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Goals for the ALC Hill Visits

• To tell your story

• To share solutions to your community’s problems

• To educate lawmakers on the programs you care about most

• To build and steward relationships

• To be a resource to lawmakers & staff
What to Expect on Capitol Hill

- Member of Congress
  - Chief of Staff
    - Scheduler
    - Staff Assistant(s)
  - Legislative Director
    - Legislative Assistant
    - Legislative Assistant
    - Legislative Correspondent
  - Communications Director
    - Press Secretary
  - State Director
    - District Staff
Tips for a Successful Hill Visit

• Coordinate with your meeting group
• Briefly introduce yourself, your organization & why you’re there
• Get local & try to connect on a personal level
• Go to the “Ask” & get a clear commitment
• Be brief and informed
• Don’t talk politics
• Invite them to tour your work
• Collect contact information
The ‘Asks’ on Capitol Hill

PROTECT | DEFEND | EXPAND

PROTECT the Assets for Independence (AFI) Program from Funding Cuts

DEFEND the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program through Funding and Authorization

EXPAND the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without dependent children
The ‘Asks’ on Capitol Hill

PROTECT | DEFEND | EXPAND

PROTECT the Assets for Independence (AFI) Program from Funding Cuts

• The Senate and House disagree on AFI Funding. Earlier this year, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to eliminate funding for the AFI program. The House has funded AFI at the same levels as last year.

• AFI has proven, nationwide impact. This program has produced more than 9,400 homeowners and 6,400 small business start-ups and expansions.

• The Ask: Will the member support the House’s funding level for AFI?
The ‘Asks’ on Capitol Hill

PROTECT | DEFEND | EXPAND

DEFEND the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program through Funding and Authorization

• To protect VITA, we need to protect its funding and enact congressional authorization. This year, funding for VITA was increased from $12 million to $15 million, but it has never been officially authorized through an Act of Congress.

• VITA sites have a 94% tax filing accuracy rate – a higher rate than any other kind of tax preparer. That $12 million in federal funding last year was leveraged to process 1.5 million tax returns and generate $2.2 billion in refunds for low-income households.

• The Ask: Will the member cosponsor the VITA Act, authorizing $30 million in funding to meet demand?

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EXPAND the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without dependent children

• Last year, Congress approved a substantial expansion of the EITC. But Congress failed to act on a bipartisan proposal to expand the EITC for workers without dependent children. Sen. Brown, Speaker Ryan, Rep. Neal and President Obama have all proposed a version of this expansion.

• The existing EITC lifts fewer than 1% of households without children out of poverty. A childless adult working a full-time, minimum-wage job will owe nearly $1,500 in federal taxes and receive an EITC of just $27.

• The Ask: Will the member commit to expanding the EITC for workers without dependent children?
Overview of Packet Materials

• 2016 Assets and Opportunity Scorecard State & Local Data Profiles

• Federal Policy Brief: Reauthorize Assets for Independence

• Federal Policy Brief: Strengthening VITA to Boost Financial Security at Tax Time & Beyond

• Earned Income Tax Credits State Fact Sheets

• 2015 Tax Season VITA Data

• About CFED/Assets & Opportunity Network
Overview of Packet Materials

- 2016 ALC Capitol Hill Visits Ask Cheat Sheet

- Tips for a Successful Hill Visit

- Map of Capitol Hill (with bus drop off/pick up location)
In Preparation for your Hill Visits

• Recording of this webinar, along with digital copies of the packet materials and itineraries (final and/or draft), will be sent out to all ALC Hill Visits participants.

• Capitol Hill groups will be connected via email.
  • We encourage you to connect with other members of your meeting delegation in advance of the Hill Visits, either prior to or during the conference.

• At the ALC, each participant and meeting delegation will receive a hard copy of their itinerary and a packet of materials – one personally for you and one to leave behind with staffers.
  • Packets and schedules will be available to be pick up from 7-11 am Wednesday, September 28th at the Hill Visits table located in the Gallaudet room – same room as registration.
  • From 11am-7pm on Wednesday, September 28th, Hill Visits schedules and packets can be picked up at the ALC Information Shop, located next to the Gallaudet registration room.
  • Leave behind packets will be at your plenary tables on 9/29.
In Preparation for your Hill Visits

• If your availability for the Hill Visits suddenly changes, please email enieves@cfed.org as soon as possible.
Schedule for the ALC Hill Visits

Thursday, September 29, 2016

12:00–1:30PM: Hill Visits Luncheon Plenary
• Buses will depart hotel between 1:30-1:40PM; for those who have meetings at 2PM, your bus will begin to load at 1:15pm.

2:00–5:00PM: Capitol Hill Visits

Evening: Choose Your Own Adventure Night

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Questions?
Thank you for joining us!

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