

results

Experts on Poverty

application guide

2024

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welcome & intro from lakeisha mcvey

Thank you for your interest in joining RESULTS' Experts on Poverty cohort. This is a unique opportunity for those with current or past experience living in poverty in the United States to have a platform to share their personal experiences and insights with elected officials and anti-poverty leaders across the nation.

As a person with lived experience of homelessness and food insecurity, I know that negative stereotypes used to describe those who experience poverty only serve to further divide us. To truly end poverty, we must have the voices of those directly impacted by poverty at the table, helping destroy false narratives, identifying harmful policies and designing solutions. Only those with this lived experience truly know the intricacies of the challenges we face, and we are the key to changing policies for the better.

Although experiences with poverty can be similar, it's important to recognize that poverty is not static. Our experiences with poverty vary just as much as our identities do. The Expert on Poverty cohort is comprised of individuals from many backgrounds, each having a unique experience and perspective to contribute.

The Experts on Poverty program includes opportunities to speak at conferences, lead training, and share your story in the media to influence policy, and shift the narrative around what it's truly like to live in poverty and point to solutions.

RESULTS strives to be an inclusive organization, and we commit to opposing all forms of oppression including ableism, ageism, biphobia, classism, colonialism, homophobia, racism, religious discrimination, sexism, transphobia, white saviorism, and xenophobia. We create space for all voices, including those of us who are currently experiencing poverty. We will address oppressive behavior in our interactions, families, communities, work, and world. Our strength is rooted in our diversity of experiences, not in our assumptions. We agree to all help make the RESULTS movement a respectful, inclusive space.

I hope you will consider joining our cohort and be a part of our movement of passionate, committed everyday people.

Keisha McVey
Senior Associate, Experts on Poverty



about the program

What is the RESULTS Experts on Poverty program?

Created in 2015, the Experts on Poverty program is comprised of a diverse team of advocates and powerful storytellers from across the nation. They use their firsthand experience of poverty to push for more effective government policies to support families and individuals combating poverty. The Experts on Poverty has played a key role in RESULTS' shift to addressing housing policy and are helping shape our U.S. poverty policy strategies and priorities. Experts receive training, support, and inspiration to become stronger leaders in the anti-poverty movement.

There is no term limit for an Expert on Poverty, and many continue being a part of the cohort from year to year. Experts publish letters to the editors and op-eds; serve as plenary speakers and panelists at media events, conferences and webinars; provide training to the RESULTS volunteer network on equity and inclusion; and have many other opportunities to grow and engage.

Each Expert is provided with one-on-one coaching and support tailored to their needs, interests, strengths, advocacy goals and professional development. Feedback is collected regularly from the Experts to improve the program and identify training needs to create a program that is designed for and by the Experts themselves. You also have opportunities to provide feedback on how RESULTS (and other organizations like it) meaningfully engage people with lived experience in advocacy efforts.

The Experts have had many accomplishments this year, including:

- Getting op-eds published on housing, how easy it is to fall short of the American Dream, and the Child Tax Credit;
- Being a guest speaker on the podcast Invisible Americans;
- Providing training on creating inclusive RESULTS group environments on the National Webinar and at Group Leader trainings; and
- Presenting at a regional conference on overcoming resistance with legislators.

Learn more about the work Experts on Poverty have done by checking out recordings and articles featuring the Experts on our website: <https://results.org/experts-on-poverty/experts-on-poverty-what-they-do/>

goals of the program

1

EMPOWER those with lived experience to shape public policy by educating members of Congress, collaborate with other advocates to advance key anti-poverty policies, and weigh in with RESULTS staff on shaping overall campaign priorities, goals, values and principles.

2

CONNECT individuals with lived experience with each other to build confidence and foster a sense of community.

3

TRAIN the Experts on policy, advocacy, storytelling and organizing to become stronger advocates and to help them build the leadership skills of current RESULTS advocates.

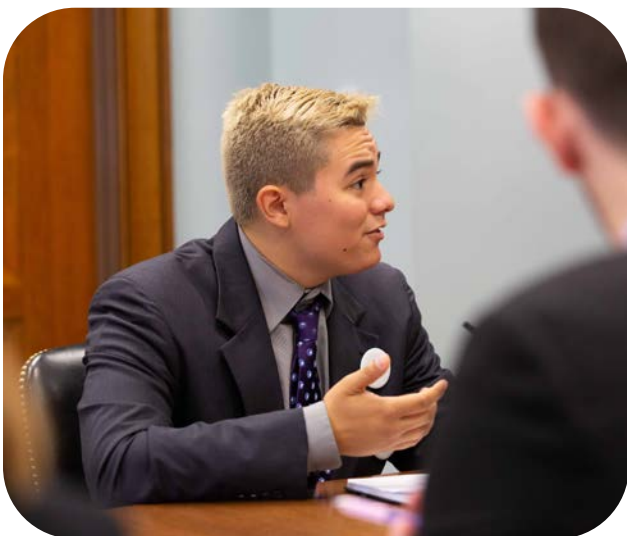
4

ELEVATE the Experts in the RESULTS network, their communities, the media, with legislators and policymakers, other organizations and the public to increase their influence and career opportunities

program benefits

As an Expert on Poverty, you will:

- Be a leader within the RESULTS network and social justice community
- Get one-on-one support and coaching to help you become a stronger, more effective advocate and share your personal story in the media, with legislators, RESULTS staff, and organizational partners to change the narrative on poverty and generate the political will to end it
- Receive regular training to increase advocacy, public speaking, storytelling, facilitation, teaching, and many other critical and relevant skillsets
- Have opportunities to travel and share your expertise, all expenses paid
- Be offered paid speaking and written media opportunities
- Develop relationships with other anti-poverty organizations and media outlets across the nation to increase your influence and expand your career opportunities
- Be recognized for media publications and speaking engagements on [RESULTS Experts on Poverty webpage](#)



hear from the experts on poverty

Chaila Scott



"I enjoy being a part of the Experts on Poverty because I have a strong sense of community and space to discuss my lived experience in a safe environment. Often, we shy away from these conversations out of shame or societal programming, but being an Expert on Poverty has helped me to amplify my voice and my story to help make changes that support more people with lived experience. This experience has been a healthy avenue for me to not only highlight my experiences but the experiences of so many others to demand that lawmakers make choices on both federal and state levels that will put an end to poverty."

Pamela M. Covington



"As one of RESULTS' Experts on Poverty, I was shown everything I needed to effectively serve as an anti-poverty advocate. It's one of the best learning-by-doing experiences I've ever had."

Kali Daugherty



"The EOP program starts as a cohort and ends as a family. When you join the program, you're already an Expert because of your lived experience but the program gives you the tools you need to speak powerfully and professionally, and helps others recognize that expertise too. The program changes the narrative from people simply impacted by poverty to people who have expertise on poverty policy."

Sarah Izabel



"Every moment as an EOP is a privilege. I have forged deep connections with fellow EOPs who have battled the hardships of poverty. Each EOP's story intertwines with mine, breathing new life into my own experiences, and their unparalleled expertise fills my path with wisdom and resilience."

To learn more about the impact the Experts on Poverty program has had on the Experts lives, [check out this video.](#)

selection criteria

Below are some of the qualifications and expectations that Experts on Poverty should meet:

- Have past or current experience living in poverty in the United States
- Be a RESULTS volunteer for at least 6 months
- Committed to upholding RESULTS' anti-oppression values
- Be able to commit 3-6 hours per month
- Commit to attending the monthly Expert on Poverty call (third Monday at 8 PM ET)
- Attend the RESULTS monthly National Webinar (the first Saturday of every month at 1 PM ET) or watch the recording after
- Actively engage in advocacy, generating media, and doing outreach by taking action, inspiring others, and sharing your story
- Commitment to skill-building and professional development
- Be prepared to dedicate additional hours when necessary to prepare for speaking opportunities
- Be communicative, responsive, and open to feedback



Ready to apply?

Click [here](#).

**Applications are due on
November 30, 2023.**



faqs

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there age restrictions to be a part of the Experts on Poverty cohort?

All Experts on Poverty must be at least 18 years old.

Do I have to be a U.S. Citizen to apply?

No, all are welcome to apply to become an Expert on Poverty regardless of immigration status.

Do I need previous advocacy experience to apply?

Yes, all applicants must be a current RESULTS volunteer with at least 6 months of advocacy experience to apply.

Are Experts on Poverty compensated for their participation in the program?

The compensation offered in the program regularly evolves based on funding. Generally, all event registration and travel costs are covered directly by RESULTS (including meals, hotel and ground transportation). Experts are also provided compensation for speaking or media opportunities. Experts will always be informed of how much the compensation is when any speaking or other advocacy opportunities arise. Any compensation provided outside of this is determined on an as-needed basis.

How many Experts on Poverty are in the cohort?

At this time, each cohort is limited to 12 advocates. The small size ensures that we can continue to provide adequate compensation and build strong, transformational relationships between members of the cohort.

Will we have to travel?

There are usually opportunities to travel throughout the year. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines for travel, social distancing, and mask mandates to ensure that everyone is safe. Everyone who attends in-person events are required to have full COVID vaccination. Due to the number of requests for Experts on Poverty to speak in person, all Experts on Poverty are now required to have full COVID vaccination to participate in the program.

If you have additional questions about the program and the expectations of it, please contact Keisha McVey, Senior Associate, Experts on Poverty, at lmcvey@results.org.

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Experts on Poverty program contact:
Keisha McVey, Imcvey@results.org

RESULTS website:
results.org

Current Volunteers hub:
results.org/volunteers

Experts on Poverty page:
results.org/experts-on-poverty

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