September 2019 RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Webinar

New Poverty Data Highlights Need to Help Workers and Families

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.

Find all our anti-oppression resources at: https://results.org/volunteers/anti-oppression/
Maureen Bowling
RESULTS Lexington, KY and Expert on Poverty
Welcome from Joanne Carter
Executive Director, RESULTS
Building on 2015 EITC/CTC Success

YOU DID IT!
Congress made permanent critical provisions of pro-work tax credits that lift millions of Americans out of poverty every year.

225
face-to-face meetings with members of Congress

145
pieces of media on the EITC and CTC

RESULTS
the power to end poverty

These changes prevented 16 million people from falling into or deeper into poverty.
Guest Speaker: Chad Bolt
Tax aide, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

- Former Associate Policy Director at Indivisible
  - Worked to help their 6,000 local groups to better understand and take action on health care, tax, and infrastructure issues
- Former legislative analyst at CFED (now Prosperity Now) Legislative Analyst
  - Handled tax policy, tax time, and appropriations issues for the Federal Policy team
- Legislative Assistant for former Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
  - Handled economic and foreign policy issues
Lobbying Tips

• **Use stories**
  • Aides can use stories to make the case for leadership
  • Members of Congress use them highlight
  • Tough to say no when someone shares how an issue impacts them

• **Make a crisp, clear ask** that is public and measurable

• **Follow up is vital** – top problem is someone who makes a good case in a meeting and then you never hear from them again
The Working Families Tax Relief Act

THE WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ACT WOULD:

- Expand the EITC for families with kids;
- Deliver a meaningful EITC for the first time for workers who don’t have kids at home;
- Make the Child Tax Credit fully refundable; and
- Create a new Young Child Tax Credit for families with kids under 6

THESE POLICIES WOULD BENEFIT 46 MILLION FAMILIES.
New U.S. Census data shows that

1 in 8 Americans is still living below the poverty line.
Census Poverty Data Out Today

Poverty Rates Using the Official Measure and the SPM: 2009 to 2018

1 Includes unrelated individuals under the age of 15.
Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions.
Key: Racial Disparities

Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2018

- Black: 55.1% (1959), 7.5% (2018)
- Hispanic (any race): 22.8% (1959), 16.1% (2018)
- Asian: 10.1% (1959), 8.1% (2018)
- Non-Hispanic White: 20.8% (1959), 17.6% (2018)

Poverty by Age

Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2018

- Aged 65 and older: 35.2% in 1959, 27.3% in 1970
- Under age 18: 17.0% in 1959, 9.7% in 2018
- Aged 18 to 64: 16.2% in 2018
### Figure 5.
Percentage of Children Under the Age of 19 Without Health Insurance Coverage by Selected Characteristics: 2017 and 2018
(Population as of March of the following year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income-to-Poverty Ratio</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 100% of poverty</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 100% and 399% of poverty</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or above 400% of poverty*</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race¹ and Hispanic Origin</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, not Hispanic*</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (any race)*</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nativity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native-born citizen*</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturalized citizen</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncitizen</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Region</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South*</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medicaid Expansion Status²</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-expansion state*</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expansion state</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And: Anti-Poverty Policies Work!

Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2018

Numbers in millions

Under 18 years | 18 to 64 years | 65 years and over

Social Security | -27.3 | -7.9
Refundable tax credits | -3.1
SNAP | -2.9
SSI | -3.0
Housing subsidies | -0.8
Child support received | -1.3
School lunch | -0.4
TANF/general assistance | -0.4
Unemployment insurance | -0.2
LIHEAP | -0.1
Workers’ compensation | -0.3
WIC | 0.3
Child support paid | 1.2
Federal income tax | 4.9
FICA | 5.8
Work expenses | 8.0
Medical expenses | 

And: Anti-Poverty Policies Work!

Key Federal Programs Lift Millions Out of Poverty

People lifted above poverty line in 2018, by age

- 7.9 million
- 3.1 million
- 3.0 million
- 2.9 million
- 0.4 million

Refundable tax credits = Earned Income Tax Credit and refundable portion of Child Tax Credit; SSI = Supplemental Security Income; TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Note: Reflects the Supplemental Poverty Measure, which counts major non-cash and tax-based assistance as well as cash assistance. Figures would be even higher if they included corrections for underreporting of government benefits in survey data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Impact: Working Families Tax Relief Act

The Working Families Relief Act’s expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit would boost incomes across races, helping:

- 24 million white families;
- 9 million Latino families;
- 8 million Black families; and
- 2 million Asian-American families

