

July 2014

WESTERN REGIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

WITHOUT HOUSING

DECADES OF FEDERAL HOUSING CUTBACKS

MASSIVE HOMELESSNESS

AND POLICY FAILURES



www.wraphome.org

Member Organizations

Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency

Berkeley, CA

www.self-sufficiency.org

Coalition on Homelessness

San Francisco, CA

www.cohsf.org/en/

Los Angeles Community Action Network

Los Angeles, CA

www.cangress.org

Right 2 Survive PDX

Portland, OR

www.right2survive.wordpress.com

Hayward Community Action Network

Hayward, CA

www.southhaywardparish.org

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee

Sacramento, CA

www.sacshoc.org

St. Mary's Center

Oakland, CA

www.stmaryscenter.org

Sisters Of The Road

Portland, OR

www.sistersoftheroad.org

Street Roots

Portland, OR

www.streetroots.org

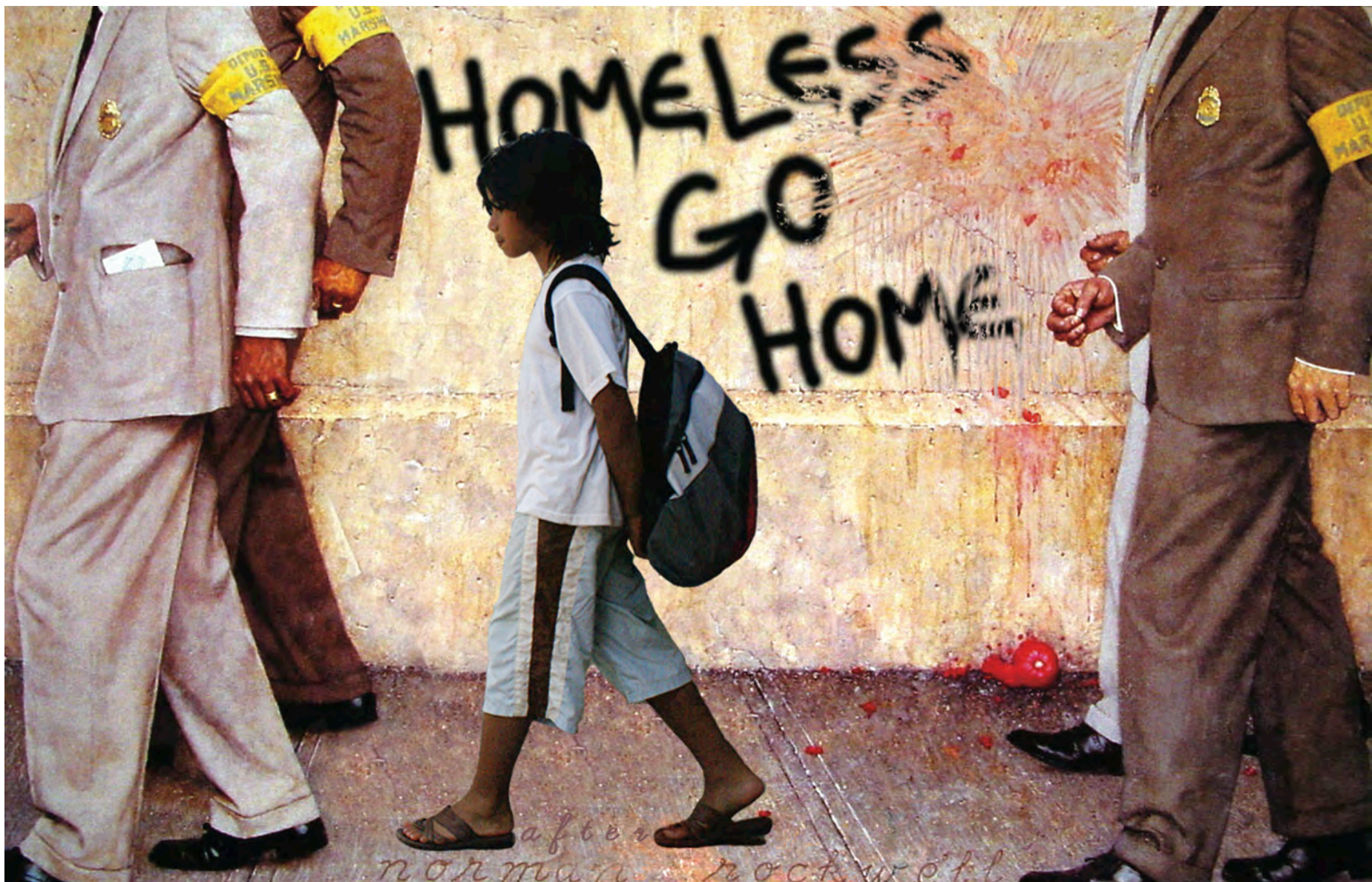
Street Spirit

San Francisco, CA

www.thestreetspirit.org



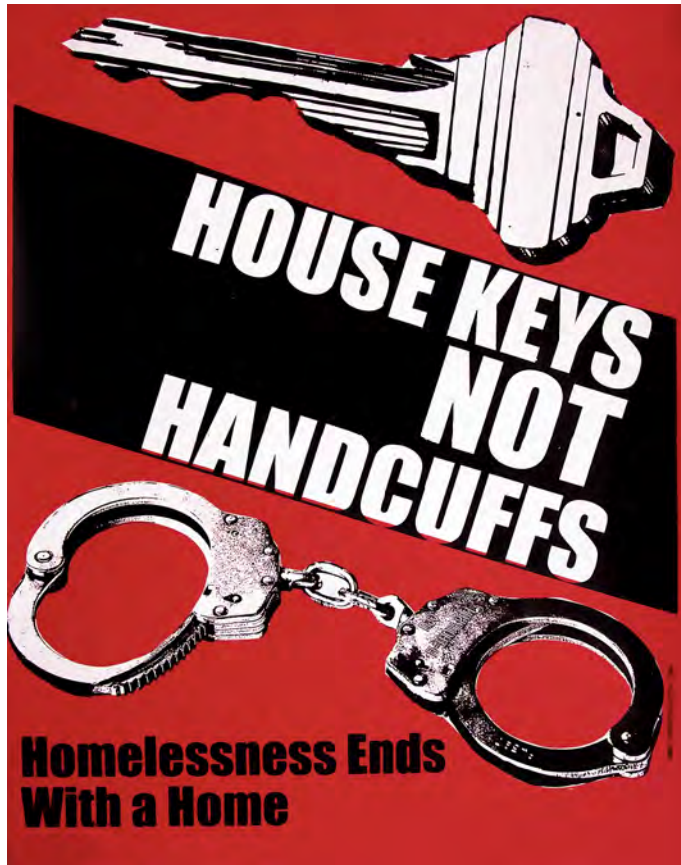
WESTERN REGIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT: WITHOUT HOUSING



