Testing testing Live Captioning by Ai-Media

This is a test caption

SPEAKER:
Welcome everybody. We will get started in a few minutes. Alright folks, we are going to get started. We will lose the piano bar although I am sure we all love a little music to start our day.

SPEAKER:
I am going to hit the record button so we capture everything.

SPEAKER:
Now we can get started. Good morning or good afternoon for some folks. I wanted to welcome everybody on this national webinar on who deserves to be poor, this is a different national webinar than the ones that you are used to. This is a three hour event that includes a panel and training. We will have a break in between because I know that can be a long time for some folks.

I want to let some folks know that life captions are available for anybody who needs them. You need to click the cc button to bring them up. To quickly introduce myself, I am Lakisha McVeigh, I am a senior associate on the grassroots impact team. I am responsible for managing our experts on poverty program.

You will get to hear from one of our experts on poverty today and an alumni of the program. I am from Des Moines Ottawa -- Iowa before we really dig in I wanted to take a moment to ground us in RESULTS values. At RESULTS we pledge to create space for everyone especially those with lived experience. We recognize this is easier said than done. None of us are perfect.

We have all in the past or will continue to make mistakes as we go about this work and that is OK. What is important is that we own up to our mistakes and use them as an opportunity for growth. Both within ourselves and as within our advocacy. As an organization we don't expect to do this all on your own. We have to work together as a community. Whether you carry privilege or not to take the diverse experiences and use it to make progress towards our goal to ring equity and and poverty. That's why we bring so many workshops for us to learn and grow together.

I highly encourage folks to check out our anti-oppression page on our website which our chat monitors just dropped in the chat. On this you can find our fall workshop schedule and lots of resources to facilitate your learning and information on what to do if you experience oppression within the RESULTS community. And now, I am going to stop screen sharing slides so that my colleague Karen can play a welcome message from our Executive Director Joanne who wanted to give you a warm welcome before we get into our panel.

(Video plays)

JOANNE CARTER:
Hello everyone, thank you so much for joining us for this unique and very important RESULTS and R. I am Joanne Carter, executive director of RESULTS and I'm sorry I couldn't join you today. I am in Morocco for the World Bank annual meetings. We are working together to hold the bank accountable for a more equitable and just use of its resources.

This is the first time the World Bank meetings have been back on the African continent in 50 years. It's inspiring to see our partners from east and west Africa bringing another of leaders to the meeting. We are strategizing together how we have a bigger impact on the tens of billions of dollars provided by the World Bank every year to make sure there are more resources benefiting the most marginalized people in areas like health, nutrition, public education and social protection.

Today's webinar cuts to the very root of who RESULTS is and what we do. Our goal at RESULTS is to dismantle oppressive systems including the laws and policies that cause poverty and perpetuate it. And to help build a just and equitable ones in the place of them. Poverty said mathematically dehumanizes people and build cycles that cause lasting economic, mental, physical and social harms. Ending poverty and oppression is about how we work together to change unjust policies and laws and address in equitable systems across our work. Recognizing work privilege and power exists, taking down barriers and tackling oppression directly. To deconstruct oppressive policies and laws we have to first understand them.

This is what today's extended webinar program is about. In a world shaped by oppression we are actively working against it or we are allowing it to do further damage. While oppression exploit some groups to benefit others in the end we are all diminished by it. We all have work to do to understand how oppression exists in our systems. That's why were here.

I know I still have work to do with much to learn and unlearn. I will commit to making sure that as an organization, RESULTS will do the same. We often see oppression and anti-property policies. Work and income requirements are an example of how that's baked in in subtle and not-so-subtle ways.

RESULTS has been fighting for more equitable tax code for decades and more intensely since the 2008 financial crisis. We work to reform the tax code so that families earning more than $3000 per year can qualify for the child tax credit or CTC before that campaign families had to earn at least $10,000 per year.

So the families that were most impoverished were left out. We led a campaign for ongoing advocacy for the CTC and ongoing income tax credit. In 2021 with so many of you working on this, we successfully pushed for child tax credit expansion to families with little or no income.

This expansion give families the tools to lift 12.2 million children above the poverty line. Congress let that CTC expansion and and the latest census data showed that child poverty in the United States has doubled.

We know that the CTC can drive a more just tax system and lifted millions out of poverty when it reaches out to those with the lowest income. This is why we will work with Congress to permanently expand the CTC to as many families earning lower income as possible. While we must continue to advocate for policies like these that empower families to achieve state the and stability as every family deserves, when we connect and share our priorities with congressional offices, the media and others, each of those collective moments adds up to real change.

I want to remind everybody as we head into our discussion today that not every victory in this advocacy work is dramatic. But, every step of sharing our values and realities and powerful information, every step of seeking to build relationship, of being persistent and brave, matters and is a victory.

I think of Emily Escobar who recently moved to a new congressional district, representative on the surface doesn't appear to share many of her values, but Emily knows the power of openness in building a relationship with her lawmaker. Through process assistant and respectful communication with the law office she has put the key issue of poverty on that rep's radar. It is very likely would've never come up.

This is genuinely how we see change. Every decision-maker, across the political spectrum need to hear from us about policies that create more just and equitable systems.

As we connect and build trust with them, we begin to open their eyes to the realities and priorities of the constituents they serve. So guided by the experts on today's webinar, we will strengthen our our commitment to our values and I think become even savvier antipoverty advocates. Thank you again for joining us today and for the work you do every day to create a more just nation and world. Thanks.

() Video ends

MICHAEL SANTOS:
What a lovely message from our executive director. For those who have not had a chance to meet me I am Michael Santos the director of our US policy team. Good afternoon to many of you, good morning to those of you who are on the West Coast. I am really glad to be here today. I want to move us along, following Joanne's remarks about our work on the CTC. We are going to be doing a panel discussion on work and income requirements.

I want to take this opportunity before we go to the panel to ground ourselves by providing you with some context about what we will be talking about for the next hour or so. As a reminder for those of you who are new, one of the cornerstone policies that RESULTS has been working with is the child tax credit as Joanne pointed out in her remarks.

Zooming out a little bit, the CTC is part of a broader effort to achieve economic justice in the tax code. Today we are going to zoom out a bit and look at work and income requirements and where they fit with our work both in the next several months, for the rest of 23. But also, in the long term.

Work and income requirements touch and concern the CTC but they also crop up in other antipoverty policies. We are here today to flesh out these issues, learn more about their history, for the work that we do -- to inform the work that we do at RESULTS and other types of advocacy that you all are doing outside of RESULTS two. What exactly are you going to expect in the next hour or so? For the first 40 minutes, we will have a panel discussion with esteemed colleagues.

Then the next 30 minutes will be question and answer. We want this to be as interactive as possible. We have a great lineup of panelists today. Please feel free to ask your questions, we will have time towards the end and you can always put those in the chat. We will have staff monitor the questions so if we have not had the opportunity to answer those questions, wait until the end.

And then, we will have a break after our panel discussion and Q&A. If you are hearing some documents being referenced throughout the panel discussion, don't fret. This webinar is being recorded and we will have a follow-up email to send out to all the attendees providing you with the webinar recording but also, the information that may have been referenced during the discussion.

Since I am the one moderating this wonderful panel, I may just a heads up for our wonderful speakers, I may interrupt you with some of the questions from time to time. Especially if it pertains to some of the comments that you are making as you are talking about work and income requirements.

Without further ado, I will invite our panelists to join me on the video. If we can just put a spotlight on all four of us that would be great.

I want to kick us off with my first question. I will have a series of questions but hopefully this will inspire more questions coming from our grassroots. Can you tell us about yourselves and your work with income requirements and if you can talk specifically about how this shows up in your work? Why don't we start with Aaron. I will turn it over to you so I let you choose yourself.

SPEAKER:
Thank you Michael. Hello my name is Aaron Carrillo and I am one of the grassroots Board members and I have been with grassroots since 2018. I started as a global volunteer but I realize that I am a child of the child tax credit and understanding the nuance of that and understanding my experience of life, I wanted to bring it up on this panel. Glad to be here.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you. Turning it over to Peggy Bailey.

PEGGY BAILEY:
Hi everyone, it is great to be here this afternoon here on the East Coast at least. My name is Peggy Bailey and I am the vice president for housing and income security at the center for policy priorities. Work requirement shows up for me in a couple of ways, I think from a work perspective as my title would suggest Housing and income security, I work on housing and rental assistance.

Income supports like TNF and child support programs. Obviously work requirements is the whole program now as it exists for how families can get cash assistance and it has really decimated our ability to support low and extremely low income families.

In the housing space right now, it is constant right now there aren't universally work requirements in the housing programs. Some housing authorities have them but it pops up constantly.

Right now in the appropriations fight, should the house ever get its act together, there are amendments for the funding bills for the per housing programs that would either explicitly or implicitly require work by using tropes like able-bodied adults couldn't get assistance.

In my personal life, I have family members who need assistance and have varying degrees of work activity and that significantly limits their ability to work and requires me to play a role in helping support them and helping make sure that they are OK and they avoid things like homelessness. I am really excited to be here today and glad that we are talking about this topic.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thanks Peggy. Last but not least I will turn it over to Elisa.
ALYCIA HARDY: Hi everyone my name is Elisa Minoff and I work for the center of (unknown term) we work within communities and systems and on policies and state and federal government level. To ensure that all children youth and families can thrive. I manage our economic justice and policy work -- touching on a range of policies like TNF like Peggy just mentioned to paid leave. We have done a lot of work around work requirements.

Like this interim budget have really come to the conclusion that they create enormous barriers for families. They should not be in any program that helps people meet their basic needs. Because of our work around work requirements and our understanding of the barriers they pose for families, we have really been committed to advancing pacifists this policies that have no strings attached and don't put any conditions on work.

We have seen a lot of promise in (indiscernible) and expanded child tax credit in 2021. We cofounded and cochair a coalition -- and are happy to work with RESULTS closely on that. We really think that the future is in policy that gives family the freedom to make choices about what makes sense to themselves about how to use the money and create fewer barriers like work requirements.

I also want to note very quickly that I am trained as a historian which is unusual in this policy space. I did a PhD in history so I bring a historical perspective to a lot of our work around social policy. I will be doing that day in our discussions of work requirements.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Great, thanks all. I am so glad that I'm joined by Peggy, Aaron and Alisa today. Before we dig into our topic today I want to throw this question to the group.

