly group leader calls, or the international conference in DC. RESULTS volunteers – diverse in our ages, careers, cultures, incomes, genders, education, ethnicities, locations – are chosen family united in our purpose. This unity through diversity is our strength.

Sara Buckingham
RESULTS Group Leader and Regional Coordinator
Anchorage, AK

RESULTS is about impact. Our organization is aptly named because we produce results. Since its founding, RESULTS volunteers have produced more than 14,000 pieces of media, had more than 160,000 conversations with congressional staff, and held more than 5,500 meetings with Members of Congress. By focusing on policies that are research-based, we are confident that they'll have their intended impact. And by honing in on policies that have some political will behind them, we target our efforts effectively. Since 1980, more than 1 billion people around the world have moved out of extreme poverty, and more than half of people in the U.S. move above the poverty line annually due to our social safety net programs.

And yet, we still have much to do. The racial wealth gap persists and shows no signs on closing. There are currently only 37 affordable homes for every 100 extremely low-income households. And of course, this poverty continues to harm our people's physical and mental health, continuing to be a primary reason why people come into my therapy office. Let's keep up the work – creating the public and political will to end poverty.

RESULTS

the power to end poverty

APPROACH

ISSUES

GET INVOLVED

ABOUT US

VOLUNTEER

♥ DONATE



WHO WE ARE



OUR IMPACT



WHERE WE ARE



GRASSROOTS
SPOTLIGHT



5,500+

face-to-face meetings with members
of Congress



14,000+

pieces of media



160,000+

meetings and phone conversations
with congressional staff

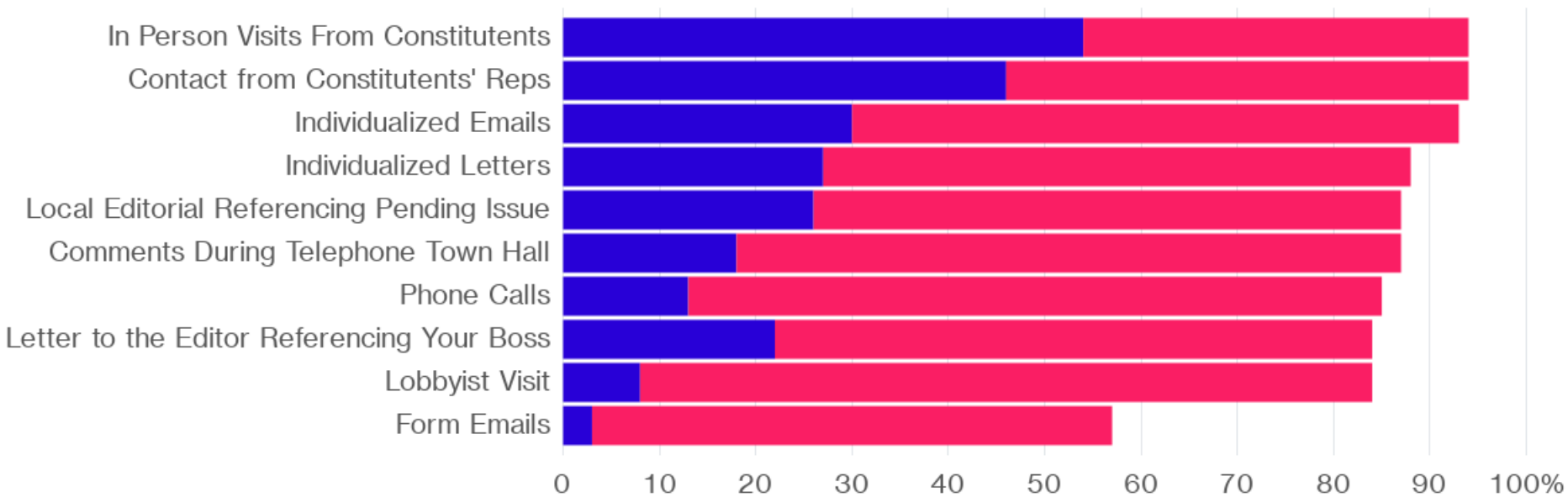
There's more... ([Advocacy Successes](#))

Advocacy Works!

Want To Be Heard? Show Up!