Artist: Nili Yasha

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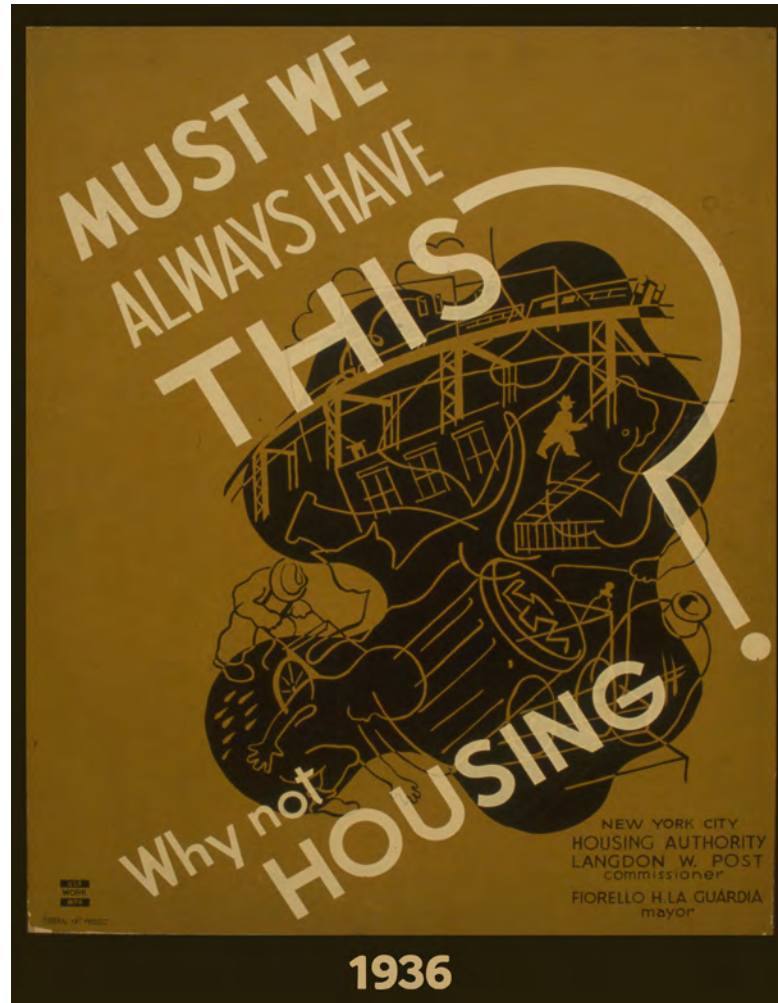
Overview



Artist: San Francisco Print Collective

1. Historical Context
2. Political & Economic Factors
3. Cuts to Low-Income Housing Programs
4. Homelessness in the U.S.
5. Band-Aid Solutions
6. Federal Funding Priorities
7. What *must* be done!

Historical Context



Artist: Works Progress Administration

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A Tale of Two Acts

Over the last century there have been two episodes of mass homelessness in the United States. Legislation from each era tells the story...

Act I

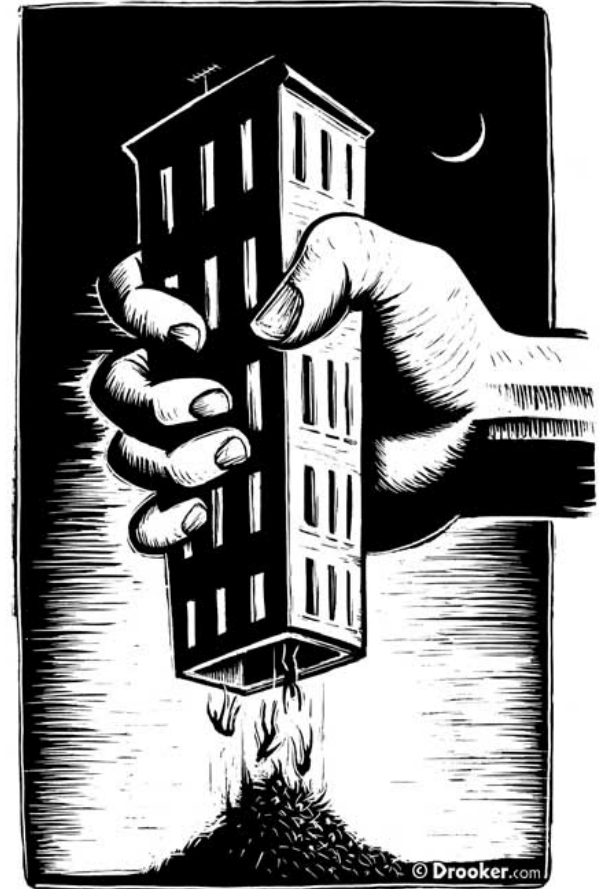


Artist: Claire Leighton

- **The Housing Act of 1937 committed:**
“to remedy the unsafe & unsanitary housing conditions & the acute shortage of decent, safe, & sanitary dwellings for families of lower income...”

