040222 - Results.org-Webinar Series

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[Attendees joining]

[Meeting beginning at 1 PM ET.]

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: Good afternoon and good morning on the West Coast. I'm the senior policy associate focused on housing with RESULTS and based in DC.

We have a guest speaker today. Ask questions. We'll anywhere those questions time permitting. Raise your hand or ask your question in the chat. You can access closed captioning through the button on your screen. If you're having trouble, staff can help.

As a reminder, we start with our anti-opression values.

[Reading from slide.]

April is national fair housing month. Housing advocates across the country are celebrating the 55th anniversary of the fair housing act signed by President Johnson in 1958, prohibiting sale, etc. of housing based on sex, religion, disability, family status, etc. We commemorate the passage of this federal law and acknowledge how much work there is to do with the spirit and letter of the law. Find more on our blog.

[See chat.]

We have more information about this on our blog post from last year.

For those new to RESULTS or just joined, one of our housing priorities was get rental assistance to those who need this most, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, and to advocacy of the Child Tax Credit extension to help pay rent and prevent them from falling behind by advancing these priorities. There can be income discrimination, where a landlord may discriminate because a renter is using a housing choice voucher or subsidized assistance or lack of supply of affordable housing dating back to when segregation was still legal.

I want to introduce our wonderful guest speaker, who can talk more about these issues in greater detail. I hope some of you can take the opportunity to ask questions. I want to introduce Philip Tegeler of PRRAC.

[Reading bio; full bio available via website.]

Housing affordability is a big policy priority for RESULTS. During the pandemic we lobbied congress for emergency rental assistance, housing choice vouchers, etc. We'll be doing more work on rental assistance to help families and children in the future. Those receiving federal assistance continue to face lack of supply, income discrimination, etc., limiting opportunities and choices for these families. Can you tell about your organization, how you're addressing problems and anything else you want to share?

>>PHIL TEGELER: Our organization focuses on expanding opportunities for low income families of color and desegregation, as it was called back in the day. One of the responses to history and desegregation has to involve opening opportunities for racial integration. We support investment in low income communities as part of the response but want to keep this vision of an economically and racially integrated society on the policy agenda.

A lot of our work is in the weeds and focusing on policies to make that happen and keep that on the agenda. Congrats to you for being part of this effort in the past year. We're coming off of a very exciting federal budget just passed and signed into law in the FY22 budget. The biggest increase in housing choice vouchers in a long time is 25000 vouchers and a $2M investment. They're not special purpose and can be given to families with children as opposed to the other important programs that HUD has launched, such as for veterans and other programs.

There's a commitment for $25M in mobility money, working with families to get into higher opportunity neighborhoods. That's huge. The advocacy of your group has helped make that happen. Also congratulations on the president's budget. There's an even bigger commitment in that budget for 2023. $32B is the request for an additional 200,000 incremental vouchers. Almost half a billion dollars is for mobility services to bring housing mobility to every housing authority in the country where families are locked into poor neighborhoods. These are huge.

We're going into the 2023 budget cycle. We hope you're pushing for as much money as possible in the final appropriations bill. It's going to be an exciting year. That's the budget, which is where a lot of action is on the Hill, moreso than ne bills raised. The budget is where compromise occurs. Republicans and democrats agree under the radar.

That's where a lot of our influence can be felt with RESULTS and in the civil rights community. There's voucher reform.

[See chat.]

There's a press release for the 2022 budget. We continue to work on reforming the housing choice voucher program. It opens opportunities for families. It now often steers family into higher poverty, lower rent neighborhoods. Features of the program needed fixed. HUD is slow in fixing it. Administrative fees are paid to housing authorities. Rent caps are set in the small market rent system, not fully operated, which set capillary programs based on zip code and not the region as a whole. The current system means families are confined to lower rent neighborhoods in the center of a region, like Cleveland. They can't get to better school districts.

We're pushing HUD to expand that program and assist with implementation of the source of income discrimination laws around the country. About half of vouchers are in places where discrimination is prohibited. We know landlords are still discriminating in those jurisdictions. We think HUD can do more to assist and push back against that kind of discrimination.

In the interest of time, I'll post a piece we did that went over the housing choice voucher reform program in detail for anyone interested. Thank you for fixing my alphabet soup.