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

■ A Lot of Positive Influence ■ Some Positive Influence

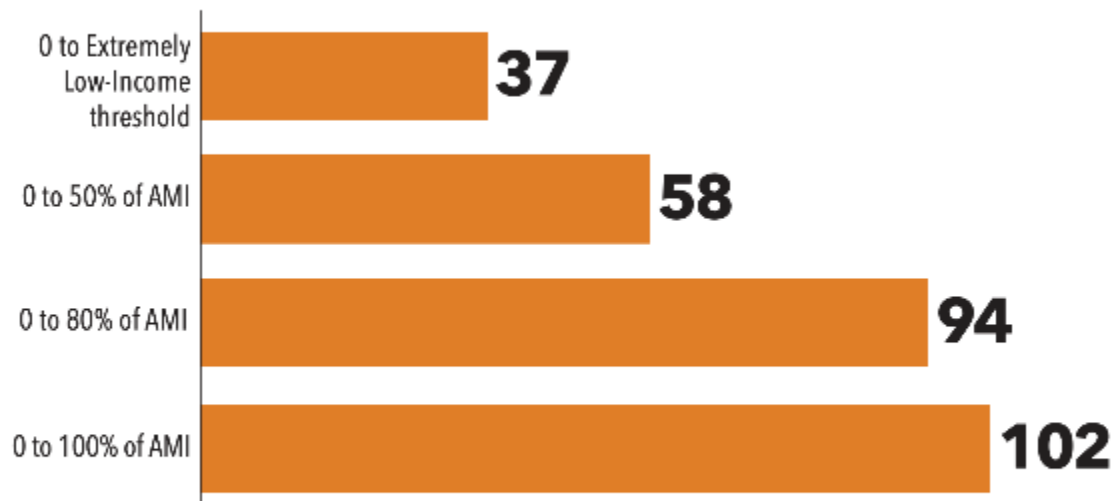


Source: Congressional Management Foundation
*Bars do not add up to 100 because not all surveyed categories are displayed



Affordable Housing Crisis

AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE RENTAL HOMES
PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS, 2017



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2017 ACS PUMS data.
AMI = Area Median Income.
©2019 National Low Income Housing Coalition