Act II

- **The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 declared:**
“the Federal Government cannot through its direct action alone provide housing of every American, or even the majority of its citizens.”



Artist: Eric Drooker

Political & Economic Factors



Artist: Roberta Loach

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War on the Poor



Artist: Art Hazelwood

- Trickle-down economics
- Welfare reform
- Mass imprisonment
- Punitive immigration policies
- Attacks on unions
- Income inequality, job insecurity, & debt
- Privatization of public services

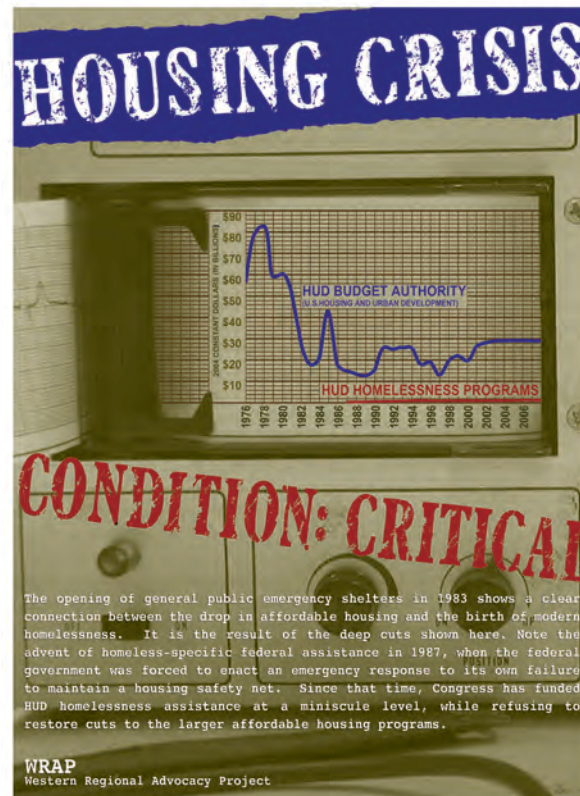
Housing As Commodity

- Feds turn housing over to private market in the 1970s.
- 261,419 Units of Public Housing lost through sale, demolition & HOPE VI – Estimates including Project based Section 8 well over 360,000.
- Over 5 million foreclosures from 2008 - 2014.
- 13 million vacant housing units in 2013.