We talk about work and income requirements a little bit and we will be talking about these two things the next hour, can one of you provide a general definition? I want to make sure we are all on the same page when we use the terms income requirements versus work requirements. Are they the same or interchangeable? What are the nuances before we get into the questions? Does anyone want to take that question?

SPEAKER:
I am happy to jump in. You see differences like the child tax credit and the earned income credit where you have to earn a certain amount of income to be eligible for the benefit at all. The benefit phases in as your income increases. That is what the income requirement is, if you make a certain amount that you are eligible for and you can get the benefit. Work requirements are typical and serve as Peggy mentioned, they tend to be structured a little bit differently.

It's not just an income requirement but people have to actually show that they have worked on certain number of hours a week in order to be eligible for the benefit. So, it imposes an administrative burden on families of reporting work sometimes weekly or monthly in addition to the actual requirement of working or having income.

You think the important point to remember is that both of these sets of policies are designed that way with the idea of encouraging people to work. That is the rationale behind them, the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit are designed that way because they're supposed to incentivize that work.

They are designed that way in order to theoretically encourage people to work. That is not what they actually do. They take assistance away from families.

PEGGY BAILEY:
The only thing I would add, sometimes work can include going to school or training, at least for a limited amount of time. The other thing is that while the requirements are often specific at the federal level, there's still a lot of flexibility (audio issues) work requirements in particular.

Someone who might have their work activities is often the way that we talk about it, counted in one state, might not have the same activities if they are counted in another state.

The last thing I would say is often times in these programs, like within snap the supplemental nutrition assistance program, is that there are often a lot of exemptions. There could be exemptions based on age, based on people living with disabilities, things like that. Often times especially when were talking about people with disabilities, the definition of what it means to have a disability can sometimes be particularly restrictive and rely on really restrictive definitions as well.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you for that helpful definition and clarification between these two. We use these terms quite a bit and I think it is helpful to be clear about how they are different, similar, how they overlap based on what Alyssa and Peggy said. Aaron if you have anything else to add, or I can move on to the next question. OK, alright.

So, we started today's webinar with our anti-oppression values. RESULTS is an antiracist organization and we hear a lot from other advocates, from media reports saying that work in income requirements are racist. I want to unpack that because I think it's important in terms of how they run contrary to our anti-oppression values.

I want to take this opportunity to hear from our panelists, how do they actually perpetuate racist stereotypes and prioritize high wage earners? We are hearing a lot that this idea of economic justice and how what we are seeing now in terms of economic inequality is the new Jim Crow, we see that everywhere.

Here in DC for example, even as a proxy I am seeing a lot of businesses that discriminate based on people's ability to have credit. You are seeing a lot of signs that say "no cash, credit cards only"and that precludes a lot of people without access to bank accounts or access to credit from entering that establishment and enjoying their benefits.

I see a lot of parallels between that and income and work requirements. Primarily because income is usually tied with work and being able to actually make money. I am curious to hear what your thoughts are on how they perpetuate stereotypes, how are they racist and what are the impacts?

PEGGY BAILEY:
Aaron, did you want to go first?

SPEAKER:
Go ahead Peggy.

PEGGY BAILEY:
I think everybody should know we have 2 to 3 minutes talk about this.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
You can take longer Peggy. That is fine. It is a lot to unpack and we have quite a bit of time actually so you're fine if you want to go little bit longer.

PEGGY BAILEY:
(Laughs) I was being snarky about how big of a topic and how deep racism and discrimination is in the country. I will give a couple of remarks. -- And how it's completely based on -- policies are particularly rooted in racism. One thing I want to say that we don't talk about enough is fundamentally this idea that you can work your way out of poverty and not putting the blame on the corporate and business interests that decide how much somebody is going to make.

During the pandemic we should've learned that the people that we depend on the most are the people that we pay the least. And there are choices and that, it's not the line in that. The ideas of paying people a living wage and some of the narrative around we can't afford to do that, no, corporate interests or using the government to supplement what they don't want to pay.

There is not a way for people to work their way out of that problem. We don't live in a meritocracy, we live in a capitalist structure that allows other people to decide someone's work. That leads into the racist foundation for what we are thinking about going back to slavery and for free labor.

The idea that people who were enslaved were not working hard enough and never working hard enough and pushing them to have to work harder created a foundation of thinking that black people and now also indigenous people of color in general were lazy. It's also the same prevailing winds around indigenous people as well, a different culture and a different lifestyle made others think they weren't working hard enough and ideas about what work is even our laid with discrimination and racism.

Today, the idea is that if we don't make people work they won't work. The violence that we have associated with for example slavery and making people work plays into the ways that we design programs today that perpetuate that same idea that people must be forced to work because otherwise, they would be lazy.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you. Aaron, I saw you unmute is there anything you wanted to add or contribute?

SPEAKER:
Yes, coming from a young age the fact that I knew what the child tax credit was was something that only meant to me that I am getting shoes, jeans, and I am not wearing the shoes that I've worn for over a year. Those were the moments that we depended on. Those were the moments we talked about, we are having Christmas late this year because mom has got to do her taxes.

When work requirements and income requirements come into play for us, was when my mom got really sick. My mom got sick and within three months we were homeless. She went through a procedure, lost her job, we lost our home, we lost our vehicle. We were depending on tax season. And then she got audited.

Audits took three months for us to finally get that money that we were trying to get. And yet, my mom never asked for help. It took her the second month of that audit to finally go into the office and get an EBT card.

She would send us in because there was so much shame that was built into asking for help. I am a second-generation US citizen and coming from that, we were always taught to work our way out of poverty. If grandpa can do it, we can do it. If he can make it in this country and $2.50, then we should be able to do the same.

Those are the perpetuated circumstances that we inherently stereotype ourselves in but then continue to not help the situation. I think it's the understanding that shame comes along with these requirements because so many people are trying to make them.

They will figure it out with family and friends were there kids can be watched just so they can get their hours. They will figure it out, but there's also things about is it on paper or is it under the table? Is it on paper are you getting paid cash? All of these things come into question when we are talking about these requirements. Rocks plan, to answer your question you may use my story.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thanks for that Aaron.

SPEAKER:
What Aaron is really talking about is the power of the stories that we tell ourselves and the story that policymakers tell about these policies that should be designed to support families but in a lot of cases are not doing what we all think they should do.

When speaking about how racism has undergirded work requirements I think it is important to take a step back and recognize that some of the things that center on budget has done have shown how the policies that we put in place in the 1990s of adding work requirements onto programs that meet families basic needs, do not work.

All they do is take assistance away from families. And yet, we continue to hear people calling for stronger work requirements, new work requirements. Stronger income requirements. I think we have to try and stop and think why we are trying to do this.

It really comes down to this idea that some people think there are people out there who don't want to work and need to be forced to work. Where did this idea come from? Where did this narrative come from? Like Peggy said, I think we need to trace it back to slavery. In slavery what you saw was that slave traders and proslavery ideologues really created this narrative that black people did not want to work.

They didn't just create this narrative because they didn't like black people, they wanted to force them to work. They wanted to benefit financially from the labor of black people and deny them the fruits of their own labor. So, one of the narratives that enslavers created was that black people did not want to work in order to force them to work and in order to perpetuate the system of slavery. Then when slavery formerly ended during the Civil War, you see that narrative continue and when the freedmen's Bureau the federal agency goes into the South to provide aid to free people and enslaved persons in the South, you see people who are running that federal agency continue this narrative in their head that black people don't want to work and need to be forced to work.

And so, they actually denied assistance to black families and forced black children and parents into very exploitative labor conditions because this help this narrative. And then you see southern states in the decades that followed withhold and not create assistance to help families with low income.

When they did create those programs, they denied those programs to black families in order to force them to work. And then when black families moved out of the South during the great migration, you saw northern states suddenly become interested in imposing work requirements on cash assistance. So there is this really clear through line from slavery to our modern public benefits system. Where work requirements were imposed specifically to force black families to work and exploit their labor.

You see that through line all the way through to the 90s when the programs we know today really took their current form. We saw the creation of TNF, we see work requirements put into Snap, and you see the (unknown term) expanded which are normally helpful to the families that needed them. The way they are designed is they don't provide the help to the families that need them the most. That's why were all doing this work to make sure that the families who need this the most can connect with that.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you all. I want to go back to a couple of the things you have all raised. Going back to what Aaron story which was very powerful, thank you for sharing that. I think it is a good reminder of the work that we are doing at the CTC. I think there is still a lot to do at the CTC especially when we talk about the tax code, most people think about income tax returns. It is almost always tied to having work and having to file taxes and what happens when you don't file taxes.

I want to follow up with that line of thinking for all of you guys, you had talked about how income and work requirements can be traced back to slavery. We also talked about how it impacts the BIPOC community. How does this intersect or manifest when we are talking about undocumented immigrants?

Or people who are not American citizens? Can anyone talk about that a little bit or offer some expertise (Laughs)? I am curious because it's one of the questions that was brought to my attention.

PEGGY BAILEY:
I can start. It gets into the title of this webinar today: who is deserving and who is not? And coupled with an idea of a scarcity mindset. That the pie is only so big and so I have to protect what I have and make sure that others don't take anything away from me.

I think those are the two prevailing things rather than the alternative view of how all of us together makes all of us stronger. And there is an ability for all of us to thrive together, it's not this competition that we have set up, competition structure. Too often it is crazy to me that in the wealthiest country in the world we have the scarcity mindset. That there's only so much and therefore it's OK to concentrate wealth in a small group of people. That doesn't make any sense.

Even with the scarcity mindset you would also think "oh, well should I concentrate wealth in a set of 100 people if there's only so much to go around, should I share?" That idea that there is only so much money, only so much healthcare, only so much food, and therefore we have to set up these dynamics of deserving and then layered on top of that, if you are not working you do not deserve to be helped.

Or, if you are coming from somewhere else or you have brown skin, then I am going to create all of these reasons why I deserve more, I deserve what I have that you don't.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Do others have anything else to add? Or should I move on to another question? (Laughs)

SPEAKER:
Going off of Peggy's idea, if anything during the pandemic proved that nontax filers have a way to get assistance. I think that was something that was pushed and I know it wasn't perfect but that was put together in a very quick way or at least in my head with taxes being over a year.

Part of my family is from Juarez Mexico and some of them had never filed their taxes before and how terrifying it is to be given this form to fill out to then help your family.

And when my younger cousins were told they weren't going back to school, you need Internet in the house, everything now needs to be a full 24-hour period with the kids. Jobs had to be adjusted. Understanding that there is ways that we have begun to temporarily fix these problems but we need to look at long-term solutions, really comes to mind during your question.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thanks Aaron.