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: For those new to doing housing policy advocacy work, I want to make sure we're on the same page. As a followup question - again, I encourage posting questions in the chat or raising your hand to call on you to ask regarding topics we'll talk about today . . . there's a lot to talk about. We hope to provide information given the limited time. Fair housing is a complex issue. I encourage folks to ask questions as you work in rental assistance.

You've done work in multiple publications on the reciprocal relationship between housing and school policy. It's not something RESULTS has focused on in the past. Can you elaborate on why you're working in this niche and why it's important for advocates to know about it?

>>PHIL TEGELER: One of the impacts of residential segregation is school segregation. The most harmful way it manifests is in the combination of race and poverty concentration. We have a general policy especially in the way metropolitan areas are structured, putting low income children separate from middle class children. It has to do with high poverty concentrations in schools and learning that goes on. It's a matter of resources and the concentration of kids with special needs in classrooms. It's more difficult for those kinds to learn in that situation.

Low income kids with high need do better in other schools. Racial integration is beneficial for all kids, breaking down racial prejudice and barriers on both sides of the fence. When looking at federal housing programs, we have to think about how the sighting of this housing development affects what's going on in schools.

When I was litigating fulltime, we represented a neighborhood group in a high poverty neighborhood. The state was putting another low income housing tax development. It's already a high poverty school. What are you doing putting more low income housing in this zone? What was the state thinking?

Always think about this in terms of the sighting of housing developments in your community. How is this increasing segregation or integration and giving kids access to greater educational opportunities? That's one big thing.

[See chat.]

This report documents how all 4 major federal housing programs promote segregation in schools and expose kids to higher poverty schools than other renters and low income families.

On a broader level, the school district boundaries and school assignment zones have a big impact on housing segregation. You have a classic opportunity hoarding situation, where you have school districts coterminous with local land use powers. You have high performing schools attracting higher income families, pushing housing prices, leading to greater revenue for those schools. You have gorgeous buildings and higher test scores attracting wealthier families. At the same time, you have the power to keep out lower income or middle class families from working class families coming into the community.

It's a very difficult cycle to deal with.

[See chat.]

How do you disrupt a system like this? It's hardwired in the way we've structured state and local give in metro areas. It's a challenge with lots of work done on this, particularly with the National Coalition on School Diversity, which I recommend if people are interested in connecting with members in their area.

[See chat.]

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: Thanks. Really helpful information for RESULTS and our grassroots advocates working on rental assistance. It's important to know that we're operating in this structure system that needs fixing. There's segregation and disconnect with schools, affecting opportunities with children and their education outcomes. I'm happy to touched on this. There are a handful of questions.

[Reading from chat.]

How soon will these benefits become available on the ground?

>>PHIL TEGELER: Talking about vouchers? They should go out the door late this year. The housing mobility funding will hopefully come out late fall. It often comes out after the midterms, if you know what I mean.

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: How can we talk to landlord friends to encourage them to rent to section 8 housing choice voucher tenants? Good question.

>>PHIL TEGELER: The myth of voucher families being bad tenants is absurd. There's a lot of implicit bias in those assumptions. Generally, housing choice voucher tenants stay longer than a private tenant. That's important to know financially. This is a program that is guaranteeing benefit every month to the landlord. If tenant income dips or they become unemployed, the level of the HUD payment goes up. It's really stable income to the landlord, guaranteed to come in every month with a stable tenant who will stay and who has motivation to be a good tenant to keep the Section 8 voucher. I'd say it's about the best tenant you can get, though I'm not a landlord.

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: Great. There's one question I want to ask. I hope you can stay past 1:30 to answer questions left in the chat. I apologize if we're running out of time. Given RESULTS's work with congress on many antipoverty measures, what are challenges you've seen in advancing fair housing and pushing for fair housing on the Hill? Any tips on elevating issues with members, particularly those who aren't on the same page for issues to be fixed?

>>PHIL TEGELER: One thing we found, especially in the last round of advocacy is people of congress hear from government agencies in their area that they need the money and it would be helpful, serving their clients - and this applies to nonprofits - and getting constituent response from a public housing authority director to Congress's office. For voucher expansion, get housing authority board members who are friendly, staff and directors who can call and say they're a board with the Milwaukee Housing Authority, and we can use the funding in that area. It's not a private for profit company. It's a public agency telling why the money will benefit your district. That's my one piece of advice. We got a lot of PHA directors to reach out.

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: I have one more question. What do we say for members of congress in rural areas about vouchers and housing?

