

Op-ed opportunity for advocates with lived experience of poverty

RESULTS seeks advocates with lived experience of poverty in the U.S. to apply for an opportunity to publish an op-ed with the [Institute for Policy Studies \(IPS\)](#). An “op-ed” is a roughly 600-word published essay sharing an opinion on a specific topic.

This project aims to amplify the experiences and expertise of advocates with lived experiences of poverty. Too often lawmakers make assumptions and policy decisions about poverty without ever hearing from those who've been through it. Sharing your experience could help correct misconceptions about poverty and have a positive impact on anti-poverty policy. Op-ed authors also discuss the federal policies that reduce poverty.

You do not need to have previous writing experience. IPS interviews you, ghostwrites the piece, and publishes it under your name (see “Process” below). IPS provides \$200 in compensation for your time and expertise.

RESULTS’s Senior Manager of Lived Experience Engagement, Lakeisha McVey, manages this project. She will support the process with you/IPS. For any questions or concerns, email Lakeisha at lmcvey@results.org.

Qualifications to be selected

To participate in this opportunity, you must:

- Be a current RESULTS volunteer;
- Have personal experience with poverty connected to a RESULTS U.S. policy issue (homelessness, housing instability, food insecurity, utilizing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), receiving tax credits like the Child Tax Credit, etc.), and be willing to share that experience publicly;
- Be willing to publicly share your city, state, and full name;
- Be willing to provide a decent quality photo of you from the shoulders up to be featured in your author profile for the op-ed, and;
- Be willing to commit the necessary time to complete the process (see more below).

Process

- Fill out [the op-ed application form](#). Please read the questions carefully and provide thorough responses. We select participants based on eligibility (see “Qualifications” above), staff capacity, and timing.
- If/when you’re selected for participation, Lakeisha McVey will email you to schedule an interview. You will then have a one-hour Zoom interview with Karen Dolan, the Project Director for the Criminalization of Race and Poverty at IPS.
- During the Zoom interview, Karen will ask open-ended questions about your background with poverty. You will also talk about why the RESULTS policy solution(s) is impactful in alleviating poverty. These questions are often personal; it is your choice how much you share. Lakeisha McVey will be present to support you and ensure you have a good experience.
- Karen from IPS sends you and Lakeisha McVey a draft of the op-ed for review, editing, and eventual approval. Once you have approved it, IPS publishes it on their site, [OtherWords.org](#) and cross-promotes the piece. They will pitch your op-ed to other news outlets to get them to publish the op-ed as well, including in your home state. Remember, the op-ed will list you as the author and your city, state, and picture.
- IPS will have you fill out payment forms to provide the \$200 compensation.

Here are a few examples of op-eds published through this process to give you an idea of what to expect:

- [I Run a Food Pantry but It’s Not Enough. We Need Funding for SNAP. – Carla Ventura](#)
- [Lawmakers Should Spend a Night in a Homeless Shelter – Tiffany Tagbo](#)
- [Rents are Unaffordable Nationwide. A Renter’s Tax Credit Would Help. – Ashley Dines](#)
- [Lawmakers Must Fully Fund the WIC Program – Candace Baker](#)