SPEAKER:
I would just add, I think that when you are thinking about how other people of color have been affected by these narratives and policies, I think it is important to recognize that some of the same tropes that have been westernized to limit access to systems for black families have also been used to limit assistance for immigrant families.

You see some of the same narrative around fraud, not wanting to work in the 90s when there is the same law that created temporary assistance for these families, also restricted immigrant families access to these really critical benefits.

And then you see the same arguments made again and again with the child tax credit which was actually initially, when it was created in 1997, all families were eligible regardless of immigration status. But, think tanks that are anti-immigrant think tanks on the right continue to make arguments against immigrants access to the (unknown term) citing the same tropes that had been used for decades.

And then that led eventually to the tax cuts and jobs act which restricted access to the CTC for children who do not have Social Security numbers. So, primarily undocumented children who might be eligible for individual tax identification numbers but not Social Security numbers.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you. I think something to flag for that, when we are talking about undocumented immigrants, the laws that specifically exclude them really devalues their contribution to this country. They actually pay taxes. I think there is a reason why there's this thing called the I 10, there is a Social Security number or tax on vacation number four people who are undocumented or may not have permanent residents or US citizenship.

I want to keep circling back to Aaron story that you shared, I wanted to, I wanted this panel to address a little bit how can we effectively address stereotypes? Aaron had talked about the shame associated with asking for help, forgetting these benefits. How can we effectively addressed stereotypes whether it's internalized or by others or lawmakers, some members of Congress especially? Around people living in poverty and their unwillingness to work or live off the system or the welfare queen trope? Does anyone want to take that (Laughs)?

SPEAKER:
I can start but it's going to be very broad but I'm sure the others can fill in the blanks in between. I think the biggest thing is education and exposure. Stories like mine own kind of bring the inherent fears of tax season and for those of you who have never had a parent that only speaks another language and you are their primary translator and you're sitting there with the document and you're like "I don't know what this six syllable word means. We are going to find a dictionary and figure it out."

Those are stories that can bring the understanding and educational need of this documentation and what it signifies. But also, really having honest conversations within different stakeholders and different groups about what tax season or what work requirements looks like for a family. Especially when you take things like the members of Congress and their like "OK you want me to work 40 hours? Alright, well who was going to watch my kids during that time? How much does childcare costs? What is the transportation I need to get to this job? And you are paying me 725 an hour just so I can get this benefit." Let's do the math.

That's one of my favorite things to say now. Let's go through the map. That is my thought process. That exposure to the math, you pay me 1225 as a single mom and I have two kids, let's see a fight against me. Let's see how quickly a run out.

PEGGY BAILEY:
And what time Reese was used to take college courses or whatever the expectation is? I think the other thing too is that we all have to stop using the troops as well. There is a big movement that has been building around narrative change and how to reverse course and there are, and listening to those experts are telling us to make sure that we are not reinforcing the stereotypes with the language that we are using even though we are trying to fight against them.

And so, this has been a really interesting thing for us at the center. Having to fight against work requirements without repeating the words work requirements (Laughs) We have been really, and you can see in the paper that I put in the chat, it is a struggle. For a little bit this year, we have talked about work recording requirements instead of work requirements to show the burdensome nature of them. I don't think that that really might not necessarily work either. It is flipping it.

As of talking about work requirements, instead of talking about exactly what Aaron said, what is the need we are trying to fill? And being able to tell the story of what these programs should be doing to be the most helpful.

SPEAKER:
I would just add, I think for those of us who do advocacy, we do have a responsibility to develop an alternate narrative. This narrative around work has been superpowerful. It is really important that we not reinforce that for CTC specific example, when arguing for the value of expanding the child tax credit to lawmakers, I honestly would not foreground the point that it helps people work.

That's not the goal of the policy. Yeah, it absolutely, parents might use it so they can fix their car and get to work. Parents might use it so they can get close that will allow them to wear professional close on the job. That is not the goal of the policy, the goal of the policy is to support children and families. We need to not fall back into that habit of kind of arguing down to their position of critics of the program. And, when thinking about making the case for the real value of programs like this, talking about how it allows parents to make choices that make the most sense for their families about how to use the money.

How parents use it to enroll their kids in a soccer program or to put food on the table. Talking about basic needs and also the investment that parents are making in their families and children. Talking about how it supports caregiving. At CSP that's one of the things we been thinking about, how we do need to create and recognize the incredible social value and contributions that people make that are not wage labor.

To recognize the value of caregiving. To recognize the value of the care people provide their own communities even if it's not directly their family members. It is often totally without financial reward. I think there is a responsibility we all hold to not just fight back against these negative stereotypes and tropes and not use them ourselves, but also to put forward a positive vision for what we want to achieve.

PEGGY BAILEY:
During the pandemic we got totally blindsided by how fast people could use the excuse of more federal assistance. While now people are not working and I don't have the labor force that I need, right? When unemployment was at four and 3% and moving down.

And disregarding the health issues during the pandemic. The schools being closed, the other reasons why. And baby boomers getting older. These things that were going to happen anyway to reduce the workforce. No, it was the federal resources that people were getting. They were making too much money and we were not forcing them to work. It was crazy but predictable. But still crazy.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
We are getting to the time of opening up for questions and answers from our Grassroots, but I want to throw this last question. You have all been doing a great job already addressing this but my last question to this panel, before we start answering questions in the chat, and this is a loaded question, how do we have effective conversations to push back against work and income requirements with lawmakers and legislators who are not receptive to it?

As a caveat, there is one comment or question in the chat about how to talk about this, do we talk about this in a race neutral fashion? How do we bring race into this? I think there was a comment in the chat about program requirements applying equally to all families. How do we have these conversations with lawmakers on the Hill when we talk about combating or pushing back against work and income requirements and the CTC or other anti-poverty programs?

SPEAKER:
Lawmakers like math. Which really means that lawmakers like money. I have always taken the consideration of doing a lot of research in my area about what a typical house hold would make and what a single mom could make in this town, and break down average child costs, everything else and then I asked them where to set deficit need to be taken up? How do we fix that deficit?

What can we do to ensure child care and safe childcare? It brings to mind a lot of other problems in the community. For my area, we don't have childcare. We have families that help cover each other but that does not always work. And the childcare would you have, is very outrageously expensive. So, it allows me to bring other questions up but members of Congress like money and they like talking about money. They just don't like talking about it when it is coming out of somebody else's pocket.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Do others have anything to add or comments?

SPEAKER:
I think one thing I will say is I think people have a lot of questions and I'll talk about this report we put out about the racist roots of income requirements. People have questions, when I am advocating for this at the federal level or for lawmakers in my state to a target racism? How are you this information?

I have two points in response to that question, one is that I think that information absolutely needs to shape the asks that you are making to those lawmakers. From our perspective, understanding how racism has shaped work requirements has made it crystal clear to us that there is no way to tweak work requirements and make them OK. We need to repeal them altogether. That needs to be the goal that we are aiming for.

That is one point. The other point I think is important, is that we do need to fix that narrative. I think if folks are making that argument about "well, people should just be working". I think like Aaron said you need to break it down for them.

I think we need to actually do a better job communicating what that means on a daily basis for families. I think a lot of people shrug that off and be like "OK, they don't really deserve it. I don't care if they have to figure out more paperwork. Let's make it hard for them.

That sometimes intentionally the goal of these to make sure that people don't access these. I don't think that clicks with people very well. I think when you do a better job of illustrating that and then like I said before, I think we need to put forward a more positive vision that people can buy into. I think that positive vision can be nuanced to try and meet legislators where they are and to pick up on the values that they do hold and connect them to the values of supporting all families.

PEGGY BAILEY:
Just to tie together using math and the administrative part. One thing we have seen work in states, a lot of our work around (unknown term) is at the state level because that's where policy largely gets made in the program. It's a blocker right now and the flexibilities are at the state level. We have seen improvements and more assistance directed to families and different ways to administer the work requirements by saying how expensive it is to the state government to administer the program if the burdens are too high.

That has actually been unfortunately, centering people is not always the argument that works. Centering the interests of the government itself is sometimes the way to at least be effective in the short term.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
There are a couple of questions that had come in in the chat. I encourage other Grassroots volunteers and attendees to use the raise hand function or if you're having trouble with that, go ahead and unmute. I want to go back to some of the questions that were in the chat and read them out loud.

The first one is can you talk about overlapping work requirements in Snap? One was in the 70s which was (unknown term) which is an acronym for a legislation that passed in 1996. Personal responsibility something, something packed. In the debt ceiling bill that passed this spring? Does anybody want to talk about that?

SPEAKER:
I can jump in. We do not do as much on nutrition assistance as other folks but I did happen to be writing a brief about the exceptions. SNAP has general work requirements which other folks on this call likely know more about but there are things that you cannot quit a job or you need to accept the job if you're offered it, things like that.

And then there are things like the work requirements created in 1996 for able-bodied adults without dependents. That is a misnomer, a lot of folks who might fall into that category could easily have disabilities or chronic health conditions that make it difficult for them to work because of caregiving sensibilities. They're not necessarily without children, their children just might not be were living with them.

Before the debt ceiling bill 18 to 49, now includes older folks as well over time. It's now 18 to 50 and then scales up to 18 to 54 eventually. For those age groups, they have additional work requirements actually working 80 hours. There are important exemptions to those work requirements and the new exemption in the debt ceiling bill is to be quite significant so there are exemptions for people who are homeless and that definition is quite broad.

There are exemptions for veterans and for former fosterees. We are going to be putting out a brief which I just mentioned, next week around the exemptions for former fosterees and how to better support them with Snap.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you. There is another question and we may have addressed part of this and I think this is more for if there's anything else you want to add. One of our volunteers asked how did the idea for requiring a certain income for assistance originate? Isn't that principle applied in other programs to? Does anyone have a specific answer to that? If not, that is OK we can circle back.

SPEAKER:
I will say that doing stuff through the tax code, unless it is a refundable credit, then that is effectively linked to income. People only benefit from the deduction or the tax credit if they have tax liability. And, most of our means tested programs were designed in the opposite way where it's as your income increases that support gets taken away which poses its own problems for folks especially when the income is taken away too quickly. They come up against benefit cliffs and can lose assistance before gaining economic stability.

PEGGY BAILEY:
There is also the issue within the tax code of whether something is a refund or credit. And so, sometimes these things, if something is a refund that means you are getting part of your tax dollars back that you paid through your check.