>>PHIL TEGELER: I'll pass on this. Vouchers are just as important in rural areas. You don't have the same civil rights exchange. The people facing poverty is similar. You have to appeal to extend the basic human rights pitch there.

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: Yes.

>>PHIL TEGELER: I see Leslie's comment and agree but can't articulate as well as I can based on experience in metro areas.

>>MICHAEL SANTOS: Thank you so much for joining. I hope you can stay to answer questions. Share your email in the chat so they can reach out with followup questions.

Housing continues to be a main priority for RESULTS. Your advocacy for expansion of the Child Tax Credit helps those on long waiting lists who are eligible but waiting for a voucher. You're looking at this intersection between the Child Tax Credit and housing. The chart shows the number of households with incomes below $35,000 and spent Child Tax Credit payments on food, utilities, rent/mortgage, education and school costs, or any of the above.

Thank you for the work you've been doing to push for rental assistance for the Child Tax Credit because we know it helps families pay rent. They may not spend all of it on rent, but it's used for many families to stay current, prevent eviction and prevent homelessness. This is a chart from the Center on Budget Priorities. I can send the link later today.

I'll turn it over for state of play for the economic package.

>>MEREDEITH DODSON: I use she/her pronouns and based in DC, working on the United States poverty work. A quick update on where things stand in negotiations on an economic package or the reconciliation picking. It's no longer referred to as Build Back Better. There is momentum behind the scenes, a deliberate strategy. Advocating publicly was not leading to getting a package across the finish line.

One big thing policymakers are looking at is the big concern about rising costs and folks facing challenges when it comes to cost of food and gas. I want to highlight what a great policy we have to have families address this, the Child Tax Credit. You saw how families use the Child Tax Credit. 59% were using it on food. Below that was 52% using it for utilities, 45% for rent/mortgage. The Child Tax Credit is well suited for negotiations for a package about cost.

This is on our action sheet. As we think about negotiating, congress will highlight this this month. We have a great opportunity to talk to them and perhaps the last full month to influence policymakers before final negotiations about a package passing possibly in May.

We have talking points pulled out from our action sheets. They're on the website. They may help you write letters to congress about the Child Tax Credit and how well suited it is for helping folks with rising costs.

In the next slide, we have additional resources. Keep in mind that in addition to sending letters to policymakers that they're looking at home newspapers. Keep up the media work. That will also send a strong message to policymakers while they're home.

We may reach out to some about participating in targeted lobbying during the recess. If you're going to be in DC, that's another great opportunity to influence negotiations. I appreciate the great work. I'm turning it over.

>>JOANNE CARTER: Thanks and greetings. I'm Executive Director of RESULTS and grateful to be with you. In the global section, we've talked about the Biden administration bringing together world leaders for the next pledging conference for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, fighting these diseases and channeling resources for community led efforts.

We had huge news this week from DC. The president released his budget request for next year. It says the United States intends to pledge a record $6B for the Global Fund. That's a full third of the $18B global target, the minimum needed, and a 30% increase in funding. This money will help power the Global Fund's plan to save 20M lives and build equitable health delivery systems to reach everyone.

You played a key part in this for years. In February, you rallied 137 members of congress from both parties to write the White House asking for the bold increased pledge that we just got for Global Fund. This sets a high bar for other donors and puts us on the path to the biggest replenishment in history.

We're not sitting back now and need to build long-term bipartisan congressional support. It's up to congress to deliver money annually and engage other donors to do their part. The same White House budget came up short on other global health and poverty funding, which is flat or cut. It's disappointing and frustrating and why advocacy around the annual appropriations process is important now. More on that after our guest speaker.

The generally underwhelming budget makes the big Global Fund increase more noteworthy and a sign of United States commitment to build on. I'm thrilled to welcome to the head of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Peter Sands. Welcome.

[Reading guest speaker bio; available in full on RESULTS website.]

I'm grateful for your leadership in pushing world leaders to act boldly and rethink and redefine pandemic preparedness, rejecting the false choice of pandemics today and in the future, working to build the health systems for both. You were in DC meeting with the White House and congress. Folks have been working with their own members of congress.

>>PETER SANDS: Thank you for the kind words. A huge thank you to everyone on this call and in the network for your fantastic support. The administration felt confident in putting forward a $2B ask, corresponding to $6B pledged. They made that explicit over the 3 year period. It's in no small part due to knowing that they had strong congressional support for doing that. That support doesn't come automatically and requires advocacy of people like you across the country.