<https://nlihc.org/gap>



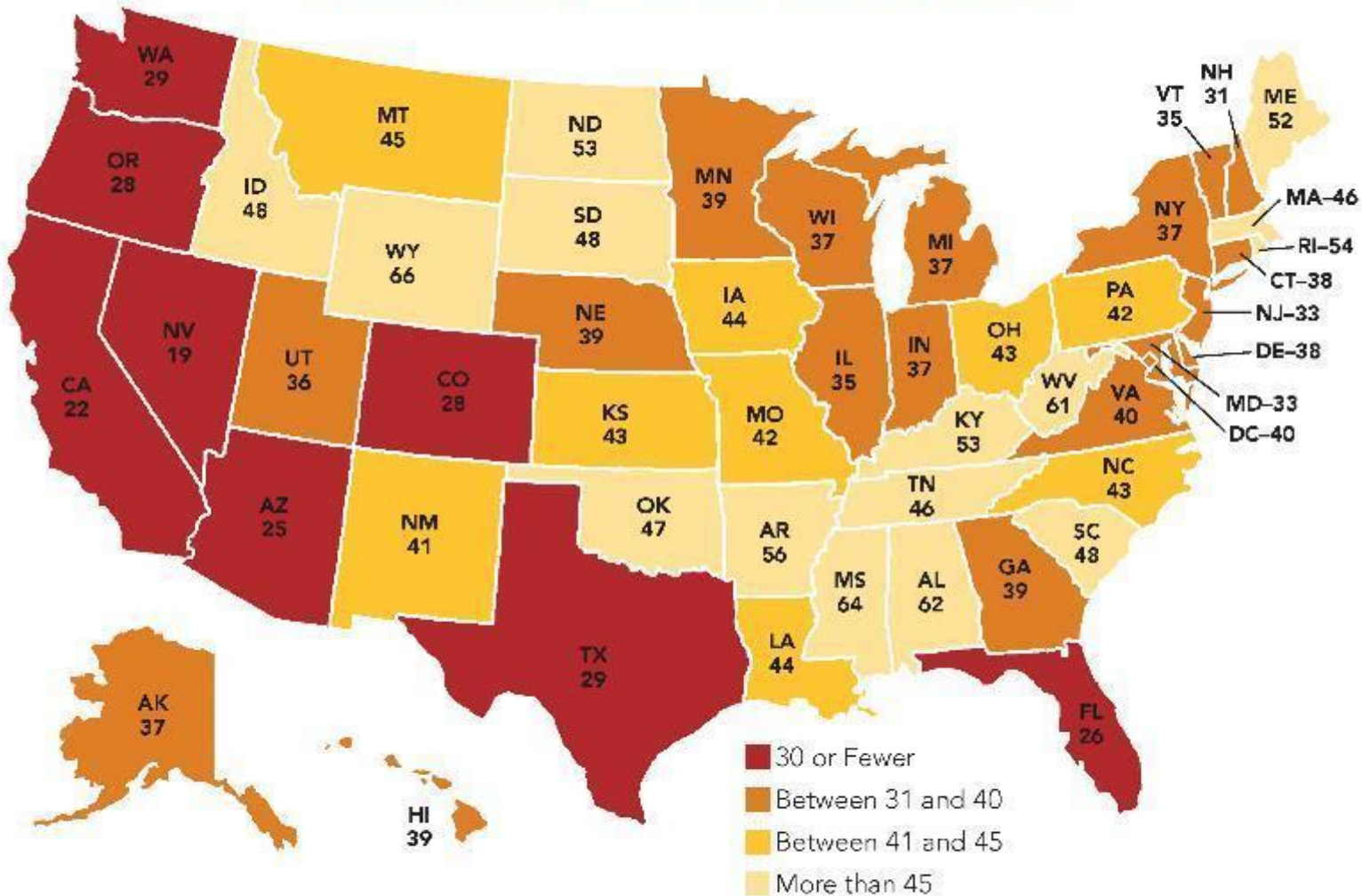
Meredith Dodson
mdodson@results.org

Since 1960, renter's incomes have gone up by 5% while rental cost has gone up by 61%.

72.5% of extremely low-income renters are severely cost burdened, meaning they spend more than half their income on housing