But, it stops when set zero. A credit you can get money even if your tax obligation is at zero. And so, that design of tax policy can also play into income level obviously, if you are playing last taxes then refunds don't work so well because you're not paying very much in taxes.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you.

PEGGY BAILEY:
I am not a tax expert (Laughs) I'm trying to explain as best as possible.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
I appreciate that Peggy. We have other folks with their hands raised. I will go to Lynn Catalano. Welcome Lynn. You are muted again.

SPEAKER:
Sorry, having trouble with the unmute function. I was a schoolteacher at title I schools for 32 years and what I often saw, I taught second grade mostly, young children. We often saw families that were struggling that had single head of household a retired person. We had a lot of situations where grandparents were raising sometimes two sets of grandkids.

They might have for various reasons, sometimes because the parents were incarcerated, sometimes because the only way that the parents could work was to live in Los Angeles County which was 100 miles away. They were not able to live where their kids were based. Sometimes the parents will be gone for a week or two at a time. Retired people as head of households, I don't understand how work requirements can fit into that for the child tax credit.

People who are on Social Security income but are on the sole support of kids and don't have access. It wasn't always only because of incarceration, sometimes it is because of death. I understand there are swaths of the country where the opioid crisis has caused that were often families are being headed by retired people who are doing the best they can but once they are on Social Security assistance or even retirement pensions, their access to some of the social services for their children they are trying to raise, is really limited. I would love if you could explain it because it does not make sense to me. Thanks.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Any takers? (Laughs)

SPEAKER:
I don't think it makes sense to a lot of people. In terms of grandparents raising their grandkids and accessing support, what I have heard on the (unknown term) side is that a lot of the cases, there are some cases where only the child gain support and not the adult. A lot of those are kids living with grandparents. On the CTC side, so under current law, grandparents can claim kids who are living with them.

They are eligible for the CTC if they have income that allows them to fall within the whatever, at least 2500. And then the phase-in. The issue I think that you are highlighting in particular, there has been some discussion about adding an actual work requirement to the CTC so not just an in quorum requirement, but adding a work requirement where they have to check a box saying they are working or my have to have W-2 income in order to get the CTC. That would be a huge problem for grandparents.

There certainly lots of grandparents just like there are lots of parents who are not getting the full child tax credit because their incomes are too low. Approximately 30% of kids are living in households where their incomes are too low so they cannot get the full child tax credit. The income phase in is harming everybody. It is harming grandparents as well. Something we need to work on.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you. I see that Leon Pease has his hand raised. Leon, go ahead.

SPEAKER:
I want to point out a couple of things on the tax, the tax refund, sorry about the background noise I am on Metro. The refund is the amount of money that you get paid back from treasury. The difference between the credits, the deduction is worth less than the credit. The tax credit is a dollar for dollar reduction in the amount that you pay. With respect to the refundable tax credit, that is the most valuable and in that case you do get the refund irrespective of what ever tax you might have paid.

That is called the refundable tax credit. A tax credit is a dollar for dollar reduction and the refund is the overall system. You get a tax refund if you have overpaid your tax and if not you don't get the refund. If that clears things up a little bit.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thanks Leon, that was very helpful. I think my colleague also posted a deep dive that we did previously on refundable versus nonrefundable tax credit. Again, we will have an email after today's webinar that will go out to all of you so you can check out some of the resources that have been cited. I know we only have 10 minutes left so please keep the questions coming, we will try to answer as many as we can. I want to go back to some of the things that we all had talked about.

How income and work requirements have not worked in the past, I am curious how this trend of economic justice advocates pushing for guaranteed income, cash assistance, mostly happening at the state and local level come into play? Is that something you think will be helpful to elevate NT up what some members of Congress and lawmakers or is it harmful? What is your take on that?

PEGGY BAILEY:
I can start. I definitely don't think it's harmful. I think these pilots around guaranteed basic income are helpful. What's happening around the country particularly with local government or philanthropic push is piloting projects that target some populations.

In Denver they are targeting folks who are experiencing homelessness and giving them a guaranteed income for some set of months. A year or two years. Sometimes these pilots are six months which is crazy short. And then trying to track how families do, what do they spend their money on.

In the vein of what Aaron was talking about before how lawmakers like math, they can sometimes be persuaded by evidence to. We all know that people who are poor are going to pay their rent, buy food and close, but again leaning into the paternalism and racism that is inherent, we have to prove that people actually spend their money on the things that they need.

That's what happening in these guaranteed basic income pilots around the world. I can put the Denver one in the chat. One of the other things that leads into the title today of who deserves to be poor, we have spent most of this time talking about children and families. We do not do enough for single people. In the homelessness system in particular, there are single adults or adults without kids who experience homelessness and have nowhere to get help. Especially if they are male.

That is a huge problem and something that these guaranteed basic income pilots are helping. I cannot think of one that targets just families with kids. Often times, they are targeting people at a certain income level or people across, experiencing homelessness regardless of whether they have children in the household. It is a huge step forward in income supports for people not just people with kids.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you Peggy. There is a comment in the chat and a question as well. It is sad for those families that are in between as well, they cannot receive any benefits but don't have enough to live comfortably and care for their families properly. What is the solution for them? Do you have any specific thoughts on that question?

I think there are a couple more questions in the chat but I want to make sure we leave time for my very last question. We will get to that first and then see if we have time to answer some of the other questions in the chat. Go ahead if you have any thoughts or comments or answers.

SPEAKER:
I will say that we have been doing over the last few years, working really quickly with some parents in California to participate in Cal works which is the TANF program in California.

They talk a lot about how the supports can keep them down because as soon as they start to feel some sense of responsibility it can get taken away. We have a really big problem in this country with deeply means tested programs. Programs that stop supporting families to early and that was why I think the expanded child tax credit in 2021 was so important. That big expansion went to families who were making $100,000 and only began phasing, decreasing after that point. It really did help families get some a measure of economic security before phasing away.

I think the tough thing here politically is that lawmakers are concerned about the cost of programs and I think the advocates including ourselves want to make sure that the programs are supporting people who need it the most.

Sometimes that combination can mean that those programs become heavily (indiscernible) and the phaseout of those programs is too fast. That is a huge issue that we need to foreground and keep pushing back on when we are in conversation where compromise needs to happen.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
We only have about four minutes left so I am going to go ahead and ask the question and if we have time at the end we can call on Roger who has his hand raised. If not we will answer in the chat and move along with our agenda. To get us close to closing out, what do you want volunteers to leave this very powerful and robust conversation that we just had, what does this have to do with our work in the long term? Any parting words (Laughs)?

I know it is a lot to unpack and we could easily spend the whole week not just three hours talking about this issue. Just a brief take away for our wonderful volunteers and grassroots constituents.

PEGGY BAILEY:
The thing that comes to mind is that what we are doing is possible. We learned during the pandemic and with pandemic relief dollars that if we actually invest in people we can reduce poverty and help people meet their basic needs. We help people for food and so in the past I think sometimes we thought the hill was too steep.

But now we should be energized by the fact that we know what works and we can actually make progress and we can actually make progress and we have the tools to do that. I think the other thing is, I will just leave it at that. I think we have the tools to do the work and make progress.

SPEAKER:
I think one of the big things that anytime I share my story with a member of Congress, it is brought in as if I am an anti-Sally case. Having evidence and statistics and math that they can't argue is a way of putting some oomph behind the story. The stories are authentic and they tell a true view of what it means but numbers, math and stats can't be argued.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you. ELisa?

SPEAKER:
We have spent a lot of time talking about work and income requirements and I think looking at the history and talking to families has really made it clear to us that those are policies we need to absolutely work to repeal. There is also more than one way that assistance is limited to families that is in need most. We also need to think about addressing eligibility requirements like discriminating against immigrant families.

I think for us what we have learned from work requirements is that there is a need to really push for benefits that don't have the strings attached, that gives families flexibility and recognize and treat them with dignity and respect. The way that the child tax credit did in 2021.

I think when you take a lesson from the basic income pilot, and use those lessons to advocate for the expansion of this program and also take some of the divine lessons and apply them to other programs that families need in times support like child's assistance, food assistance and more.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Thank you so much. We are at times so I just want to say thank you to Peggy Bailey, Elisa Minoff and to Aaron Carrillo. Now that you have the information from our wonderful panelist on work and income requirements, we are going to go ahead and take a 10 minute break. I'm sorry we are not able to answer everybody's questions but I hope that some of you who are sticking around can use you break to answer some of those questions are posed more questions.

We are happy to circle back with you. This is not the end all and be all in. This is not the last time you were here this issue being discussed so I encourage you to keep talking about it. If you have questions that go beyond today's session, I encourage you to reach out to me and to our staff, and to our wonderful speakers and panelists.

When we returned from break we will have talk training so you're not just hearing about this but you will actually be equipped to talk with members of Congress about our cornerstone policy which is the child tax credit. Enjoy your break. We will be back at 1:30 PM Eastern time.

(Break time)

KEISHA McVEY:
Hello everybody, I just want to welcome everybody back from break. Hopefully it give you a chance to take a drink, go to the bathroom, whatever needed to reset.

I just want to thank Michael and our panelists Peggy, Lisa and Erin for such an agreeable panel discussion on the difference in impact of work and income requirements. I see a lot of people fired up in the chat and dropping more great information and tips. So really enjoyed that discussion.

So what is next? What you do with this information you've learned? What do you do with this information you've learned? How you talk about work and income requirements with your legislators in an effective way? That's what Experts on Poverty Kazmyn Ramos is your to talk about. I am here to turn it right over to Kazmyn to move into our training portion.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Thank you Keisha.

Hey everybody! So excited to be here and talk to you about how to use an EPIC Laser Talk to get your point across for members of Congress and anyone else.

Just a quick introduction of who I am. As Keisha said I'm an expert on poverty with RESULTS. I was raised in Indianapolis Indiana endemic Shingly passionate about committee driven design and affordable housing innovation. If you want to talk about either of those things, I will light up and talk forever.

Next slide.

Just want to give you all a quick overview. I like to know what is going to happen before it happens. I might be a control freak, so if you are just like me, here is what's going to happen today (Laughs).

I'm going to talk to you about how to create an EPIC Laser Talk. I will go over what it is, how you create one comment I will presented for impact.

The last thing will do is have some time for you to drive your own Laser Talk, and then we'll have time for questions if you have any. Let's get started.