The strength was demonstrated in the 137 signatures that Joanne talked about. We'll need it. This is by far the most complicated replenishment we've had. There are many demands, like ongoing resources for COVID-19, where we also play a significant role, about pandemic preparedness, or the role in Ukraine. There are crosscurrents and competing demands for resources and political leader attention.

We have to deliver. We're at a very difficult point that we never expected to be at in the fight against HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. After years of seeing the metrics for infections and deaths not moving as fast as we'd like but in the right direction, we've seen key indicators go backward in the 2021 period because of the pandemic. One million fewer people were treated for Tuberculosis. Several hundred thousand of those people will die. Malaria deaths went up 13%, taking us back to 2012, a decade lost in one year.

Across the HIV community, we did a fantastic job of keeping people on treatment despite lockdowns and the pandemic, testing went down by 22% and treatment by 11%. For adolescent girls and young women, most prevention programs for them were based around schools. Schools were closed. Young women were more exposed to gender-based violence and HIV infection.

Ukraine is receiving a lot of political attention right now. The consequences of the war will make the plight of people most affected by these diseases worse. You're seeing sharp increases in the United States. Think about how they affect people in poorest communities in the world. There are sharp decreases in availability of food and energy. We're worried about the impact of people who are incredibly poor and vulnerable to disease being put in a situation where energy and food become much more expensive.

We have a strong start to the replenishment campaign. The administration is fully behind the $18B target and United States leadership demonstrating to a $2B increase, which converts to $6B. Our priorities are getting other donors to step up. There's this 2 for 1 deal. For every $2 other donors give the United States will deliver on the $2B. We need other donors to step up to unlock the United States pledge.

We also need to ensure that whatever happens in the politics of the midterms gives strength of bipartisan support in both houses so the pledge is converted to appropriations. This is where you play a role. Things can be polarized, but support for the Global Fund has been bipartisan and resilient. We need to ensure that that remains. It's true in the United States and other countries. We can't let the fate of children in rural Africa, of adolescent girls, and the poorest communities in many parts of the developing world be subject to the vagaries party politics. We need conversion of the pledge into appropriations for FY23 - fiscal year25. It will be critical.

Thanks for your fantastic support thus far. I'm happy to take questions.

>>JOANNE CARTER: Thanks for being with us and for your leadership. Please post questions in the chat. I have a couple of things. Could you say a bit about the role of the United States as a host? The signal in the budget was important. 3 years ago, it was France advocacy partners that played a key role. Why was that signal important for other donors? What does a host do to make a successful replenishment?

>>PETER SANDS: Good point. The host plays the role that galvanizes other donors to get to the overall target. A crucial part of that is for the host to deliver on their share of it. The administration has clearly indicated commitment to doing that with the budget. The other thing has to do with twisting arms of other donors.

This will be a challenging year for that for all reasons suggested about competing agendas and government feeling they themselves have fiscal pressures. There was full diplomatic influence in terms of putting pressures on. We're working with the White House on that.

We want to really leverage the relationships and influences that many members of congress have through parliamentary relationships in other parts of the world. If you know someone is connected, stress the importance of them using the clear signals of United States leadership and expectations of what others will do. That's important.

To give a flavor of that, the last replenishment was hosted by the president of France. On the day of the conference, he was busy calling leaders to get them to push that bit more to hit the $14B target set for that, which we did. Anything you can do to encourage the administration and those outside the administration to put it before the Senate, etc. in other donor countries would be incredibly helpful.

>>JOANNE CARTER: Create idea and exciting to think about as we build our own champions and how they can connect with colleagues in other key markets. Say a bit about that $18B and why that's important. Last month, we talked about the importance and the launch of the investment case. Talk about what this $18B can do in the world and why it's essential.

>>PETER SANDS: Roughly speaking, about $6B will be investment in underlying health systems, like lab networks, supply chains, disease surveillance systems, primary healthcare facilities, etc. We ultimately don't make prioritization decisions in Geneva. We want countries to get the balance right for what they can invest dollars in.

The rest of the money goes to scaling up disease specific programs, the next generation to protect families from mosquitoes, focusing on scaling up testing in Tuberculosis, with many diagnosed and not receiving treatment, and those lucky enough to get drug resistant TB getting the treatment they need. Drug resistant TB is a terrifying disease. Even with treatment, there's 50% mortality rate. As a world, we're not doing enough to counter.

