

Prioritize Housing Stability for Low-Income Renters

Engage: The COVID-19 pandemic has made America's housing crisis far worse. This is hitting families in our community, including low-income Black renters, along with Indigenous families and other people of color, hard.

Problem: Millions of low-income renters face a "housing cliff" in the next month when eviction moratoria and other relief measures end for unemployed workers unless Congress acts soon.

Illustrate or Inform: One in five of all renters, including one in three Black renters, had low confidence in their ability to pay July rent when surveyed by the Census Bureau in early June. Congress included resources for people experiencing homelessness in the bipartisan CARES Act, but far more is needed. Keeping low-income renters in their homes is key [and then include your own experience and/or why you care].

Call to Action: Will you tell leadership to prioritize \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance and an national eviction moratorium in the next emergency response legislation?

Longer term, we must do more to support low-income renters. There have been bipartisan proposals to create a refundable renters' credit, which Columbia University researchers estimate could lift over 9 million Americans above the poverty line. Will you go on the record in support of a renters' credit?

How can I follow up with you on this?

Helping Families Keep Food on the Table through SNAP

Note: This is for targeted asks on SNAP during the 2020 RESULTS conference – RESULTS staff will flag which Congressional office are key for this conversation.

Engage: I'd like to talk more about who is experiencing hunger in the United States during this pandemic. Single mothers with younger children have been twice as likely to say that they did not have enough money to provide food for their families, leaving 17 percent children food insecure in the middle of an economic downturn.

Problem: We have seen the long lines of families waiting up to get help from food banks, and this crisis is hitting people of color particularly hard -- approximately 4 in 10 Black and Hispanic families with children reported food insecure during the week of May 26th compared to 2 in 10 White families.

Illustrate or Inform: We know access to food is critical, but many households have had to "cut back" on groceries to cover the costs of other necessities such as housing or prescription drugs. [If you have a story, share it here – or include more information about the need in your community/state]. As the nation's leading anti-hunger program, an increase in SNAP benefits during this pandemic could help shorten these food bank lines and provide for families at risk of hunger. Doing so would also provide a needed boost to our local economy; SNAP generates \$1.50-\$1.80 of economic activity for every additional dollar spent.

Call to Action: Will you tell Congressional leadership to prioritize boosting the maximum SNAP benefits by 15 percent as part of the next emergency relief bill?

Expand Tax Credits for Low-Income Workers and Families

Note: This is for targeted asks on EITC/CTC during the 2020 RESULTS conference – RESULTS staff will flag which Congressional office are key for this conversation.

Engage: The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the unemployment rate will remain above 9 percent well into 2021, but temporary changes to the federal tax code could provide a much needed boost to workers and families early next year.

Problem: Right now, over 5 million low-wage workers who are not raising children at home are taxed into (or deeper into) poverty each year. Moreover, one in four children in low-income families do not receive the full Child Tax Credit because the average credit received is higher among moderate- and middle-income families.

Illustrate or Inform: Congress should expand Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers who do not claim dependents and extend the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) to children in all low-income families, just like middle- and higher-income families currently receive. Already, the EITC and CTC lift more families and children out of poverty than any other program *[include your own EITC or CTC experience and/or why you care]*. These expansions would put more money back in the pockets of working people in early 2021, when the economy and many people's financial situations will still be recovering.

Call to Action: Will you tell congressional leaders to prioritize workers and families by expanding the EITC and CTC for low-income workers and families in the next emergency relief package?