The first thing you probably want to know is what is Laser Talk? A Laser Talk is a short compelling speech that get the listeners attention. So when you are meeting with a member of Congress, the media, or even just your friends and family who you want to talk to about the policies that are important to you, you only have just a tiny matter of time to get the point across before they start thinking about something else. Especially in this day and age with social media and cell phones, often time I'm talking to my mom and she is scrolling on her phone.

EPIC Laser Talk will help you make the most of the time that you have, and as it says here on the slide you can use it anywhere, your lobby meetings, town halls, also when you're writing a letter to the editor.

Next slide.

So getting to the meat of this, how do you prepare an EPIC Laser Talk? Next slide.

I am really big on superheroes, I also have a middle Orian helmet in the back so I am also a Star Wars nerd.

I felt the best way to do this is to talk about superheroes that we all know.

We all know Spider-Man and we all know Batman. We know that Batman fights crime in his city of Gotham because his parents were murdered when he was a child and had a really profound impact on him. So he decided to use his money to fight crime.

Spider-Man is a bit different, he got bit by a spider so he you know, has superpowers obviously. He gained his powers, use those powers to protect others after his uncle Ben was murdered.

So all these things are personal to them, they don't fight just because. Bowman is not fighting just because he has powers, it's because someone else happened that brought into this work.

No need to think about you. -- Now we need to think about you. What are your strengths and passions, why do you volunteer with RESULTS?

I see David is distracting me with his facts about superheroes (Laughs). I'm like, I want to read that!

So, I volunteer personally because I grew up in poverty and spent my career working with folks who also experienced poverty. In learning poverty has different levels.

When I was a kid I thought, this is what poor is, then I started working with immigrants and other folks didn't have access to the resources I did. Then I realized now, poverty is entrenched and it looks different and manifests in different ways.

But really I volunteer because my family taught me about the importance of civic engagement. Serving our neighbors and speaking truth to power. So those are the things I'm really passionate about.

The same thing goes for you. I want you to think about that as we are doing this training. Are you passionate about? What you care about and why are you here?

Step two is you need to know your audience. It won't just be good to know why you are here, you have to know why they are here. Why they are a member of Congress, because hopefully they aren't doing it just for fun, they are there because they care about something.

First you need to know who your member of Congress is. Once you know they are, you need to know what are some details about them. It can be as easy as looking at their website, looking at the social media, social media is a really good one. They system is interesting -- say some interesting things. Sometimes a member of commerce will post their own LTE's, op-ed's and things like that. Hopefully it will help you understand where they're coming from, what they are passionate about, what their values are which is important for your work.

You also need to know that knowing all this information is not just natural. Illness is generally walking around with this knowledge. You have to research it, and looking for RESULTS does a lot of that work for you. If you go to the volunteer hub on the website, we will have links at the end to point you in the right direction. Those links will help you figure out who your member of Congress is and actually how they voted on issues you care about. Which is what is most important.

One of the things I know is I have one of my senators, he is super serious about fiscal responsibility, but he was a small business owner and a small -- and (Indiscernible). He believes in self-reliance and community. If I'm not tailoring my conversations with him to hit those values, then he is not really paying attention and they don't hit on what is important to him.

The other thing I wanted to say is although I am a black woman from Indianapolis, I still have things in common with my members of Congress even if they aren't black women. You have to figure out what those connectors are between you and your member of Congress. It could be on the issues, could be where they grew up or how they grew up. But you need to find those connections also to get your point across. So don't forget that. Next slide.

Know your message. So this one is really really easy. We are getting easier I think as we go. The self reflection might be the hardest part. Knowing the message is super easy because we have results at our fingertips.

The things you want to know are what is the issue you are passionate about? What are you trying to share with your member of Congress? Why is it important? And why should they care?

I think that sometimes we get really caught up in saying, this is the issue, you should characters because it's the issue. No, you have to sell it to them in some ways. It's kind of value are amazing advocates because you were talking about an issue you are passionate about. So how do we make them passionate about it? So keep that in mind.

Remember you don't have to be a policy expert to make an impact. Really lean into those resources you have at your disposal. Again, the RESULTS website is where I go to get all the information. Helps me to come into my meetings feeling confident, strong on the topic but also where if I don't know the answer I can go back to RESULTS website or even a staff member and get the information I need to follow-up with member of Congress.

We got it so far? Good? I feel like it's going well. If it's not put it in the chat and Keisha will help me.

Next is going through the epic format is really useful and really easy for you to remember when you are trying to craft your message.

E is for engaging the audience, we talked about your audiences. It could be different, but let's say it is your member of Congress.

P is for state the problem. You need to know why you are talking to them. What's the issue you care about? What you want them to know about?

I is for informal dissolution. I think before I started volunteering with results I was aware â€“ I wasn't aware that Members of Congress word just super knowledgeable about every topic that I am knowledgeable about or care about, so I assume, they know about how poverty looks like immunity. This is their community too. That's not sure. You need to be the person to inform them what the problem is, but also the solution. A lot of the time the best solutions come from people who were enduring those issues. So keep that in mind, you're the expert.

C is call to action, that is what you want them to do. Make sure you don't leave the conversation without telling them what you want them to do, or you have wasted your time crafting your awesome message without getting some action behind it.

Next slide.

We are going to go through something we have been talking about for a little while now, and that is the Child Tax Credit. And we will use each, PPSC format to give you an example what it will look like.

As we said, E is for engage. Don't forget.

What factor personal statement will grab your member of converses attention? This might depend on who they are and what their background is and what their values are. Keep that in mind.

One except this just saying the recently released Census Bureau data show the poverty rate in 2022 was 12.4%, and that is an increase of 4.6% from 2021. This is the first increase in the overall poverty rate since 2010. So that grabs my attention. Why? What's going on? Why is poverty up? Next slide.

P, again we want to talk abut the problem. Engaged the member of Congress with, these are big numbers, this is kind of strange. Tell me what is going on.

The problem is under current income requirements 19 million children live in homes that do not receive the full benefit of the Child Tax Credit or CTC. 17 million of these children have parents with jobs, and they disproportionally come from rural areas.

So we are saying, his kids are living in homes that don't meet the benefit of the Child Tax Credit, but the parents are working. I love what our panelists just said about you don't really need to harp on work, because people deserve to live and people deserve to be fed and have a roof over their heads. To me those are basic needs.

This is just an example if you want to focus on another aspect of it that will be useful. But if you have a member of Congress was really into work, you might talk about how these already working.

Next one is informed, again you are the expert. Tell them what the policy solution is. One example for this one is when the CDC is paid monthly, and it reaches more families, especially those earning the lowest incomes, it helps provide economic stability.

You can talk about this from what you have seen, your own experience, that is probably the best bet. If you have an expense with receiving a Child Tax Credit, I could even talk about just receiving a monthly payment in general. What would they do for my life if I knew every month I was going to have $500 for example? I would be able to budget, I would be able to plan differently. I would be able to take more advantage of opportunities.

Just, get paid, but make sure you let them know why. Why you're talking about and what the solution is. If you don't give them the solution they will ask you what are you going to do about it? Or what you want me to do about it?

The next one is called to action. This is very get down to it. You explain it, tells of the problem, inform them of the solution, now you ask them what you want them to do specifically. Because let's be honest, I can't just ask my Senator, "Hey, go ahead and Expanded Child Tax Credit right now.--:

That's not how it works. It will take some steps before that, we wanted to make sure we are letting them know we understand that, we understand their jobs in the work that goes into it. But be very specific about what you want them to do because that means U follow-up on that specific ask.

One example here is when you speak to your colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee or the Senate Finance Committee, about its meaning the CTC so that more working families with low income receive the full benefit?

Very clear, very straight to the point. They might ask a few questions but they shouldn't because this is exactly what you want them to do. It shouldn't be difficult. It makes it easy for you to follow up later.

Why ask you to do this thing. How is it going with that? What kind of conversations have you had with those committees? Is there somewhere we can support as well?

So cool, next slide.

This is just the whole thing, I'm not going to read the whole thing. You can definitely do that.

As you can see it's not long. It is only going to take you a few minutes to share all this information with your member of Congress or whoever you're talking to about it. Then it also opens up the door for them to ask more questions.

Something I tend to do because I love faxing the live data. I just keep going and going, and my husband is like, "You lost me ages ago. I don't know what we're talking about right now." With the EPIC format we want to keep them talking more and open up the conversation so you can have dialogue and a back-and-forth about what the issue is and why it is important. Which I think is the best way to make change.

Next slide.

So we made it, we did it!

I want to just have some time before we get into our breakout rooms to see if anyone had any questions about the EPIC format. If you had any specific wishes about the CTC and maybe comments you received from your member of Congress? Maybe talk to how to maneuver those for your EPIC Laser Talk.

My friend David is here and he is the expert on that. So you can maybe ask them questions.

Feel free to unmute or put in the chat.

OK, no questions? Alright!

I run meetings at work and I usually talk so fast that I don't sleep enough. Here we go! We have a question.

Are most legislators familiar with the CDC? I'll answer for my perspective and David or another RESULTS staff member can definitely chime in.

I would say yes, especially since it is a really really big talking point right now.

When samples that we talked about the CTC without senator who is now actually going to run for governor. When we asked him about it he was like, will everybody loves children. Who's going to argue with you about that? We were like, oh no, this isn't going to angle B wanted to go.

He said you should talk to your state government because the federal government shouldn't be doing the Child Tax Credit, your state can do that.

Instead of... He knew it was a topic, but he Artie had a ready-made solution that precluded him from taking action. That give you an example of how well they know. They know about the issue in general because it's a topic, but I think the specifics of what it looks like on the ground for people who need the Child Tax Credit for people who are not getting the Child Tax Credit. That is the area where I would say you're the expert.

Anybody else want to share anything about that? David? Unless you are ready did in the chat.

Yeah! Karen I'm interested too. I love to learn about folks... Can someone unmute David?

I do want to hear about what some folks say they have heard or expressed when they try to discuss the Child Tax Credit, because I shared mine. But I'm solely interested in places. Go ahead David.

SPEAKER:
Can you hear me?

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Yes.

SPEAKER:
In regard to that question, and Kazmyn I think you're right. Every member of Congress has at least heard of the Child Tax Credit and are familiar with it. Where there is a really big education Is in terms of exactly how credit works and who gets it into his left behind.

This is a big part of the reason why we have this conversation today about work requirements. What we found is that a lot of members have the sense that if you're working then you're receiving the credit. And that the sort of whole debate in Congress is whether or not to give the credit to families who don't have income, when the reality is and like the Laser Talk Kazmyn showed, â€“ mentions is there a 19 million kids who receive the full credit. Out of those 90 million, 70 million come from families who do have some kind of income from the formal labor market.