We need to step up the HIV prevention side of it. We've done a great job stopping people dying from it but not stopping people from catching HIV. We need to do much more. Given the way the epidemic of HIV works, the nature of it, whether affecting more men, women, sex worker or transgender communities, we need to do more. I'll emphasize 3 things.

When we put our minds to it, we can get better tools to people - vaccines, diagnostics, treatments, etc. - faster than we thought. We need that mindset with HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We need to think about getting these treatments more quickly to people.

We need to take the approach of empowering communities to act and protect themselves. The philosophy of the Global Fund is not that we do things to communities but that we empower and enable communities. That works extremely well in some countries and less well in others. We need to continue to improve that.

We also need to be determined. We can't be shy about confronting some of the human rights related barriers to accessing health services or gender inequalities that stop those who need services from getting them or just the inequities, which can be economic. You have systems where people are charged a fee to get an HIV diagnosis. It's hardly surprising that testing of the poorest is much weaker than testing of those more affluent. We need to tackle those.

We will not beat these diseases if we simply take a biomedical approach. I saw a question in the chat from Ken on the pandemic preparedness side. Sometimes, you hear people talking about pandemic preparedness, and it's something completely different. The next infectious disease threat has high overlap with things to do to fight existing infectious diseases. You need stronger supply chains, better disease surveillance, better primary healthcare facilities, better trained and more community healthcare workers, etc.

By the things we're doing to fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria, we'll be making a huge contribution of pandemic preparedness. Those things have often been accidental byproducts to what we want to do to fight the diseases. We want to be more intentional. When we invest in diagnostic labs for Tuberculosis, we want to cover a broader range of pathogens and infectious disease threats. Train technicians and put better equipment in the lab.

We can help countries build pandemic preparedness in a very effective, marginal cost basis by being a bit smarter about the way we approach these investments.

>>JOANNE CARTER: We can do this in a way that's smart and targeted, saving lives now and not siloing us. I'm looking in the chat. It was 3 years ago that members of congress came to France to make the pledge. Can we ask them to make statements in the media in advance of this? Is there anything we can do for members of congress and parliament to get other countries on board with the Global Fund that could do more?

>>PETER SANDS: Good questions. Members of congress have a powerful role. I don't know. We're in negotiation with the White House about how this will work in terms of the conference itself. I see opportunities for members of congress to show leadership in both the commitment to delivering on the $2B/year from the United States and in leveraging relationships elsewhere in the world. Barbara Lee has set the budget in a way that's unusual for a chair in the appropriations committee, saying she's very much aligned.

The more we have members of congress talking about or using media to show their support the more we all will drive momentum around this. I'm really open to ideas around how you can leverage your networks and through congress and other sources of influence on other countries in the world. The last replenishment saw the United States as one of my biggest risks, relying on congress to ignore the then administration and ask why members of congress were at the conference.

This year, biggest sources of risk are other donors. The single most important influence on other donors is the United States. We need United States influence and the leadership on the rest of the world.

>>JOANNE CARTER: We're about at time. Any final comment you want to make? That was a perfect one. That's the opportunity we have in our hands. Any closing comment?

>>PETER SANDS: I'll pick up things I'm seeing in the chat. Let me start with the point Jack Jarvis just put in. They lose control. If the democrats lose control, this is why it's incredibly important - and you can do this better than I can - we're referencing that this is a bipartisan priority with support on both sides of the House and Senate. We saw that through the last replenishment and need to see it through changes in political dynamics.

Responding to a couple - sorry?

>>JOANNE CARTER: Maybe the final comments. We need to close. The point about congress is key and why we need bipartisan support and why having you in Washington is important.

>>PETER SANDS: I know how powerful your voices and efforts are. We see that in the way that people in congress go up on the hill and talk to people from both sides. They're hearing from across North America that you care about this. This is one of the most powerful ways in which America leads the world, which has reinsurance in so many parts of the world. You're touching people's communities and lives in a way that they really care about. It's their sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers whose lives are saved.

Huge thank you to you all. This is a really big year that we have to get right.

>>JOANNE CARTER: Thank you for your partnerships and invaluable leadership. We're together with you to the successful replenishment in September/October. Thank you so much. Now to Ken Patterson to talk through next steps.