Artist: Jos Sances

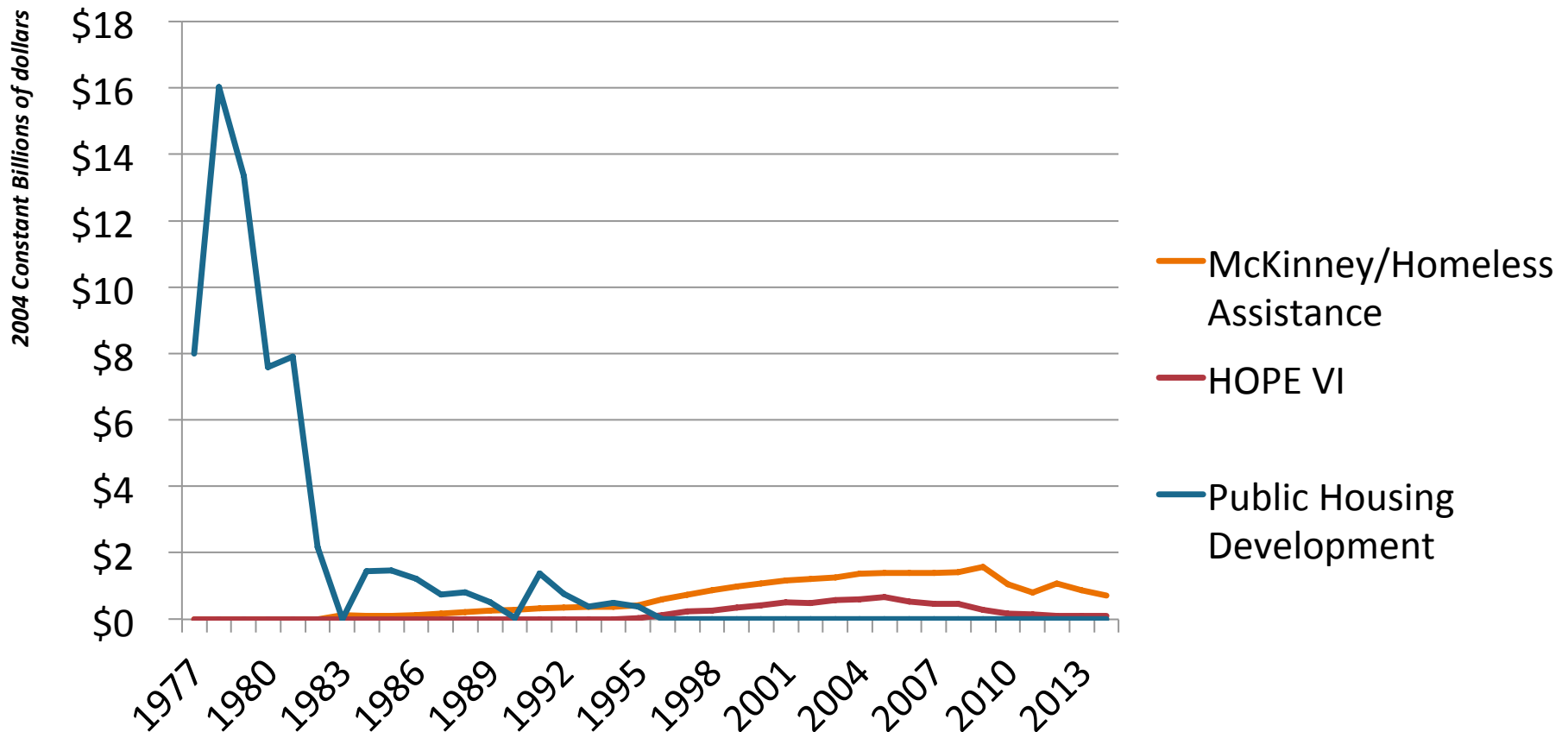
Cutbacks in Low-Income Housing Programs



Artist: Claude Moller

Cause and Effect

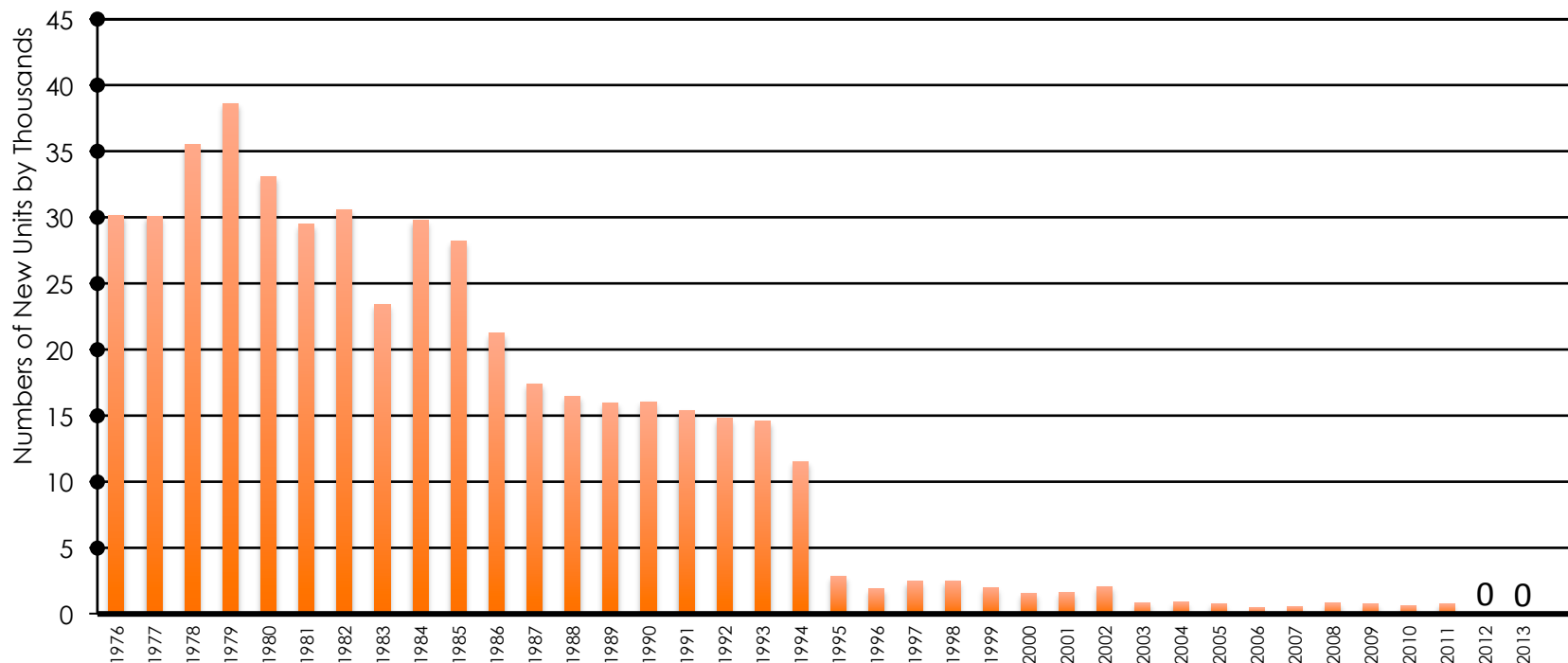
HUD's budget authority was cut by 77% from 1978 to 1983. As a result