So that is something we are really wanting to educate members on. Let them know, and I put this in the chat earlier.

You can be working full-time in a job making even 12, 13, 14, $15 an hour. Depending on how many kids you have, still not be receiving the full benefit.

So that's something that's taken a lot of members of Congress by surprise. And has sort of moved so members who really were quite resistant to making any changes to the credit to saying that doesn't seem right. Why should a family making $25,000 a year not get the full credit will a family making $400,000 a year does get the full credit.

Even that piece, families making $400,000 a year, get the full credit is also something a lot of members are fully aware of.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I would also ask if you can follow up on this one. Here's a good question from Leon I think relates about how this might â€“ how the loss of speaker McCarthy might impact that look on the CDC, because I think you're kind of leading in that direction.

SPEAKER:
Sure. The negotiations on the Child Tax Credit are primary happening behind the scenes between the finance committee chairs and the Ways and Means Committee chairs.

So they are working on kind of a separate track. So hopefully they can come to some kind of agreement on the tax package that includes a big expansion of the CTC.

The way the speaker situation is affecting that is any deal that is reached would need some other piece of legislation to be attached to.

What I mean by that is essentially a government funding bill. The longer that we are without a speaker, the house just as unable to bring forth any kind of legislation to fund the government. So without one of those government funding bills being available to put a piece of tax legislation onto, then even if the two committees were able to come to an agreement and right a piece of tax legislation, it wouldn't be able to pass without some other type of funding agreement.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Is a good comment or question from Peter that is about tying the CDC and with homelessness. And I was just trying to respond, but I can say it out loud too because I'm really passionate about housing work. So this kind of connects for me.

I would say one of the things people forget is that the reason why a lot of people suffer from evictions or homelessness is because of a sudden loss of income. Not just random. Maybe I am living paycheck to paycheck, and then one day I lose my job, I get less hours or something like that, now I can't pay my rent. Expanding the CTC, and even making it in a way that families are able to have that income every month, they don't have to worry about how they will cover the rent if their hours fluctuate or change.

Also, if you have children. Your child falls and hurts themselves in a have to go to the doctor go to work. All these things, he said an emergency can cause homelessness. So we need to think about the CTC as homelessness prevention in some ways, but also as a way to stabilize families in this economy, because most people aren't stable, even the folks make what we would consider a lot of money.

A lot of the (Unknown Term) team, supercool. Go for if you have a question. -- The (Unknown Term) team, go for it if you have a question.

SPEAKER:
This is Craig Ross saving, earlier this year we had a meeting with Senator McCormick's to talk about CTC. I took point on that. Earlier he had said he didn't want the CTC expanded because he thought it was disincentive to work.

So the example, I started by saying we are not asking for the CTC to be commended to the full income levels it had before it expired, but we are asking for the income requirements to be waived. In the example I gave was of a single mom making $20,000 a year, had a couple of kids, but didn't get the full credit. But she was participating in the workforce which he think he was concerned about. She was working as much as she could, but based on the income she got from her work, and working full-time because of the children, she was doing what she could.

He said something that amazed me. When I presented the whole thing he said I think this is something we can work with. I almost fell out of my chair. That was what I thought a powerful solution especially considering he is out of the Senate Finance Committee.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I am sure David is excited to hear that. That's really cool and shocking (Laughs).

I do think tying it back to the fact that most people work, and even getting into the details supported, because people who have a stable, 9-to-5 job don't realize that some people are working two and three jobs just to add up to that 40 hours because they do the gig economy, or work at a grocery store in addition to that. They don't get to control how their hours are given to them.

So income alone is not the way to say is someone working.

Also we talked about, David and I had a conversation about this a few weeks ago about the informal economy. So having your own business, but it's really small and doesn't really do anything.

One of the participant in our cash program has a couple of vending machines, so that his income, is a vending machine. But that's not enough to live. He doesn't have that many vending machines, maybe like 100. He would need more than that to live. That means he still needs benefits, he still needs a Child Tax Credit if he has children.

I would like to ask more members of Congress, could you say more about work? What kind of work? If that's the case we are penalizing, I think even Peggy said this earlier.

We are penalizing the work we call essential when it is time to support them, but when we need her support then it's, that's OK, please go outside and deliver my DoorDash because I needed.

I'm sorry, I might have missed another question but love that forward thinking, that's awesome.

SPEAKER:
I think you got all the questions, the only other one was when David already answered in the chat.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I appreciate that! Results team, making it easy for me.

Your other resources!

I mentioned a few resources earlier, I'm sorry if I talked fast, I will talk slower.

These are all the things you can use to help you craft your Laser Talk, and we are going to do some practice in a minute.

I just want to say when you craft your talk, it's not ever going to be perfect. As you tell your story and add all the information that you want, you're going to tweak it from the member -- for the member of Congress based on their values, but you also tweak it based on when you get new information or data.

When we receive that date on the senses, on the poverty rate, I was like wow! That's a huge hook and it is big news right now because now we know for a fact poverty is a policy choice. We Artie knew that but now we really know that, the data shows that. How can I change my Laser Talk to include that information to make a more powerful?

Next slide. Wait, someone said something else. Oh, I see it here.

The next thing were going to do is to get out, get out, get into some breakout rooms and we are going to practice. Please, I will preface this with do not feel like hurried, rushed or freaked out. I don't expect you to come out of this breakout room with a snappy EPIC Laser Talk unless you have one, and if so I would love for you to share with all of us (Laughs). But it's not going to be enough time for that.

Just want you to get the feel of how you will drafted, the kind of information you think would be valuable to add.

Most importantly really want you to think about yourself and why you volunteer and why this issue is important to you. Placing it outside yourself, sometimes you can do that. But it's a lot more powerful than you can connected to what you see, what you heard what you experienced directly.

(Breakout Rooms)

KEISHA McVEY:
If you have not yet been placed in a breakout room yet, just bear with us.

Alright, everyone should have been invited to join a breakout room. I know some of you might be hanging out here just take a break or work on your own, but if you have issues joining a break room don't be afraid to let us now, and we can try to figure out why it's not working.

KARYNE BURY:
I'm not sure if there are folks in the main room that wanted to be assigned?

Feel free to unmute and let us know.

KEISHA McVEY:
Great job Kazmyn.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Thank you.

I just messed with the breakout rooms so Jean wasn't in a room by himself will stop I apologize.

SPEAKER:
I was trying to check on that.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I had never done it before so I was trying to check the view, and its overwhelming (Laughs).

SPEAKER:
It can be tricky sometimes, especially if people come in and out. When he set them up it only includes whoever was already in the zoom at the time. It doesn't automatically add the people who came after the war started. So it can be a little bit of a pain sometimes.

SPEAKER:
On try to figure out what beside empty rooms, because I did the math right before the training.

SPEAKER:
Zoom technology is fun (Laughs).

SPEAKER:
Can we do work in this room with the folk still on if they have questions?

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I love that, I love a good conversation. These must be the expert already.

SPEAKER:
They don't need to be working on this.

I can always make my EPIC better.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
True.

KARYNE BURY:
So there are only 15 minutes in the breakouts, so getting to the halfway point of thing.

Does anybody want to unmute in this room and share? If they have any questions or how they approached their EPIC?

Dolores, can I unmute you.

SPEAKER:
I was assigned a room you know, and I tried to get in there and I â€“ nothing happened.

KARYNE BURY:
Let me see if I can...

KEISHA McVEY:
Assume can be difficult sometimes.

(Laughter)

KARYNE BURY:
I have you in room 17 with Claudia and Nancy, I don't know what happened. And I will move you to another room OK? Is that alright?

SPEAKER:
Thank you so much.

KARYNE BURY:
You're welcome.

There she goes.

KEISHA McVEY:
Zoom is tricky. When there's a lot of people, like almost 100 people, like there are this call. It can be extra angry.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
How many do we usually have on National Webinar?

KARYNE BURY:
Somewhere between 120-150. Depends. On the season (Laughs). Seasonal.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I think a lot of people are here for such a long way.

KARYNE BURY:
I think so too, appreciate you being here for the three hour.

KEISHA McVEY:
The content has been great though. The panelists were amazing.

And you did such a good job Kazmyn. Your training, it was super clear and concise.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Thank you.

I was trying to speak, they make fun of me all the time because I tell the worker his meetings so the meeting will go very fast and here we go!

(Laughter)

Here's the agenda, go go go! They are like, OK, any questions? It on pause. I try to be conscious of that. Try to make it fun. --

KARYNE BURY:
It was definitely fun. Anything superheroes, marble, it got my attention.

KEISHA McVEY:
That was the perfect way to start.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I lure them in with something exciting.

We do, every week I host our meeting for one of our cash programs, and we do a matcha every week. I try to make everyone bring their own mantra, and that's always really hilarious. Like go around all week and try to hear, I am just observing mantras to bring back.

What my friends grew up in North Carolina, and she said her mom used to say, "It doesn't matter how the chicken dances, the crow is still going to eat." And I was like, I have no idea what this means. We used to say it back to her jokingly. One day she was like, what are you guys even saying? I don't know what you are talking about. And they are like, "You say the same all the time." she's like, I've never even heard this before.

Flavour modules, I don't know. Funny one.

And really silly apparently, more silly than I have here.

[Breakout Rooms]

KARYNE BURY:
I don't know if folks are unable to meet themselves.

KEISHA McVEY:
I think it's the child. The meeting issue. -- Mute issue.

KARYNE BURY:
But see, we have to fix something?

KAZMYN RAMOS:
No one said anything else in the chat.

KARYNE BURY:
Allow participants to unmute themselves.

KEISHA McVEY:
We turned it off during the panel. Because of the feedback.

KARYNE BURY:
Sorry if you couldn't unmute yourselves, now you should be able to if you have any questions. Or you can use the chat. If anyone else has questions in this main room.

I see someone is still connecting to audio.

MICHAEL SANTOS:
Just the complaint I wasn't able to unmute.

KARYNE BURY:
I'm going to mute you now Michael.

KEISHA McVEY:
I'm sorry Michael!

(Laughter)

MICHAEL SANTOS:
It's OK. I'm driving full topic

KARYNE BURY:
Drive safely!

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I am coming to DC next week, who is in DC?

MICHAEL SANTOS:
I should be there next week. Wait, 21st? I won't be here.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I will be there 18, 19. 18, 19, 20.

