

U.S. Poverty Monthly Action

Finish First 100 Days Campaign strong

Entering the final month of the RESULTS [First 100 Days Campaign](#), RESULTS volunteers have held over 200 lobby meetings pushing members of Congress to prioritize anti-poverty measures in upcoming legislation. We've already had one big success with the passage of the *American Rescue Plan* in March. With its \$30 billion to help millions of renters avoid eviction, expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit Child Tax Credit for workers and families, and other anti-poverty provisions, [child poverty overall is expected to drop by 56 percent](#) over the next year. But more work is needed, and we must continue our push to end child poverty and address the ongoing affordable housing crisis.

Recovery legislation must help renters

The Biden Administration and Congress are now turning their attention to passing more long-term economic recovery legislation. On March 31, President Biden unveiled his \$2 trillion infrastructure proposal for economic recovery, which includes [\\$213 billion to increase the supply of affordable housing](#). This is a great start and coincides with RESULTS' three-pronged approach to address the underlying housing crisis with bold, long-term solutions.

Rental Assistance	Housing supply	Longer term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dramatically scale-up assistance for low-income renters• Make Housing Choice Vouchers universal – so all those eligible get federal housing assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support increasing supply of affordable housing via the National Housing Trust Fund• Housing = infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at policies to reduce racial wealth inequality, including home ownership

However, increasing the supply of affordable housing only solves part of the problem. We must address the legacy of racist housing policies and its impact on communities of color. Black households (13% of total) make up [26% of all extremely low-income renters](#) and 40% of people experiencing homelessness. We must also address the “demand” side

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The logo for RESULTS, featuring the word "results" in white lowercase letters on a red speech bubble background.

of the problem to ensure that low-income renters have access to any new or existing affordable rental housing. Since 1960, renters' median earnings has gone up 5 percent while rents are up [61 percent](#). This leaves millions of families paying more than half their earnings for rent.

To address these inequities, we must expand rental assistance in this country. The Housing Choice Voucher program (HCV) is America's largest rental assistance program, but due to inadequate funding, only one in four eligible renters can get assistance. The solution is simple: make the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program universal so that all eligible low-income renters get housing assistance.

Lobby Congress for universal rental assistance

Our goal is for universal housing assistance to be part of any economic recovery or infrastructure bill that Congress passes this year. Your lobby meetings this month can help get us there. Meet with House and Senate offices and follow up with housing and tax aides asking them to urge congressional leadership to focus on bold and long-term anti-poverty policies by:

1. **Making Housing Choice Vouchers universal**
2. **Making new EITC/CTC provisions permanent** (combining this with #1 could [reduce child poverty by more than 60 percent](#))
3. **Increasing supply of affordable housing and addressing legacy of racism in housing** (increase Black homeownership, reduce wealth inequality)

Please schedule your lobby meetings now and be sure to circle back to offices you met with earlier this year. Use our [updated lobby meeting request](#), [new laser talks](#), and updated [housing](#) and [tax](#) lobby leave behinds for your meetings in April. Once you get a meeting set, please contact [Jos Linn](#) or [Meredith Dodson](#) for help getting ready. After your meeting, please let us know what happened in our [Lobby Report Form](#).

For an excellent overview of why housing must be a part of any recovery and infrastructure package, please listen to Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, on the [April 2021 RESULTS National Webinar](#).