emergency shelters opened nationwide and Public Housing has been decimated.



Rural Housing Cuts

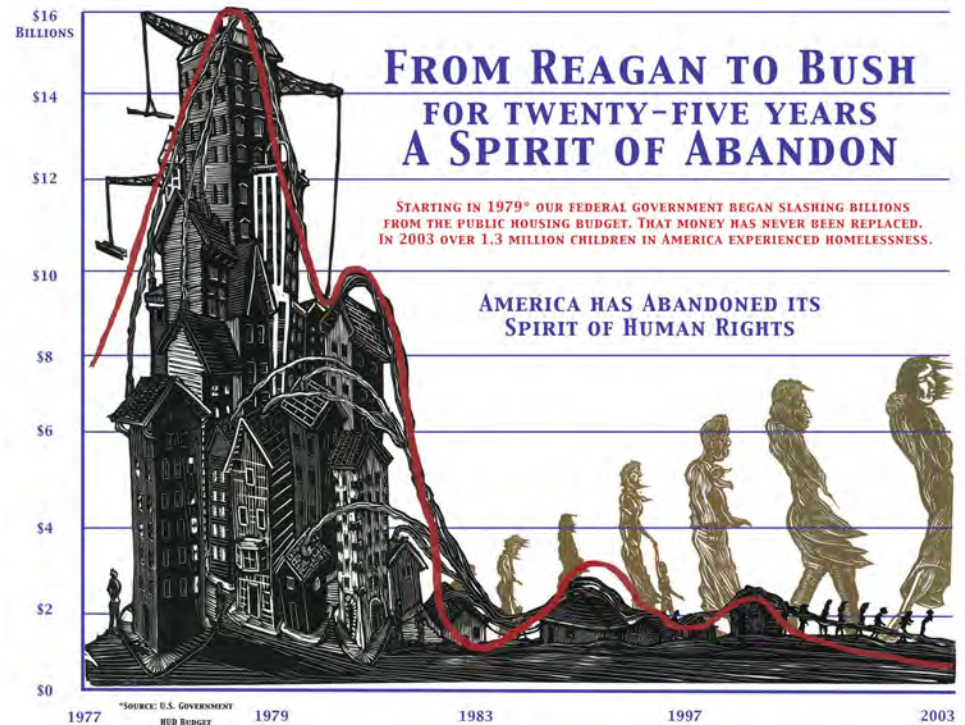
**USDA built 38,650 affordable housing units in 1979
& only 763 in 2011 — in 2012 & 2013 the number is 0.**