>>KEN PATTERSON: Thank you so much and happy Saturday. I appreciate your comments, Peter. As you were told, we need to talk about securing the funding. The administration pledged $2B, but we need to secure that. I'll talk through the appropriations process, a key way to raise billions of dollars, particularly for global policy issues. Congrats on the 137 signatures. That was huge. It really did have a lot of influence over the administrations for FY23, the $2B for that, and forecasting and projecting the $6B pledge this fall.

Let your members of congress know that they made a difference. You're laying the groundwork for requests on the Global Fund in the future. We've done the groundwork, but we need to be doing work for congress. How do we get the $2B there and funding for nutrition and Tuberculosis? By working the appropriations process.

[On screen.]

You see it starts with the president's budget, which came out at the beginning of last week. Congress has input and crafts a resolution that defines the high level spending for congress in the coming year. In the appropriations process, the appropriations committee takes the budget resolution and spending ceilings. They say what we have to work with and divide that full amount of what's spent in the coming year among 12 subcommittees, each defining how their piece is used in a programmatic way.

You see in the table that we want $2B for the Global Fund, $300M for global nutrition and $1B for Tuberculosis. I'll show where you can find resources to support you in making these requests, but what do we ask congress to do? Every member of congress can give input on spending preferences . . . [Speaker reading: 1]

This is where we make a big difference as RESULTS.

[Speaker reading: 2.] [On screen.]

There's one committee for the international development. The dear colleague letter is like the sign on letter. More appropriators from across the country with the same programmatic numbers means the more the appropriations committee pays attention to those things.

[Speaker reading: Bullet 1.]

[Speaker reading: Bullet 2.]

It will help you look at what they supported in the past and ask them to support those issues.

[Speaker reading: Bullet 3.]

I'll tell where appropriations memos are in a second.

Our tools. I'll share my screen to show folks where they can find the appropriations materials that will help them make these requests.

[On screen.]

I'm on the RESULTS website. Go to the blog in the right side. Click the link on the right. Scroll to our blog post. This says FY23 Appropriations. Click that. You'll find everything you need to make your request of appropriators around our requests. This thing that says appropriation memos has the funding amounts I mentioned in detail. You can read these. They're very informative. You can also send those to members of congress with our request.

Scroll down. You see there is a scorecard and larger scorecard to look at the history of the members of congress for our issues. Here's where you can learn more about the appropriations process, including a training done this week, and a link to the global action sheet with language to request from members of congress. Then there are the letters here.

We'll have 3 sign on letters. We now have the maternal and child health sign-on letter. You'll see the deadline, who is leading and the amount. This is your go to spot for appropriations. We'll post that in the chat.

I think that's it. We have important work to be doing on appropriations. It is what will make a difference and where the money is. I look forward to working with everyone on appropriations. Regional coordinators and staff will help you in making these requests if you have questions.

I'll turn this to Joanne for an announcement.

>>JOANNE CARTER: Thanks, Ken, and to everyone for taking critical actions. We can answer questions in the chat as we go forward. Before our grassroots section, I want to share news about a transition in our team.

After nearly 15 years with RESULTS, John Fawcett is moving on. John has played a central role in steering our policy work in DC and alongside you in epidemics, vaccines, education and more. We've benefited from his strategic thinking and advocacy skill. Working with you has impacted millions of lives.

I know John and I both feel proud, confident and excited about the future work of the whole campaigns team at RESULTS and the power of the network, all of you. John's last day was Thursday this week or he'd be here to say farewell. We're collecting messages for John and invite those who knew and worked with him to share a message or memory to pass on. We'll put the link in the chat. I want to let you know. We'll pass on messages. Thanks to everyone. Back to Ken.

>>KEN PATTERSON: John has let us in a good place to do this work. He's taught us a lot. We have a great team and a lot going for us as we do this work. John would love to hear from you. Check out that link in the chat. Share thoughts with John. He'll appreciate it.

For the cafe section, I want to do a quick poll and share some really exciting news. We're trying to figure out how many people come to the webinar. We'll have a better way of doing this if we know how many are in the room with you. We get information from the lines, but that doesn't give an accurate read. Let us know how many people are with you for the webinar.

Then to exciting news. In an effort to boost contact with congress and their offices this year, we're designating June as advocacy month, starting with the Memorial Day congressional recess at the end of May and going through the July 4th recess ending on July 8. The virtual international conference on June 4 - 5 are the official kickoff. We want to include the 2 recesses in June because they are great opportunities to meet with senators and representatives in person in your state.

