

**results**

# Experts on Poverty

**application guide**

2022

# table of contents

welcome and intro	3
about the program	4
program goals	5
program details	6
program requirements	7
apply	8
faqs	9
contact us	10

# 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 insight with anti-poverty leaders across the nation.

As a person with lived experience of poverty myself, I know that the negative stereotypes that are pushed onto individuals and families who experience poverty only serve to further divide us. To truly end poverty, we must have the voices of those most impacted at the table, helping to destroy false narratives, and coming up with and implementing real solutions. Only we, as those with lived experience of poverty, truly know the intricacies of what we experience and are the key to changing policies for the better.

Although our experiences with poverty may have many similarities, it's also important to recognize the differences in how we were forced into poverty, the barriers we face while experiencing poverty, the ways we manage to escape poverty, and how those experiences affect our lives afterwards. That is why the Expert on Poverty cohort is comprised of individuals from many backgrounds who each have something unique to contribute while advocating for stronger anti-poverty policies.

By joining the Experts on Poverty, you will be a part of a powerful cohort, be offered training to become a better advocate, be provided with paid speaking and consulting opportunities, influence anti-poverty policy, and shift the narrative around what it's truly like to live in poverty.

We strive 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?

Too often, the voices of low-income Americans are not heard in debates around anti-poverty policies—even though they have the unique experience and knowledge needed to address these issues. Involving and centering people with lived experience of poverty in advocacy is essential in any efforts to end poverty and helps build understanding, reduce stigma and discrimination, and improve the quality, relevance, and impact of anti-poverty policies and programs.

This is why RESULTS launched our Experts on Poverty program in 2015. The Experts on Poverty cohort is a diverse team of advocates from across the nation. They use their firsthand experience of poverty to push for more effective government policies to support low-income Americans. All the Experts have personal experience with food insecurity, lack of affordable and accessible housing, housing instability, and/or federal nutrition programs, tax credits, or other federal “safety net” assistance programs that help millions of Americans make ends meet.

The Experts on Poverty 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, shifting the narrative around those who experience poverty and highlighting the way anti-poverty policies affect their everyday lives.

The Experts are leaders in the organization and many anti-poverty advocates have mentioned that the work of the Experts provides them with a deeper understanding of the issues and a renewed sense of inspiration for their anti-poverty work.

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

To empower individuals with lived experience of poverty to be change agents, sharing their expertise and stories with each other, the public, and decision makers to influence anti-poverty policy, and shift the narrative around the realities of living in poverty.

2

To build confidence, community, knowledge, and skills among individuals with lived experience through peer relationships, one on one support, and training on advocacy, storytelling, anti-oppression, U.S. federal policy, etc.

3

To connect individuals with lived experience to a variety of organizations and paid opportunities to increase their influence and career opportunities.

# program details

## As an Expert on Poverty, you will:

- Be a leader within the RESULTS network
- Be offered paid speaking and written media opportunities
- Be supported and coached on sharing your personal story and perspective at events, in the media, etc.
- Be connected with other anti-poverty organizations and media outlets across the nation to increase your influence and career opportunities
- Attend the RESULTS Annual International Conference with expenses paid and compensation for time provided
- Be a part of the Experts on Poverty Slack Channel to build community with your fellow Experts and receive updates on the program
- Be updated on and provided access to upcoming RESULTS events, conferences, trainings, and resources
- Be provided opportunities for professional development
- Be recognized for media publications and speaking engagements on [RESULTS Experts on Poverty webpage](#)



# program requirements

## Requirements of being an Expert on Poverty

The average time commitment for an Expert on Poverty is **3-5 hours per month**, with the expectation you meet all the requirements below.

- Have past or current experience living in poverty in the United States
- Attend the monthly Expert on Poverty call (the third Monday of every month at 7 PM ET)
- Attend the RESULTS monthly National Webinar (the first Saturday of every month at 1 PM ET) or watch the recording after
- Schedule a monthly 1:1 check in with the Senior Associate, Keisha McVey or other RESULTS staff
- Be available to travel to and attend the RESULTS International Conference (Virtual Component: June 4, 2022; In-Person Advocacy Days: TBD)
- Actively engage in advocacy, media, and outreach by taking action, inspiring others, and sharing your story
- Participate in trainings organized by the Senior Associate or other RESULTS staff as requested

Being an Expert on Poverty is a leadership opportunity within the RESULTS network so prior advocacy experience is preferred, but not required.



**Ready to apply?**

Click [here](#).

# faqs

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Is there an age minimum to be able to become an Expert on Poverty?**

Yes, all Experts on Poverty, just like all RESULTS volunteers, must be over the age of 18.

### **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 citizenship status. As long as you have lived experience with poverty in the United States and meet all other requirements, we encourage you to apply.

### **Do I need previous advocacy experience to apply?**

No. While previous advocacy experience is extremely helpful to the Expert on Poverty role, it is not essential to be successful in the role. We will give you the tools you need to be an effective advocate.

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

Yes, the program is designed to give those with lived experience a platform to offer their insight on policies and share their stories at conferences, through blog posts and videos, panels, in front of members of Congress, etc. Experts are always compensated for speaking and will be informed of how much the compensation is when any speaking opportunities arise.

### **How many Experts on Poverty are in the cohort?**

There can be up to 15 Experts on Poverty at any time. This is to ensure that we can continue to provide adequate compensation and build strong, transformational relationships between members of the cohort.

### **Will we have to travel?**

We hope that there will be more opportunities for travel in the future. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines for travel, social distancing, and mask mandates to ensure that everyone will be safe. It is important to note that some 2022 in-person activities and events will require individuals to be vaccinated to attend in person.

***For additional questions or information, please email Keisha McVey, Senior Associate, Experts on Poverty at [Imcvey@results.org](mailto:Imcvey@results.org).***

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**Keisha McVey, [kmcvey@results.org](mailto:kmcvey@results.org)**

RESULTS website:  
**[results.org](https://results.org)**

Current Volunteers hub:  
**[results.org/volunteers](https://results.org/volunteers)**

Experts on Poverty page:  
**[results.org/experts-on-poverty](https://results.org/experts-on-poverty)**

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