Rural Affordable Housing Units Created by Section 515 (USDA)



Starving Public Housing

- Over 260,000 units lost through sales, demolition, & HOPE VI program.
- \$26 billion in repairs needed due to ongoing capital fund cuts.
- HUD now says only private investment can save public housing.
- New demonstration allows 60,000 units to be mortgaged off.
- Nation's most permanent form of low-income housing is being lost.



Artist: Art Hazelwood

Homelessness in U.S.



Artist: Art Hazelwood



Race & Homelessness

Race/Ethnicity	Estimated % of nation's total population (from US Census Data 2010)	Estimated % of nation's homeless population (homeless counts/surveys between 1991 and 2009)
African-American	12.6%	40-56%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.8% - 0.2%	1-3% - 1%
Hispanic/Latino	16.3%	12-15%
Native American	0.9%	3-4%
White	72.4%	32-39%

Impacts on Communities



Artist: Jos Sances

- Families with children are fastest growing group of homeless people.
- Seniors and people with disabilities can be found in shelters and under bridges in many communities.
- Lack of legal status, rights, & public benefits fuels homelessness amongst undocumented immigrants.

Band-Aid Solutions



Artist: Art Hazelwood

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The Vicious Cycle of Homeless Policy



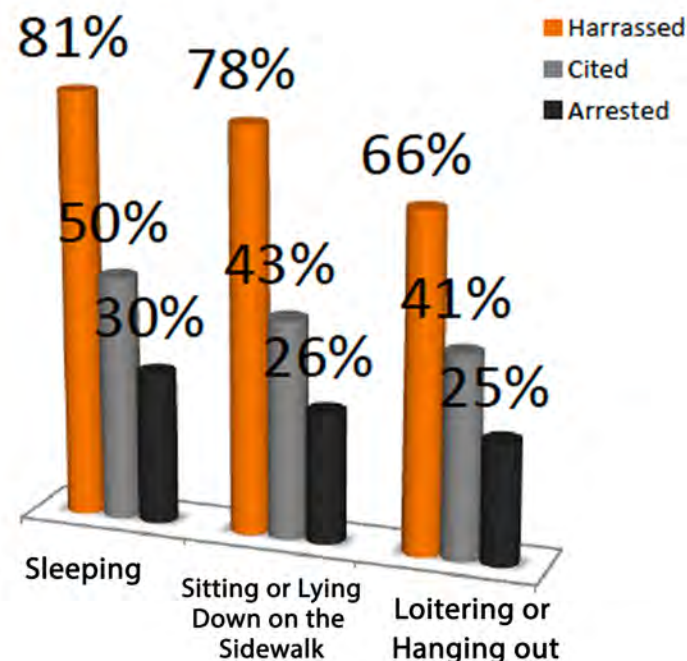
Criminalization of Homelessness / Poverty

At the heart of our Civil Rights work is outreach to homeless and poor people that documents their experiences with local police and private security. We have recently surveyed 1,276 people in five states and twelve cities. There can be no denying that “Broken Windows,” “Quality of Life,” “Civil Sidewalks,” and “Safer Cities” initiatives are anything less than a reincarnation of “Ugly Laws,” “Anti-Okie laws,” “Sundown Towns,” “Bracero Treaty” and “Jim Crow” when you hear directly the voices of those who are the targets of today’s campaigns.