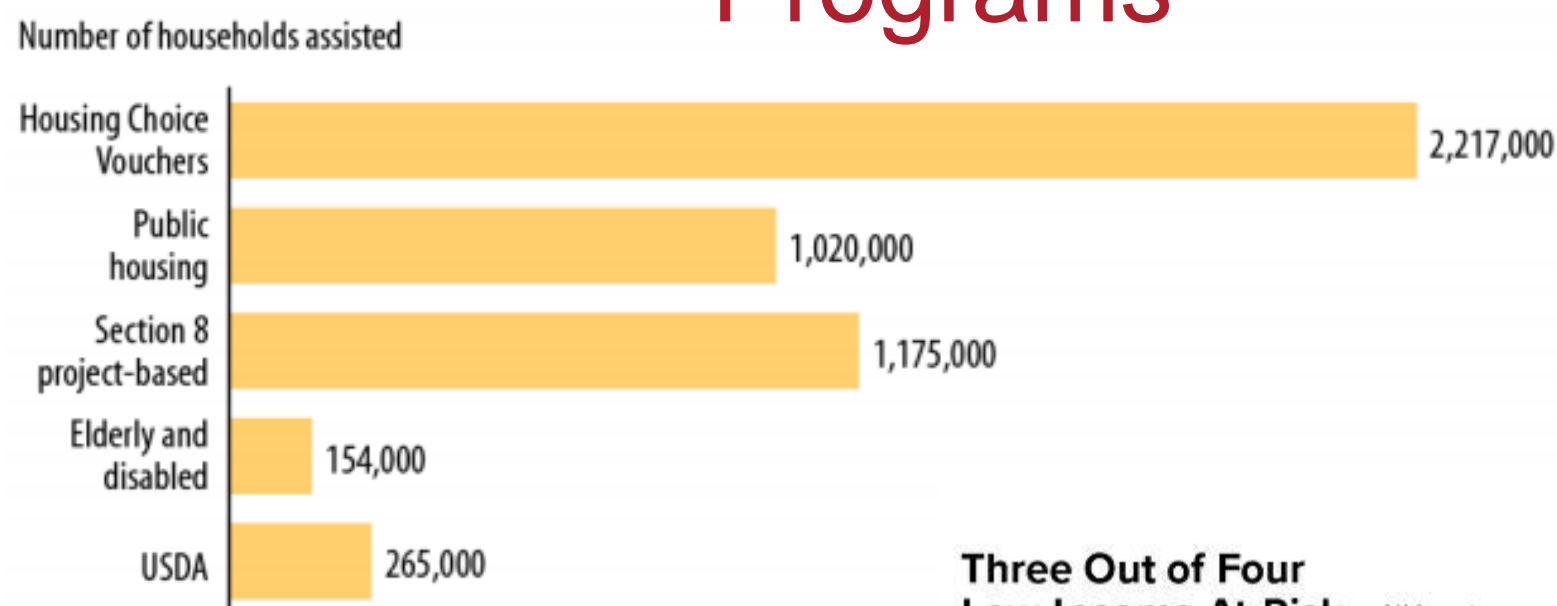
Affordable Housing Crisis

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 or 30% of the area median income. Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2017 ACS PUMS Data.

Major Federal Rental Assistance Programs

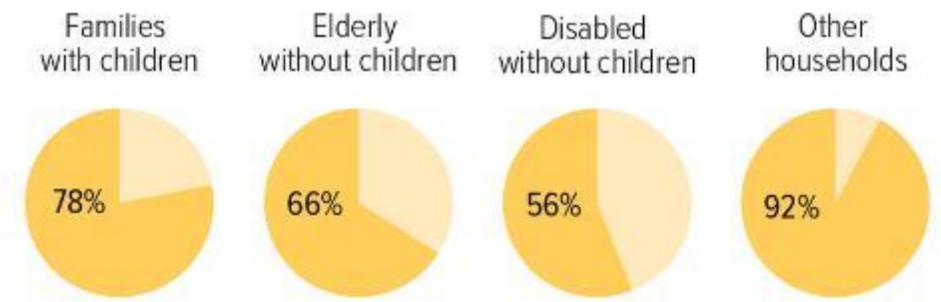
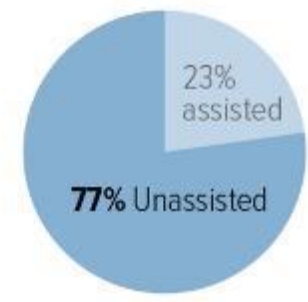


Housing assistance programs lifted 2.9 million people above the federal poverty line in 2017

But only one in four who need assistance receive it

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

One Solution: Renters Tax Credits

INDIVIDUAL TAX CREDITS														
	"Rent Relief Act"	"Housing, Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity (HOME) Act of 2018"												
Sponsor	Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) Congressmembers Danny Davis (D-IL) Scott Peters (D-CA), Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)	Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) Congressman James Clyburn (D-SC)												
Type	Fully Refundable	Fully Refundable												
Eligibility	Taxpayers earning less than \$125,000 annually	All cost-burdened taxpayers												
Value of Credit	A share of the difference between 30% of income and rent, capped at 100% of Small Area Fair Market Rent	The difference between 30% of income and rent, capped at 100% of Fair Market Rent												
Schedule	<table><tr><td>If gross income is:</td><td>The percentage is:</td></tr><tr><td>< \$25,000</td><td>100%</td></tr><tr><td>Between \$25,000 and \$50,000</td><td>75%</td></tr><tr><td>Between \$50,000 and \$75,000</td><td>50%</td></tr><tr><td>Between \$75,000 and \$100,000</td><td>25%</td></tr><tr><td>More than \$100,000*</td><td>0%</td></tr></table>	If gross income is:	The percentage is:	< \$25,000	100%	Between \$25,000 and \$50,000	75%	Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	50%	Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	25%	More than \$100,000*	0%	100% of cost burdens for all incomes
If gross income is:	The percentage is:													
< \$25,000	100%													
Between \$25,000 and \$50,000	75%													
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	50%													
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	25%													
More than \$100,000*	0%													
Utilities	Included	Included												
Residents in Federally Subsidized Housing	Provided a separate tax credit – in lieu of the one above – equal to the amount paid by the taxpayer in rent for 1 month	Eligible for the tax credit, if they have cost burdens												
Interest Accrued		Creates a Rainy Day Fund for taxpayers who choose to defer tax credit for 180 days to collect interest accrued												
Other Provisions	Allows taxpayers to receive their benefit in monthly payments.	Requires states and local communities to develop new inclusive zoning policies, programs, or regulatory initiatives to create more affordable housing supply.												

