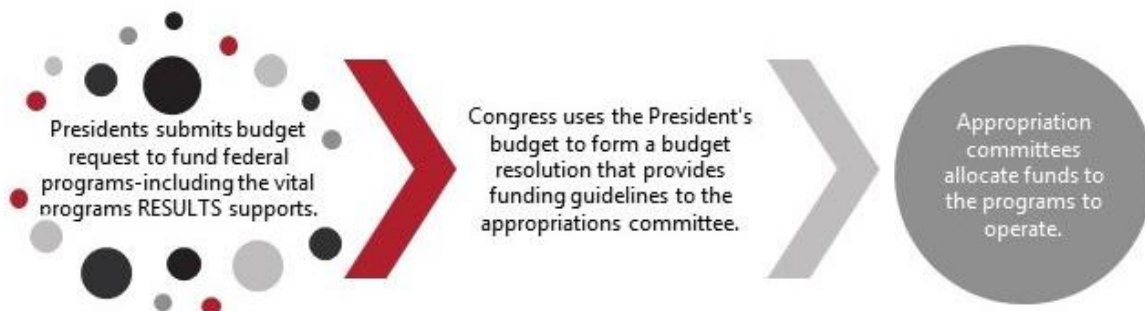


## ACTION SHEET

### Write Letters: Tell Congress What to Prioritize in FY21 Spending

As Congress looks at its spending plan for 2021, it's your turn to tell them what they should prioritize. Smart investments in global health and education programs in the world's poorest places can dramatically change the futures of women, children, and other vulnerable populations. With U.S. leadership, in partnership with developing countries, we have all but eradicated polio, halted and reversed HIV/AIDS infection rates, seen more girls finish primary and even secondary school than ever before, and we are now on course to end preventable child and maternal deaths in a generation. Each year, U.S. led efforts save millions of lives from disease, ensure quality education for the poorest children, strengthen democratic values in fragile states, and build trading partners with emerging economies.

But these efforts require resources. "Appropriation" is the act of setting aside money for a specific purpose. Annually, the U.S. Congress goes through the process of directing federal funding, or "appropriating" resources for the fiscal year to various programs, including development programs supported by RESULTS. The graphic shows how the process works, and the tips below will help you influence spending decisions to continue the progress we are making:



The process that starts as a simple flow chart can be very messy and prolonged – even taking over a year to reach an outcome. But it is clear that weighing in on appropriations is critical for protecting and increasing annual spending for the programs we care most about.

**The key to being heard in this political climate is to show up early and often** to remind Congress that constituents care about fighting poverty. Now is the time to tell Congress they should prioritize protecting and increasing funding for anti-poverty programs in global health and education for fiscal year 2021 (which officially starts on Oct. 1, 2020).

**The Task Now:** Ask your member of Congress to make a personal request for specific funding levels to the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Leadership.

For additional background on appropriations, contact RESULTS' staff member Crickett Nicovich at [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org).

## Gather Your Fellow Advocates and Start Writing

**Write letters to your members of Congress** urging them to include our funding requests in their communications to the Chair and Ranking Member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Sub-Committee. In the House that's Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) & Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY). In the Senate it's Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) & Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

For background on each of these issues, [please review the corresponding Appropriations memos](#), which contain additional background on each issue that you can use to support your request. We strongly suggest that you do not include every issue in your request. Select one or more issues that you think your member is most likely to support and act on.

RESULTS' FY21 Appropriations Requests	
<b>Child Health, Gavi, and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$900 million for Maternal and Child Health.</li> <li>• Include \$290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for global immunization within the Maternal and Child Health Account.</li> <li>• Provide \$200 million for Nutrition programs in Global Health.</li> </ul>
<b>Bilateral Tuberculosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$400 million for scaling up critical U.S.-supported efforts to control and treat TB and drug-resistant TB.</li> </ul>
<b>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$1.56 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to maintain and expand life-saving prevention and treatment programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Global Partnership for Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education within Basic Education to cost-effectively support access to quality education for all children.</li> </ul>

### Here's a sample letter in EPIC format:

<p><b>Engage:</b> Dear Representative or Senator, In partnership with developing countries, the U.S. has led the fight against hunger and poverty by investing in smart global development programs that improve health, education and building brighter futures.</p>
<p><b>Problem:</b> But we have more work to do since:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too many kids are still dying of preventable causes – almost 15,000 each day.</li> <li>• Close to 260 million children and youth who should be in school are not.</li> <li>• Tuberculosis sickens over 10 million people and kills 1.5 million people annually.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inform:</b> We know that members of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee (SFOPS) will soon be considering spending levels for global development for fiscal year 2021.</p>
<p><b>Call to Action:</b> Will you please write and speak to the leadership of SFOPS, Chair XXX and Ranking Member XXX, and ask that they include the following funding levels in their FY21 spending bill?</p> <p>In the area of Global Health, please include: <i>Draw from the chart above.</i>            In the area of Education for All, please include: <i>Draw from the chart above.</i></p> <p>This funding represents both a compassionate and pragmatic global development request. In addition to saving lives and creating brighter futures, global development programs contribute to U.S. economic growth and boost</p>

our national security. These investments provide opportunities for children to reach their full potential and enable countries to build the foundations for ending poverty. Can I count on you?