And… cuts child poverty nationally by 28 percent!
### TABLE 3

**Women (Filers and Spouses) Benefiting From the Working Families Tax Relief Act**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women Receiving an Increase in EITC or Child Tax Credit</th>
<th>Average Tax Credit Increase</th>
<th>Share of Women in Racial and Ethnic Group Receiving a Tax Credit Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, non-Latina</td>
<td>17,310,000</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina</td>
<td>7,820,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, non-Latina</td>
<td>5,770,000</td>
<td>$1,900</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander, non-Latina</td>
<td>2,090,000</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans, non-Latina</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>$1,900</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, non-Latina</td>
<td>560,000</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>33,950,000</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

FIGURE 1
Earned Income Tax Credit
2018

Credit amount

$6,431 -
$5,716 -
$3,461 -
$519 -

7.65 percent
40 percent
45 percent phase-in

21.06 percent phase-out

34 percent

75.98 percent

Three children
Two children
One child
No children

Notes: Assumes all income comes from earnings. Amounts are for taxpayers filing a single or head-of-household tax return. For married couples filing a joint tax return, the credit begins to phase out at income $5,690 higher than shown.
Expanding the EITC

**Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) Would Boost Childless Workers’ EITC**

Earned Income Tax Credit for single childless worker, 2019

- **Maximum benefit:** $2,070
- **Maximum benefit:** $530

**Income**

$0 $5,000 $10,000 $15,000 $20,000 $25,000 $30,000

Note: Assumes all income is from earnings (as opposed to investments, for example).
Source: Internal Revenue Service and CBPP calculations

**Childless Adults Taxed Into Poverty; Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Proposal Would Help Address Problem**

A single childless adult with poverty-level wages in 2019 ($13,340) owes $1,135 in income taxes and payroll taxes (employee share).

**Current law**

Under current law, she receives an EITC worth just $172.

**Federal taxes push her $963 into poverty.**

**Working Families Tax Relief Act**

Under a proposal from Senators Brown, Bennet, Durbin, and Wyden, her EITC would rise to $1,797, more than offsetting her federal tax liability.

**After taxes, she would be $662 above the poverty line.**

Expanding the EITC

Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) Would Increase EITC for Families With Children

Earned Income Tax Credit for married couple with two children, 2019

Maximum benefit: $7,290

Maximum benefit: $5,830

Note: Assumes all income is from earnings (as opposed to investments, for example).
Source: Internal Revenue Service and CBPP calculations
The Child Tax Credit (CTC)

**FIGURE 1**
Child Tax Credit, Single Parent
For one child, tax year 2018

Notes: Assumes all income comes from earnings, and child meets all tests to be a CTC-qualifying dependent. Credit for married parents begins to phase out at $400,000 of income. Only citizen children qualify for the $2,000 CTC for children under 17. Noncitizens under age 17 who meet the dependency tests of eligibility can qualify for the credit for dependents over age 17.
CTC in the 2017 Tax Law

Low-Income Families Get Little or Nothing From 2017 Tax Law’s Child Tax Credit Increase

Compared to prior law, 2019

- Single mother with two children earning $14,500 (full-time, minimum wage) gets $75
- Married couple with two children earning $24,000 gets $800
- Married couple with two children earning $100,000 gets $2,000
- Married couple with two children earning $400,000 gets $4,000

Source: CBPP analysis
Expanding the CTC

Working Families Tax Relief Act (WFTRA) Expands Child Tax Credit for Very Young Children

Credit for a married couple with two children under age 6, 2019

Note: Assumes all income is from earnings (as opposed to investments, for example). About 92 percent of families with children would receive the same CTC or a larger CTC as under current law.

Source: CBPP analysis of IRS and Census data
Chance to Expand EITC/CTC This Year

In June, the House Ways and Means Committee passed temporary expansions of both the EITC and CTC in a broader “Extenders” tax package.

The Economic Mobility Act (H.R. 3300), includes:

• Expansion of the EITC that would raise the after-tax incomes of 16 million childless adults – including 5 million taxed into poverty

• CTC changes that would benefit more than 42 million children under age 17.

Momentum going into the fall: in part because of your great work over the years, key conversations in DC

KEY POINT: We are not pushing Congress to do a tax bill; we are urging them to prioritize the EITC and CTC if they do one
September 2019 U.S. Poverty Action

Get media on expanding the EITC and CTC

Letter: Ensure tax code supports working men, women

As we approach Labor Day, meant to honor workers, I am writing in response to the newspaper’s coverage of the economy. In 2017, Congress passed a massive tax cut for wealthy Americans and big corporations. Meanwhile, the federal tax code taxes more than 3 million low-wage workers not raising children at home into — or deeper into — poverty.