SPEAKER:
You are just missing me Kazmyn, I will be there right after.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
My mentor has a conference at the joint Center. They are doing the future of Black communities. And she gave me a free ticket to was like, I will go! Now I'm going.

Dang it, I was like, going to see everybody.

KEISHA McVEY:
Three more seconds than everyone should get pulled.

SPEAKER:
Kazmyn, if you can figure a way to stick a little longer, a meeting with (Indiscernible) and Mike Young on the 25th.

You know they want to meet with you, they miss you. "I miss Kazmyn, I wish you become to another huddle."

KAZMYN RAMOS:
(Indiscernible) in DC, and he is talking, I'm just looking at him like, what? My friend is like, Kazmyn you look so serious when looking at him. I had no idea what he was saying.

KEISHA McVEY:
Alright, rooms are about to close.

KARYNE BURY:
Some folks might be coming on. Remind me to resume the recording. Once everyone is back on.

KEISHA McVEY:
Alright. Hello, welcome back everybody. We have to wait 30 more seconds for everyone to be pulled back.

Apologies for anyone that got added to breakout rooms later. Zoom sometimes is angry. You all know how technology can be (Laughs).

[Recording in progress]

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Hey everybody! Thank you for coming back and taking time in your breakouts to requisite fellow advocates to come up with your first draft of your EPIC Laser Talk.

We want to have an opportunity for anyone feeling super brave and curious to ask any questions, or even take it to the next level and share your EPIC Laser Talk with the rest of us, because it's always really good to hear other people's talks. Because then you could steal someone's stuff you like. It also helps you hold the argument better. Because people are going to hit on the issue and a little bit of a different way than you. Especially depending on where they are from.

Just want to leave it open right now. Questions, comments? Laser Talk presentations? You can also write in the chat. There we go.

KARYNE BURY:
We have a question from Sasha and [Name], and I think you should be able to enrich yourselves.

SPEAKER:
It wasn't a question, what is to be wild and crazy talk a little about what we talked about in our group.

In our group I thought it was a holistic look at dealing with the representatives to kind of get into a space.

We dealt with education, policy effectiveness and data, and what does it mean to the CTC. Hold on one second, I want to get her name right, forgive me. And I love being in grips with her, she is so awesome.

I don't see her, please say her name for me! The person we were in the group with just now with Eve.

SPEAKER:
Lynn.

SPEAKER:
Lynn! There we go. I was thinking Elaine instead of Lynn. No, I have to say it right, -- I love being in a group with her. We have great fun doing this was RESULTS.

Lynne wanted to make sure we touched on entry level as far as bringing them into the specific cause and reason of coming in and ending it on that note too, which was in my talking about education and the effectiveness the CTC supplies to the children because an electrode, with the 32 years of education that she has worked with â€“ with young students, that not all the students are coming in on the same level. Not all the students are coming from the same space. And they should be afforded the ability to have that safe space to be effective in learning and becoming an element into the environment, into the community. But we can't do that with them not having the proper education or having the fairness to have access to that. And that means supporting the parents financially to get that done. That's where CTC can be a great space to provide that equality to address children, because that's what the CTC is for. For children.

Also, I was looking at, and this is, if you can imagine. This is from when you are talking, you are bringing in the representative to warm them up and start up without comment also ending on that note to be a part of signing and making that your reason to spread it amongst your colleagues to make it effective even further.

Doctor Aaron who fortune isn't here, I'm sure he would be if he could. We always have this conversation about policy being effective. And we always say, "Policies are great, but the thing is policies can ever get to the local level properly. And when they do get to the local level, they are missing the point. They are missing why it was effective or how it was (Indiscernible) and how to continue that storyline will continue that work. Limited obviously when they make the changes back. Back to the CTC. They miss it."

So we have to talk about that aspect of saying, if we are making these policies we are just signing papers, we're talking about efficiency, talking about applicable parameters that make it much more effective for the community that you are affecting.

So I think that's an important part to talk about when talking about the CTC. Showing that. Have more confidence in your community, because the community is using that money for education. The community is using that money for home and healthy for their children. They are using that money for food and are being affected. They know how to spend this money. They are not going to a U2 concert or BeyoncÃ© concert. They aren't going wild. They know they have a responsibility for these children, help them help themselves. It's a hand up not a handout, right?

So that will speak to both Democrats and Republicans in being more involved in making sure the parameters are inclusive to those that really need it versus just having a policy hanging in the air and not being effective. Now we are talking about from there, Keith was talking about the data. I am a big thing about data, data is definitely what tells you what works and what changes could be done. The changes that was done showed you what doesn't work. Because the poverty level went back up again. Immediately! Just when they changed the efficiency of the CTC.

So with that fact, we want to look at those things, those results of making those changes which means obviously in some form or fashion, Keith was talking about the sensor information to look at the population and what is going on during that time. So now they've raised it. Until they saw, they change the CTC but didn't see the results of that, which means there are less programs for children, education was lowered, as far as being able to make it an equal space and opportunity for everyone. You know crime have to go up will stop malnutrition and health issues had to go up. All these things resulting in those changes of efficiency or policy to be implemented for community created those results.

Let's put the money where it's worth it so we don't end up spending more money on the results of failing to put the money where we were supposed to be (?) -- put the money where it's supposed to be done.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I appreciate all your comments, they are very well received.

I think that one of the most powerful things we can remember is I think you said it earlier.

People know what to do although -- people know what to do about their own money, some of that is about dignity and respect, and in some cases our government cares about dignity and respect. Government does need to be in your business. Smaller government. That is a constant refrain. When it comes to people at the individual level making choices for themselves and their families, then we put in work requirements. We put in administrative burdens. We put in all these different hopes that make it more difficult for them to make their own choices.

So I think if your member of Congress is really focused on that, I think that's a really good angleto play. -- Angleto play. Do you trust the people in your district? You trust the people in your community that you serve. Given the opportunity and dignity to make their own choices.

Also think about cash, working the cash space, cash and guaranteed income.. What say in terms of demonstration, making people jump through more hoops means there is more stuff that has to look at all those different things you're making them do.

For us I'm like, are you at this level? Do you make 250% less in the federal poverty level? Give me your SNAP document and now you are approved. And we run... Our organization has not that many people and we serve a lot of people.

The less burden on the individual Phyllis burden on the administrative. And I think that's a conversation we need to have more often but we also need more research on that. Just wanted to apply that as well.

I wanted to give an opportunity for other questions too. Not seeing any yet. Or if anyone wants to unmute as well, raise your hand, you can meet and tells more about what you learned in your broken ribs -- what you learned in your groups. Sound like they were amazing for go for it Randy.

SPEAKER:
Hi, we talked about how his book was Senator Mark Winter in the spring what the Child Tax Credit on an ARP hosted telephone town hall. I mentioned the statistics on grant family in Virginia was truth or anything this might benefit from the Child Tax Credit. You think you suppress when the Child Tax Credit ended. The phone didn't ring off the hook from people complaining the Child Tax Credit ended.

We talked about how frustrating that was because he knows what the problem is. The people that were most affected don't have the time to call sincerely.

I wish I had had a better response in the moment, but I'm not sure what my response should have been.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I would love for other hosts to chime in on this too.

The thing that kinda strikes me there is what you Artie mentioned Randy. Is that the time, it costs time to be poor. It's expensive to be poor already with money, it also cost you time. The time you're taking going back to the ministry to producers to get the social safety net, that's time. The time it takes to be cynically engaged. So we know that when people in areas where eviction rates are high, voting is lower. Civic engagement is lower. And we know you get evicted because you don't have any money.

We know where an employment is high. All these things, all these other factors that go into this means that people aren't able to engage the members of Congress. And some members of Congress are aware of that. And that's a reason why they are to really worry about the poorest in the community sometimes because they don't have the time, space and bandwidth to question them on this.

That's why results mac advocates are so important. You're taking their time, carving out the time to tell stories of folks who may not be present to tell them, but that doesn't mean they are valuable.

I think I would even focus on that. Here, we were in DC we talked to Todd Young about this. We are all volunteers. We are because this is something we are passionate about because some of us face it, but because we know it's an issue that needs to be addressed.

That kind of puts them on â€“ not on notice because that sounds a little aggressive. But let's say I noticed (Laughs). Our people on here that are going to be holding you accountable, we're going to take time out of their lives to hold you accountable so you should answer to them.

Yes, you have another question or comment?

SPEAKER:
No, thank you. I was just agreeing with you.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Cool.

Sasha, did you want to say anything?

SPEAKER:
One last thing, Randy reminded me. We had a great meeting, and forgive me, I don't remember the name representatives, I don't remember his name. But it was a great meeting we had with Doctor Aaron Prince and several other Representative Smith from results. Hi JoAnna!

The thing is he was a Republican, I always promote I'm nonpartisan in the sense that I want people to do this work effectively no matter what side you are in. I want you to work together across the board to get the CTC going.

So we thought we were going to have this big old to do to say, is not quite a sport and we have to convince them. He's like, no I'm signing that. CTC? The children? OK.

We were like, OK, not only was that awesome to hear, but the fact that he showed up. He didn't send a representative. He showed up himself and said yes, I am going to sign that CTC. I understand the aspect of what you are saying to bring it back to what is more effective for inclusion for the families to be a part of it. But also, one of the big big pieces, and the question we ask them after. He said, I am going to work to get more colleagues to sign off too.

We were like, OK, now you are talking! Now you are saying something. You are going to get other Republicans that you work with to also sign on with you and inform them that you are doing this, come join me. And that was breathtaking for me.

We asked, who said how can we be more effective to help you help your colleagues get on? To get on to the point of getting this?

He said you are doing it, RESULTS is doing it, you are coming together, organize your thoughts, making sure the community knows, but also, mention me. Say that he is signing on. I'm sure he reached out to you. If you didn't, reach out to him, because he would love to have a conversation with you concerning getting this signature.

So that was a great experience, and I am so bad as remember his name, I feel so bad because I would love to encourage more of that. To tell you who he is. I will be sure to look it up because I have it in my email.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
I want to mention, thank you so much again for stuff you are sharing some fire today, we appreciate it.

I want to share what Peggy said in the chat which is typical. And I grew up in North Carolina so really interested if any RESULTS staff especially have comments on this.

Thinking about how to talk about race, especially in places where you feel like race will shut down your number of Congress. That's just a sticky thing in general.

I personally feel like I should still mention it because, I'm a black woman, the person is political, I can't pretend those things don't impact me.