Thank you, *name, address, phone number.*

## Letter-writing Workshop Agenda

Below is a sample agenda and script for putting people in your community into action. When people take action, they get inspired. Adapt the 60-minute agenda below.

### I. Setting the Stage – 15 Minutes

#### **2 min: Welcome and acknowledge people for being there.**

*“There are a lot of ways you could be spending the day, and I want to thank all of you for coming out and learning more about how YOU can play a role in the movement to end poverty. As we pass around the sign-in sheet, we can share a bit about why we’re here.”*

#### **3 min: State the purpose of the meeting.**

*“Our purpose today is to inspire you all about the difference you can make, working with others, to create the political will to end hunger and poverty. In the next few minutes, we’ll . . .*

- *Learn a bit about RESULTS, the group organizing this.*
- *Learn about an issue of poverty.*
- *Take powerful action on the issue: we’ll write letters to Congress*
- *And, finally, see who is interested in continuing to make a difference with RESULTS.”*

#### **10 min: Center the room and do introductions.**

*“Let’s see who’s in the room tonight and get in touch with why we are here. Please give us your name and tell us briefly why acting on issue of poverty is important to you.”*

*“Thank you all for sharing what is important to you. We have a lot in common.”*

### II. The Basics of RESULTS – 10 Minutes

*RESULTS is movement of passionate, committed, everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. As volunteers, we receive training, support, and inspiration to become skilled advocates. In time, we learn to effectively advise policy makers, guiding them toward decisions that will improve access to health, education, and economic opportunity. Together we realize the incredible power we possess to use our voices to change the world. “*

1. Share the *Raise Your Voice* video: <https://results.org/>
2. Share an example of success: *“We protected development assistance for FY2020 after the President proposed cutting it by 30%. We worked with Republicans and Democrats to help secure the highest number ever of congressional supporters for AIDS, TB, and malaria; global education; and maternal & child health, sending a message to the President that these programs should be protected and strengthened.”*

3. Share a local example of our role in creating change (perhaps a way in which you moved a legislator to take action).
4. A few more details if you have time:
  - *“RESULTS partners meet twice per month to plan and take action.”*
  - *“During one of our meetings, we connect to a national webinar to learn about an issue, learn to speak powerfully, and take action to influence Congress.”* Give an example.
  - *“We also develop plans for influencing our decision makers through face-to-face meetings, the media, and other community actions.”*

### III. Issues and Action Component - 30 Minutes

1. Introduce the issue of appropriations with a story or video about a request area (not an exhaustive list):
  - a. *Global Fund*: <https://tinyurl.com/VidforGF>
  - b. *Gavi*: <https://tinyurl.com/VidforGavi>
  - c. *Global Partnership for Education*: <https://tinyurl.com/VidforEd>
2. Read the February Action Sheet together, including the sample letter.
3. Show people how to find the email address of the foreign policy aide for your legislators by using our Legislator Lookup tool: <https://tinyurl.com/yy2a8n4y>
4. Write, and then ask writers to read their letter out loud for feedback and encouragement.
5. Make a plan for sending in the letters and debrief.

### IV. Invitation to Attend the Next Meeting & Closing – 5 Minutes

*“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one to guide people in becoming powerful advocates. We’ll also be visiting our representatives and senators. Who is interested in joining us again to take action?”*

Say thank you, capture contact information: name, phone, email, address. Add them to your Action Network list and stay in touch with them. Send contact info to Ken Patterson or Lisa Marchal for the RESULTS national database as part of your group’s Action Network. Your new people will receive actions on a regular basis.

### Action Network Managers Action

Here’s a sample message you can send to your Action Network:

*Dear (Name), Our voices helped ensure the US stepped up at the Global Fund replenishment conference on October 10—the US pledged one-third of the \$14 billion to save an additional 16 million lives over the next 3 years! We must ensure the U.S. keeps its promise. Use [our online action](#) to ask members of Congress to prioritize global health and education during the FY21 appropriations process. We must continue to build support for these vital issues.*

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