Congress should prioritize tax policies for working people and families. The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit are pro-work, pro-family financial lifelines for people working in low-wage jobs. Together, they lift more than 8 million Americans above the poverty line.

Congress may consider yet another tax bill with lots of benefits for businesses, and they must not ignore working families again. Expanding the EITC and CTC would ensure our tax code supports workers and families struggling to make ends meet. I urge our members of Congress to uphold the principle that no business tax breaks should be extended or expanded without also expanding the EITC and CTC in the same bill.

Working people should be able to support themselves and their families and our tax code should ensure that they can.

Virginia Vogt, Columbus
Get media on expanding the EITC and CTC


- Build on the 30+ tax policy letters you’ve already gotten published

- Remember the 3 components of a powerful LTE
  - Local and timely hook
  - Why it matters
  - Call to action

- But write it in reverse order
  - Call to action
  - Why it matters
  - Local and timely hook
September 2019 U.S. Poverty Action

Get media on expanding the EITC and CTC

Read your local paper for possible hooks

- “Missouri gives millions in college aid, but little goes to KC students needing it most” We can also invest in low-income students at a much earlier age through the EITC and CTC.

- “A wealth tax wouldn’t make things any more fair for everyone” Tax cuts in 2017 went primarily to the wealthy, but now we have a chance to help those who need it.

- “After giving Chiefs fans a scare, Patrick Mahomes shows he’s as much grit as flash” Let’s reward the “grit” workers in low-wage jobs demonstrate every day to support their families.

Join Use Local Media to Move Legislators into Action training this Thursday, Sept. 12 at 8:30pm ET. Join at https://results.zoom.us/j/422081397 or dial either (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 422 081 397#.
September 2019 U.S. Poverty Action

Use your media work to inspire others

- Using media action to engage others in advocacy
  - Ask someone to submit a letter to at least one of our local publications on the EITC/CTC
  - Ask someone to bring together a group of their friends, colleagues, club members for a letter to the editor writing workshop (offer to help train the group)
  - If someone has already been published, ask them to try to get a letter in another publication in your area or state to help influence more lawmakers on the EITC/CTC
  - Ask someone to hunt for hooks in your local media outlets and feed them to your RESULTS group to help get 10 letters submitted this month
- Please join our training webinar "Wow, I got published!" Making Media a Transformational Experience on Thursday, September 19 at 8:30 pm ET for more tips on using media to engage others. Join at: https://results.zoom.us/j/586201507, or dial either (929) 436-2866 or 669-900-6833, meeting ID: 586 201 507#.
Advocacy and Organizing in Practice

Yara Levin, RESULTS St. Louis
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”.
Find All Your Need on the “Current Volunteers” page

Find action alerts, lobbying resources, monthly actions, weekly updates, national webinars, and more!
SAVE THE DATE
June 20-23, 2020
RESULTS International Conference
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC
Join us and celebrate 40 years of RESULTS!

Featuring speaker
Professor Muhammad Yunus, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize
Announcements

**Fall Planning.** Let us know how many people you would like to add to your local RESULTS group by the end of the year. Fill out your group’s fall planning form here.

**Thursday, September 12: Use Local Media to Move Legislators into Action training webinar, 8:30pm ET.** Join at [https://results.zoom.us/j/422081397](https://results.zoom.us/j/422081397) or dial either (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 422 081 397#.

**Tuesday, September 17, U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm ET.** Join at: [https://results.zoom.us/j/324294681](https://results.zoom.us/j/324294681) or dial by phone at (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 324 294 681.

**Thursday, September 19, Webinar: Wow, I got published! Making Media a Transformational Experience, 8:30 pm ET.** Join here: [https://results.zoom.us/j/586201507](https://results.zoom.us/j/586201507), or dial either (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 586 201 507#.

Find other events on the RESULTS Events Calendar.
Final Action: Search Your Paper for a Local Hook

Get started on your letters to the editor about expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Go to your local paper’s website and search the headlines for a hook. Have they posted anything about the Census data yet? Is there another story you’d like to use?

When you find your hook, use the September Action or our online letter to the editor action to draft and submit your letter to the editor. Be sure to mention your members of Congress by name.

When you get published, please let us know at www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSMedia.
Thank you for being on tonight’s webinar!

We’ll link to the recording and audio transcript of the webinar on our National Webinars page tomorrow.

The next U.S. Poverty National Webinar is a joint U.S. and Global Poverty webinar on Tuesday, October 1 at 8:00pm ET.

Happy fall!
Appendix

More data on the impact of the Working Families Tax Relief Act