But it think it is important to think about asking those questions which you mentioned. Why is that in areas that shut you down? How about we talk about the oppressive reserve requirements and all the scout of things. Because you knowing that information about your member of Congress will help you in the future when you are trying to lobby.

I would say be curious and don't be afraid of that resistance.

Do we have any last comments or questions because we are almost done! You all did a great job. And this chat is just so amazing.

SPEAKER:
Can you hear me?

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Yes.

SPEAKER:
Wanted to say in our group, I think one of the key thoughts that we ended up with is that we should be pushing for the Child Tax Credit, but we should be also reposting that it be redone a bit so that the people at the lower income of all get more money than people at higher income. Just the way it is structured now, the more you make, the more you can get in Child Tax Credit. And that seems backwards. If it was turned around so the more you made, the less you get, you would actually save money in the program and you would focus it more to the people who really need it and are down in the poverty level.

KAZMYN RAMOS:
Yes, that's it, that makes a lot of sense.

I think, not a play devil's advocate. A lot of the covers and will be about the middle class, you try to cut the middle class and etc., etc. You ready for the comments, and working for your group can hone the next steps when you try to share that with your member of Congress.

Alright, y'all did an amazing job. I appreciate your time, your attention, your willingness to share your own experiences. And this was so fun, I hope I get to do it again.

I am going to turn it over to JoAnna to close out the webinar. Thanks everybody.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Thanks Kazmyn and hello everyone.

I am Joanna DiStefano, Senior Associate on the Grassroots impact team. I'm joining the call today from Morgantown West Virginia.

At the outset of this webinar, which has absolutely been incredible expense for me, learning together with everyone today. I am thinking a lot about the theme, who deserves to be poor? Of course the answer to that question is simple, no one deserves to be poor. No one deserves to go hungry, no one deserves not to have a roof over their head, no one deserves to have to go with out medications or doctor visits. No one deserves to live without dignity.

Yes, the very existence of work and income requirement implies this is in fact the case. And that the world is divided into those worthy and unworthy of having their basic needs met.

And not only that, but as a practical smack impractical as it seems there are those that think it is still impossible to separate those really were the folks from the really unworthy ones.

Know whether they are well-intentioned or not, working income requirements are misinformed and do real harm we know enough from history, current data analysis, toys from friends and neighbors, and are all lived experiences that work ended him requirements are ineffective, unmanageable, and ultimately futile. They are a failure and have no place in antipoverty legislation. We have to make sure the become a thing of the past.

This only happens when we are prepared to use the knowledge and skills we built to effectively engage with their members of Congress and driving our message with persistence. So let's bring this all together now.

Oppression leads and sustained poverty. If we are truly ready to commit to confronting the oppression of work and income requirements, that means we are also committed to building awareness and addressing this information in a nonthreatening way. So that it is not only are words that demonstrate our values but our actions as well.

We have the knowledge, we have the skills, the question for each one of us now is how will I use what I have learned today?

No doubt you have a few ideas already, but just take that in for a moment. Advocacy action can take many forms. I'm sure there are plenty of folks on the call whoever be delivered in EPIC Laser Talk to a congressional staff or even their members of Congress.

I look across the zoom room today I see the names and faces of folks who have authored some really incredible published media. But whether you are a practiced hand or just getting into this work, we'll have a lot to say. Where, when, and how will we say it now.

Before we part ways and close this webinar want to take a few minutes to talk about what we can and will do with the information we have learned today.

So EPIC is the backbone of our advocacy work, and Kazmyn's excellent Laser Talk training give us every thing we need to speak powerfully about the Child Tax Credit. Whether that's to a neighbor down the street or member of Congress.

This is a great tool for engaging the committee in one-on-one and small group conversations. It gives us meaningful and memorable way to respond to some of the most common arguments in favor of work and income requirements.

So when we hear things like people in need of assistance should be incentivized to work, or that this encourages long-term self sufficiency and independence, or that work and income requirements are smart and efficient use of taxpayer dollars, we can meet those myths with facts under Annabella of shared values.

Make no mistake, these are just a spackling of what is out there, and we will be hearing more and more of these ideas in the coming weeks and months, especially from our lawmakers and in our local media outlets. We should be prepared to capture this rhetoric not just in conversation but with our own opinion media as well.

As Kazmyn pointed out, EPIC is also a frame work for written media. This is where Build the Buy-in Campaign resources can help you raise your voice.

As a reminder, Build the Buy-in Campaign is our strong media push that will run through the end of the year. We have set an ambitious goal to seek 250 pieces of published media at least with at least one publication per state, and one publication by each group and free agent. We're looking to see folks admitting pieces regularly, and to maintain that consistency through December.

Jos Linn updated some of our statistics on the campaign and am happy to share that with you today.

Since and timber first there have been 70 pieces of published media by RESULTS volunteers in 27 states, by 26 results groups. And this is just amazing.

We have made remarkable progress on just because of the efforts of individuals to get their own publications, but also things and really strong support from regional coordinators, group leaders, and fellow advocates who have been scouting out promising hooks, serving as informal proofreaders and editors, even meeting one-on-one with volunteers to draft those letters to the editor together. Great work everyone.

Taking a look at the map now we passed the halfway mark to a 50 state goal. While we continue to get closer there are a good many states now where we're still looking for media heads.

Those include Maine, connotative, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, north Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Michigan, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Nebraska, South Dakota, Tanner, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska.

If you're on the ground in any of these areas, keep at it. Publications come with persistence. And if you're not there, maybe you have connections in one of these places, or maybe you have a good hook to share with volunteers there. Though ahead and give it a try.

We have a number of resources to support you. There is the build the buy-in link here at the top with the action alerts for media and the volunteers help. You can check out those working with the media tools as well as have a look at what others have Artie published in the Grassroots Media package.

Lastly when you do get published, let us know about it and keep using the media report link.

So at the beginning of this section of the woman I ask you a pretty open-ended question and want to close things out with a nod to the same question, because it is one that is going to help prompt our action now and in the future.

Anti-oppression work is all about how we interpret and our response ability to act, and when we choose to show up. This is more than the organizational statement we have acknowledged so many times, it is all the things that get us closer to the goals of achieving equity and ending poverty.

One action itself won't drive the point home. For change to happen we have to show up again and again, and that can be tough. While advocacy winds are amazing, the truth is there are a whole lot of unanswered force calls, you must was no response, unpublished media, and outright nose leading up to every yes.

Often times it is not a yes that is the when, someone moving just slightly from an extreme position. It might not feel like a win, or get the same kind of glory, but it is movement up the scale nonetheless.

It's not just action we have to sustain, but our learning as well. We remain open to new perspectives to training and enrichment, and continually acknowledge our privilege and biases in order to keep growing closer to our collective goals.

This is lifelong, and challenges us at every turn and at the deepest and most profoundly personal ways.

I leave you with this question again. How will I use what I have learned today? And tomorrow, next week, next month, next year?

Are solid information in epic, more than equal to the task of antiabortion work for the subject say we are here for it but show that too again and again.

That's all for me today, please take care of yourselves, look out for each other and let us know how we on staff can help support you.

I will pass things now to my colleague Lakeisha.

KEISHA McVEY:
Thank you so much JoAnna. Before we say goodbye we wanted to share 2 quick announcements with the wall, and the first of those is about our Experts on Poverty program.

So the Experts on Poverty are a powerful cohort of eight individuals right now with lived from across the nation. And becoming a member of the cohort is a unique opportunity for those with current or past experience living in poverty in the United States. (Indiscernible) platform to share your personal expenses and inside with antipoverty leaders and organizations across the nation.

As a person with lived experience of food insecurity and homelessness myself, I am deeply aware of the mental, physical and emotional toll poverty can take on a person. That was mentioned today on our panel.

& How the trauma or ghost of poverty as some of our other Experts on Poverty like to refer to it, follows you. Follows your entire life human when you have managed to escape poverty.

Noah teaches folks in poverty as we are growing up how to advocate for ourselves and the value of our experiences. Growing up I had no idea I could meet with my legislators or how to do that, where to start and how to advocate for my family.

Too many decision-makers and organizational leaders are too far removed from the reality of living in poverty in the United States and the world. As an antipoverty organization, it is our response ability to ensure we center people with lived experience of this work beyond elevating them in the media or with legislators. It goes beyond advocacy efforts. It really means consulting them on the policies we choose to prioritize and advocate for in the way our organization runs.

Seeing them is more the people who can tell a story, because being storytellers just one part of who they are, and the many skill sets that they hold.

So this program is designed to not only empower those with live experience, but to provide them with the tools and skill sets to become powerful speakers, so the -- facilitators, trainers like Kazmyn running our training today. Through direct coaching and support from me. But I don't want you to just take my word for me. I wanted to take a minute to share this short video so you can hear from some of our Experts on Poverty themselves.

(Captioned video plays)

KEISHA McVEY:
Let me bring it back to our PowerPoint.

I am very, always so proud of all the experts on poverty.

But yes, the applications are now open for four new experts to join our cohort. Will check and see Experts on Poverty page that I know was already dropped in the chat to view the application guide that walks through the benefits, the expectations, requirements of the program.

The deadline to apply is November 30. So there will be an information session in October and November you can register for to learn about the program or ask any questions you have. But please, never hesitate to reach out to me directly for questions. My email will be dropped in the chat shortly.

And this kind of talk about, you will get a link to the slides and all the follow-up information in an email afterwards, I know it's stressful catching up on the things right now.

Last announcement I want to make a limit -- this month the AO learning committee meeting will be focused on discussions with each other about the content we heard on the panel today about work and income requirements, and the way those have shown up in our lives in our community. So we will be talking about that. The meeting will actually be this coming Friday, October 20 at 4 PM Eastern time. The link to register will be dropped from the chat. I hope you can all join us for that.

And just before everyone logs off today we're just going to pop up a pole just so we can see who was in the room with you, how many people are in the room with you.

I'm going to launch that really quick.

You should see that pop up on your screen. This was a longer webinar for some folks, we pretty you taking the time on the Saturday afternoon to meet with us and learn. I know I took in a lot of what you are all saying full stop the chat was on fire. I level the resources and suggestions people were saying.

I appreciate this community that we have built and all the ways we continue to work together. Thank you again for joining us and I will see you all on the November National Webinar on November 4 at 1 PM Eastern time. That one is a normal, irregular webinar (Laughs).

Thank you all again for joining. We will just leave that poll up for a few minutes. We will have time to respond. I hope you all enjoyed the content and was helpful.

KEISHA McVEY:
Feel free to come off mute to say goodbye to folks.

(Multiple speakers)

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