Rental Tax Credits Will Reduce Poverty

How much each plan would cut poverty if they all cost the same



We must address this housing crisis -- and we can begin to do so by shifting tax resources to support a “Renters Tax Credit” for low- and moderate-income renters. Several policymakers have introduced legislation that does this (H.R. 2169 and S. 1106, H.R. 7050 and S. 3342 in the last Congress).

TAKE ACTION:
<https://tinyurl.com/RESULTShousing>

Note: Values are rounded.
Source: Columbia Center on Poverty and Social Policy



Guest Speaker: Dr. Hahrie Han

- Anton Vonk Professor of Political Science and Environmental Politics at UC-Santa Barbara
- Beginning in July 2019, will become inaugural Director of the SNF Agora Institute and Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University
- She specializes in the study of civic and political participation, collective action, organizing, and social change
- She has published three books, including *How Organizations Develop Activists: Civic Associations and Leadership in the 21st Century*
- Has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, and other outlets.
- Originally from Houston, TX, she received her B.A. in American History and Literature from Harvard and Ph.D. in American Politics from Stanford



Brief Notes from Guest Speaker Session

Please listen to the [webinar recording](#) for Dr. Han's complete remarks

- People were active but burnt out
- Most effective organizations organize (depth) and mobilize (breadth)
- Relationship: people get transformed in relationship with others
 - To get to transformation, organize requests and design a campaign that puts people in community with each other
- Agency: do you feel like you can accomplish your goals?
 - Competence + autonomy; shouldn't spoon feed actions
- Purpose: people want to feel they are part of something bigger
 - We are scared to ask for too much (costly); instead focus on making it worthwhile

Brief Notes from Guest Speaker Session

Please listen to the [webinar recording](#) for Dr. Han's complete remarks

- For organizations to change, need a sense of urgency (because people are impacted)
- Don't look at organizing in terms of short- vs long-term, organize based on deep vs shallow
 - Success = deep and fast change
- Modern movements: recognize identity, people communicate differently, context (polarization) different, so leaders must think about turning engagement into political
- Strategy: how turn what we have into what we want
 - Shared purpose via relationship and accountability
 - Delegate tasks vs outcomes – chunk the work to delegate outcomes in order to give agency

June Action – Organize your Community to Write Hand-written Letters



Jos Linn

jlinn@results.org

Generate letters on housing

- Letters are an old school tactic that still works
- Great way to educate them about the housing crisis and how to help families with the renters credit
- Get lots of letters from people you know that you can hand-deliver to your members of Congress

Remember the keys to success from Dr. Han's research:

1. **Relationships** – we want to be connected to others
2. **Agency** – we want to be heard
3. **Purpose** – we want to know our work matters

June Action – Organize your Community to Write Hand-written Letters

ORGANIZE letter-writing this month:

1. At your June RESULTS meeting, **set goals on how many written letters** each person will bring to your July meeting (Not meeting in July? Track your progress in a shared document online)
2. **Brainstorm ideas of with whom and where you can ask people to write letters** with you: with friends over coffee, at book club, in your faith community. We're around other people all the time; just go to them and ask. Keep a list of the people who say yes.
3. **Set a time for when and how you will pick up the letters** (deadlines are good motivators).
4. A week before the deadline, contact each person to **offer encouragement and check in on their progress** ("How's it going? Need help with anything"?).
5. **Pick up** the letters, **deliver** them in meetings, and **let your letter writers know what happened**.

June Action: Generate Letters for Lobby Meetings

RESOURCES

- **June Action:** <https://results.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-06-U.S.-Poverty-Action-Organize-People-into-Action-in-Your-Community.pdf>
 - Use the second page of the **Action Sheet for writing letters** (includes background on renters credit, talking points for letters, and message to Action Networks)
- Continue building relationships with housing allies ([May Action](#))
- **Ask for help!** Contact Jos Linn for assistance (jlinn@results.org)



June 2019 | U.S. Poverty
ACTION SHEET

Write Hand-written Letters for a Renters Tax Credit

This month, we turn our attention to longer-term and more impactful policies that will help Americans struggling to find housing. One of those policies is a **renters tax credit**. The U.S. tax code can be a powerful tool in alleviating poverty. However, there are few housing provisions in the tax code that benefit low-income Americans, particularly renters. The mortgage-interest deduction helps homeowners but most of the benefits go to wealthier, white households. A renters' credit would help level the playing field. While there are [several proposals in Congress](#), they are similar: the credit would basically serve as a cap on the amount of rent and utilities a low-income household would pay (around 30 percent of their income). A federal tax credit would be provided for renters up to 100% of the area's Fair Market Rent value. By providing renters some relief from growing rental costs, more families could find safe, affordable places to live.