In addition to supporting you meeting with offices at home, we're bringing a small crowd to DC from June 12 - 14, the weekend after the virtual international conference. We she land a lot of face to face meetings with representatives and senators at home or in DC. We want to use the advocacy month window to meet directly with members of congress with key staff in DC and in the state and district. We want June to have full court press with building advocacy for members of congress and staff.

It's exciting to get together in person and for a full month of advocacy to be with members of congress. A couple of details. I'll end the poll. Two groups have more than 7 people in the room. Excellent.

[See results.] [On screen.]

Regarding the in person DC event on the 12th - 14th, we want to bring one person from every group plus all new RESULTS fellows to DC. In addition, there will be room for at-large registrants. This is not a full-blown IC thing but a good group of people. The goal is to send people to DC who are new to RESULTS in the past couple years. They've never had a chance to be in DC with RESULTS and don't know how inspiring it is. People don't know this side of the organization. For the in-person June event, we want to prioritize people who have recently joined and never been to DC.

There's a link to the conference page on the website.

[On screen.]

The advocacy day piece has a link in chat for details and timeline. Register for the virtual international conference today to get started. Look at materials for the month of advocacy. Staff will be able to answer questions in coming weeks to support you for advocacy month. Exciting stuff going on.

I'll ask you to share the video. Anyone can register while this is going on.

[Prerecorded video.] [On screen.]

>>KEN PATTERSON: Thanks for that. Check that out. As you're filing out your virtual IC registration, we're creating opportunities to come to DC in person, easing to getting together in person in a safe way. A group of 20 - 30 advocates are coming to DC for the Global Fund, the June event, and something post election, focusing on driving campaign agenda items over the finish line. We hope anyone who wants can come to DC with RESULTS in the coming year. Now we our manager for grassroots impact to reengage in community organizing.

We need community outreach skills. Jos will get us started.

>>JOS LINN: I'm manager of grassroots impact and located in Kansas City, Missouri. This month's actions are focused on writing letters to congress about FY23 appropriations and the Child Tax Credit. There's background information on the website with talking points to write on the powerful issues. The more letters you have the bigger the impact with lawmakers.

In a lobby meeting, congressional aides said if they got 5 letters on an issue they had a meeting. Imagine what you could do with 10, 20 or 50. Use this action opportunity to invite others to online you. Reach out to other networks, friends, family, etc. Send them the action sheet, and walk them through the process. Invite them to a letter writing meeting. Write and read letters to insure confidence and accomplish your goal of getting more letters. The best way to attract volunteers is by taking action. People want to volunteer and make impact. Policy can create transformative experiences. You probably had one experience at some point. New people don't know that.

Writing letters with your group is a perfect entry point for new volunteers, learning about the issue, practicing writing as an advocate and knowing they're not alone in doing this. We need to get new letters and volunteers. If you're unsure how to run a letter-writing meeting, we've got your back.

On the monthly actions page - [see link on slide] - you see a link to an action workshop agenda. This is in every month. It's evergreen. Use the same agenda for different meetings. Download that, personalize it, and use it to run your meeting, in person and virtual. If you want additional coaching, reach out to me or anyone on grassroots impact staff.

In a few minutes, we'll do a roleplay to invite people to come to such a meeting. Letters send a powerful message to members of congress. You can deliver them in letters, email and at meetings. Meetings keep new people in action. We'll do a lot of lobby meetings, especially during May to early July. After you work with new people in writing letters this month, invite them to lobby meetings in coming months. Move them up the ladder of engagement and show time is well spent.

Reach out with questions to staff. Now we Sarah Leone about how to invite someone to a RESULTS action meeting.

>>SARAH LEONE: We're going to do a role play to show how easy it is to invite someone to meetings. This could be an opportunity to invite someone you've never met before. I'll get started.

I'm with RESULTS. Do you have a few minutes to chat? RESULTS is an organization trying to end poverty worldwide, teaching advocates to speak with members of congress. RESULTS helped shape that COVID-19 funding bill. That came out in the first months of the pandemic.

>>JOS LINN: I remember.

>>SARAH LEONE: That bill helped millions from being evacuated evicted and providing Child Tax Credit to families. People get bogged down and discouraged. They don't think they can make a difference in reaching members of congress. Have you felt like that?

>>JOS LINN: Quite a bit. I get frustrated.