Many members of Congress are not aware of what a renters' credit is. Your goal is to educate them and help build support for bold tax policies that help address the housing crisis. That's how political will starts. There will be many more letters, media, calls, and meetings before a renters tax credit is law, but it starts with this letter. Thank you for doing this.

Use these talking points or our [online template](#) to write letters to your representative and both senators:

1. Start with **"Dear Sen./Rep. _____"**. Tell your name and that you're a constituent and RESULTS volunteer who believes Congress needs to do more to help renters.
2. Tell them **America is in a housing crisis**. Millions of low-income working families struggle every day just to put a roof over their heads.
3. State that, according to Harvard researchers, **rents have risen by 61 percent since 1960 but renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent**. Right now, only 37 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households.
4. Explain that **we can begin to address America's housing crisis by shifting tax resources to support a "Renters Tax Credit" for low- and moderate-income renters**. A renters credit could limit rent for low-income families to 30 percent of their income and provide a tax credit for the balance above that up to local fair market value.
5. Urge your members of Congress to **tell congressional leaders** to support low-income working families and communities of color by enacting a renters tax credit in any new tax legislation.

Note for E-mail Action Networks

Copy this page of the June Action into an e-mail and add this message to the top:

Members of our local RESULTS group will be traveling to Washington in July/setting up meetings in August to meet with members of Congress about the importance of affordable housing. It would make a huge impact for us to also deliver hand-written letters from their constituents. Would you have time to write three letters for us to deliver in those meetings? All the information you need is below. I am happy to work with you to pick them up before we leave. And I will be sure to let you know what kind of impact your letters had after our meetings.



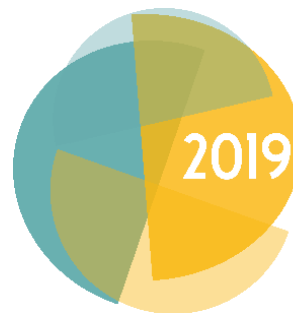
RESULTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Register at **www.resultsconference.org**!

Are you a current, active RESULTS volunteer? Need financial assistance getting there? Apply for at **www.tinyurl.com/GAPFunding**.