>>SARAH LEONE: I'm passionate and talk to people like yourself because RESULTS has proven that I can make a difference. Because of local advocates, I know how to meet with and influence members of congress, publish letters to the editor, and bring my own community to action. 2022 could be a terrific year for making a difference and for leaders in your community and the world to end poverty. How does this sound? Does it pique your interest? Do you have questions?

>>JOS LINN: It sounds interesting. I question if it works. People are cynical about it. I'm cynical. Does it matter?

>>SARAH LEONE: Absolutely. It matters. When you write a letter and mention your member of Congress's name, aids have key searches to see everything written about their bosses. The more people write letters to the editor the bigger the impact. If you write just 5 letters and get them published, staffers will have a meeting and talk about issues. It's the same with setting up meetings in person in DC or with a local office, which has impact as much as going to DC directly. It does matter.

>>JOS LINN: Is there something you've done where you feel you've done this and it made a difference?

>>SARAH LEONE: Absolutely. I was on Cap Hill 4 - 5 years ago with advocates with UK and Australian folks. The Senate was going to cut $8B from food stamps and Medicaid. That did not go through because of advocates on Cap Hill. It didn't become law. I've seen miracles because of everyday people like you and I making a difference, which is why I encourage you to come to the next meeting and write a letter to congress. We want to end poverty and talk about the topics focused on at the time. You'll have tons of support and all questions answered. I'd love to invite you to that. How do you feel? Could you make a meeting?

>>JOS LINN: I'm interested but I don't know about the issues. I don't know how to write a letter. Will that be covered in the meeting?

>>SARAH LEONE: If you're new and don't know what's going on, advocates will support you and provide materials, breaking down how issues work and how to end poverty. You'll have support, especially if new.

>>JOS LINN: How long are meetings? I have a busy schedule.

>>SARAH LEONE: We focus on putting our volunteers first. The time you're able to give is wonderful. Meetings last about an hour. Even newer folks can get a letter done in 30 minutes. If you have an hour once a month, you're golden.

>>JOS LINN: I can probably make that work. Let me know when it is. I'll plan to come.

>>SARAH LEONE: I'll get your contact information and look forward to advocating with you.

>>JOS LINN: Thank you.

>>SARAH LEONE: That's how you can have a conversation. There are nuances because we know each other. It works when inviting folks. Outreach muscles are probably not as great as they were a couple years ago, which is why we're focusing on outreach. We have awesome resources in the outreach section under engaging the community on the RESULTS website.

[On screen.]

As yourself what drew you to RESULTS. How can you use your experience to capture what drew you in? I recommend using your own experiences. I have 100 stories of RESULTS that I love sharing. It does a good job of inspiring folks. Think about that when inviting folks and doing outreach. If you have other questions, reach out to staff.

I believe I'll pass it to Jos.

>>JOS LINN: If you want to up your game in outreach and take the lead for a local group, contact Karyne Bury. She's focusing on outreach and partnerships and happy to talk about being an outreach coordinator.

We want to do another poll.

[On screen.]

How confident are you in organizing an outreach opportunity in your community? Take a minute to fill this out. We'd love to get as many people as possible to see who needs help or are good to go and go from there to make sure you have resources needed to be successful. People are somewhat to very confident. A few don't feel confident. We're here to help. About 50 more people to take the poll. Most people with 42% are somewhat confident but want additional coaching. Folks are very confident with about the same amount. There's a small group to pay attention to at 13% who don't feel confident.

With all of these resources on our website and staff, you have everything you need to help you. Get in touch to coach and facilitate a meeting, if necessary, so you can take advantage of this opportunity to engage new people in our actions.

>>LISA MARCHAL: Hi, everyone. I'm in Indianapolis and a manager of grassroots impact. We have 2 final invitations. We're continuing to have our diversity and inclusion 101 workshops. We have many sessions and repeat sessions. Take advantage of this resource. I want to read what a participant has said about this experience.

A regional coordinator said one of our advocates and a professor is leading this endeavor and these trainings.

[Reading percipient comment.]

Workshops are capped at 40 participants. We'll promote it through it weekly update and channels.

There's a late-breaking webinar on April 13.

[Reading from slide.]

She does a spectacular job on knowing more about your members of congress so advocacy can be effective.

[230 PM ET.]

Events appear in weekly updates. Reach out to staff. You can catch these dates in our slides.

[On screen.]

Ken will open the lines. You're going to be able to wish each other a wonderful day. I hope spring is springing soon for all of us.

[Bye all around.]

[End of meeting.] [232 PM ET]