Prepare for the 2019 RESULTS International Conference

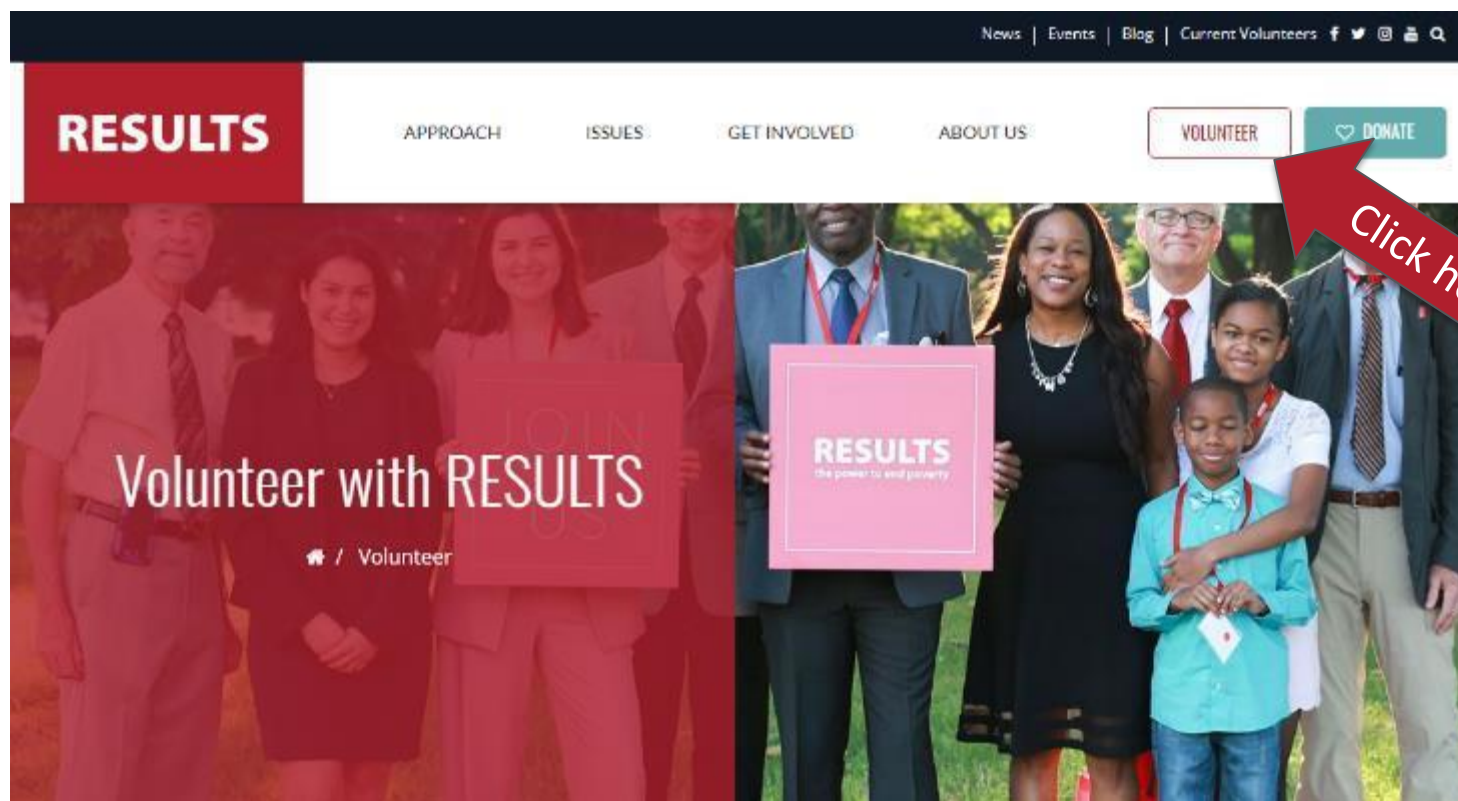
- Visit the [Conference Resources page](#) for materials, links, etc. (more is being added each week so check back frequently)
- Look for an e-mail from Campaigns Assistance Dorothy Manza on how to join your state's **Lobby Prep Call**. Follow the instructions ASAP.
- Read our new **racial wealth inequality background briefs** found on the [Conference Resources page](#). Please read BEFORE your lobby prep call, if possible (definitely before coming to DC). More briefs are coming soon.
- **Nominate a Journalist for the Cameron Duncan Award** for outstanding work on issues related to poverty by a journalist or editor. [Nominations are due this Friday, June 7.](#)
- Bob Dickerson of Seattle was an inspiring RESULTS grassroots volunteer leader. To honor his legacy, nominate a fellow advocate for the [Bob Dickerson Grassroots Leadership Award](#) (nominations due Friday, June 22).



**RESULTS
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

New to RESULTS?

Thank you for joining us this evening. If you'd like more information about RESULTS and how to get involved, go to www.results.org and click "Volunteer".





REAL Change Fellowship

Year-long hands-on training program for young people between the ages of 18–30.

Receive training and support to become a powerful advocate for the end of poverty.

Apply today!

results.org/realchange

Spring Fundraising Campaign Update



\$15,408.79 of \$10,000.00



154%

Thank you to all the fundraisers and donors who helped us *exceed* the \$10,000 match!

There's still time to join or give:

<https://results.salsalabs.org/spring2019/index.html>

Contact Mea Geizhals with questions:

mgeizhals@results.org or 202-783-4800 x131.

Announcements

RESULTS Action Network Community of Practice webinar, Wednesday, June 5 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, June 11 (12:00pm ET) and June 19 (8:30pm ET). Get started at: <https://results.salsalabs.org/volunteer/index.html>.

U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, Tuesday, June 18 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, June 20: *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, July 2 at 8:00pm ET** with Ellen Nissenbaum of the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#).





FINAL ACTION

E-mail Congress about affordable housing

Tell members of Congress that they must address America's affordable housing crisis. Educate them about a renters' tax credit.

Send a message to your members of Congress
TONIGHT using our action alert at:

<https://tinyurl.com/RESULTShousing>.