The main “illegal offenses” that homeless people are being targeted with:

- * 81% for sleeping, with 50% of these people cited and 30 % arrested
- * 78% for sitting or lying down, with 43% of these people cited and 26% arrested
- * 66% for loitering or hanging out, with 41% of these people cited and 25% arrested

Do you know of places where it is safe and legal for you to sleep outside? * 74% No
* 26% Yes



Federal Funding Priorities

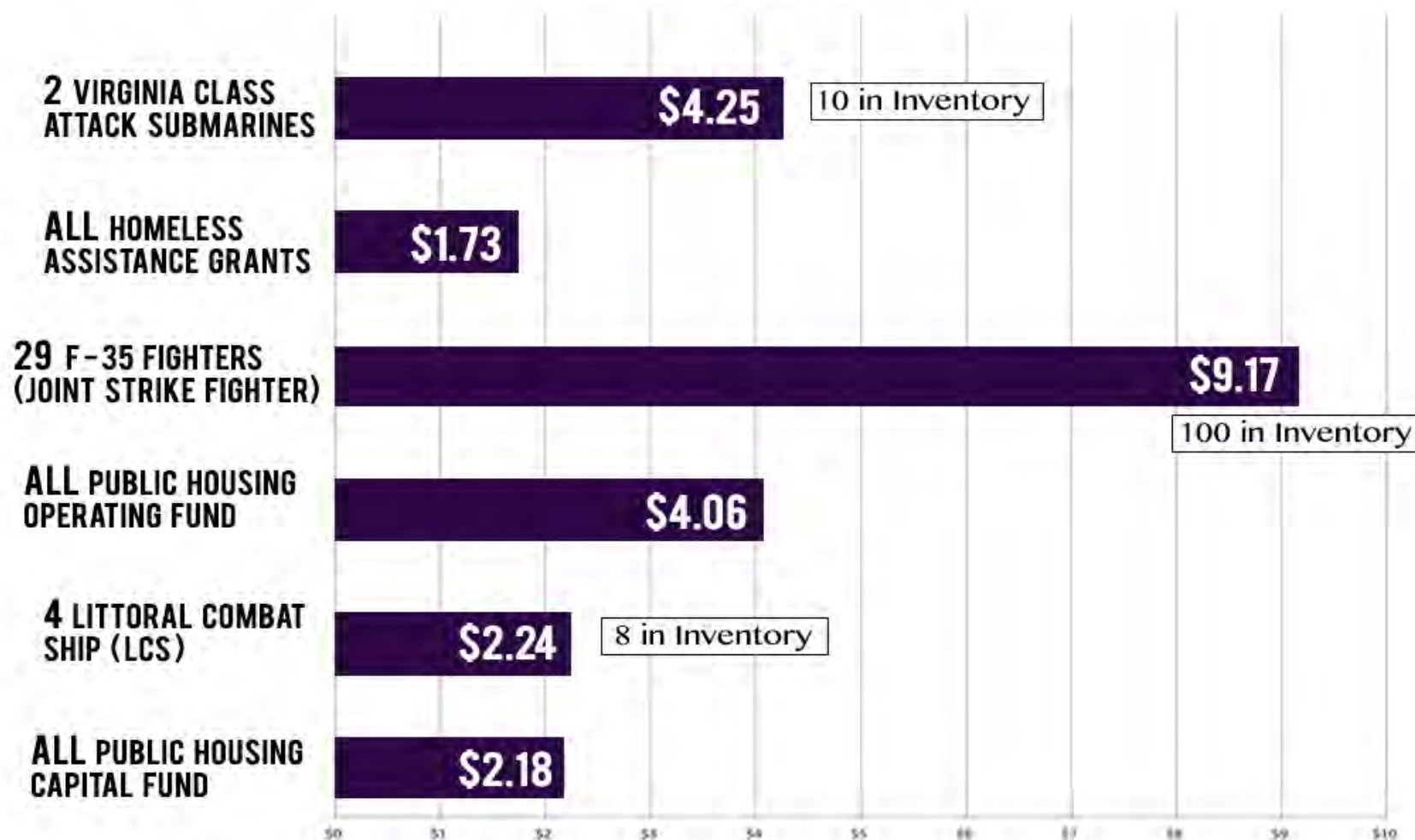


Artist: Jos Sances

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Comparison of Federal Funding Priorities

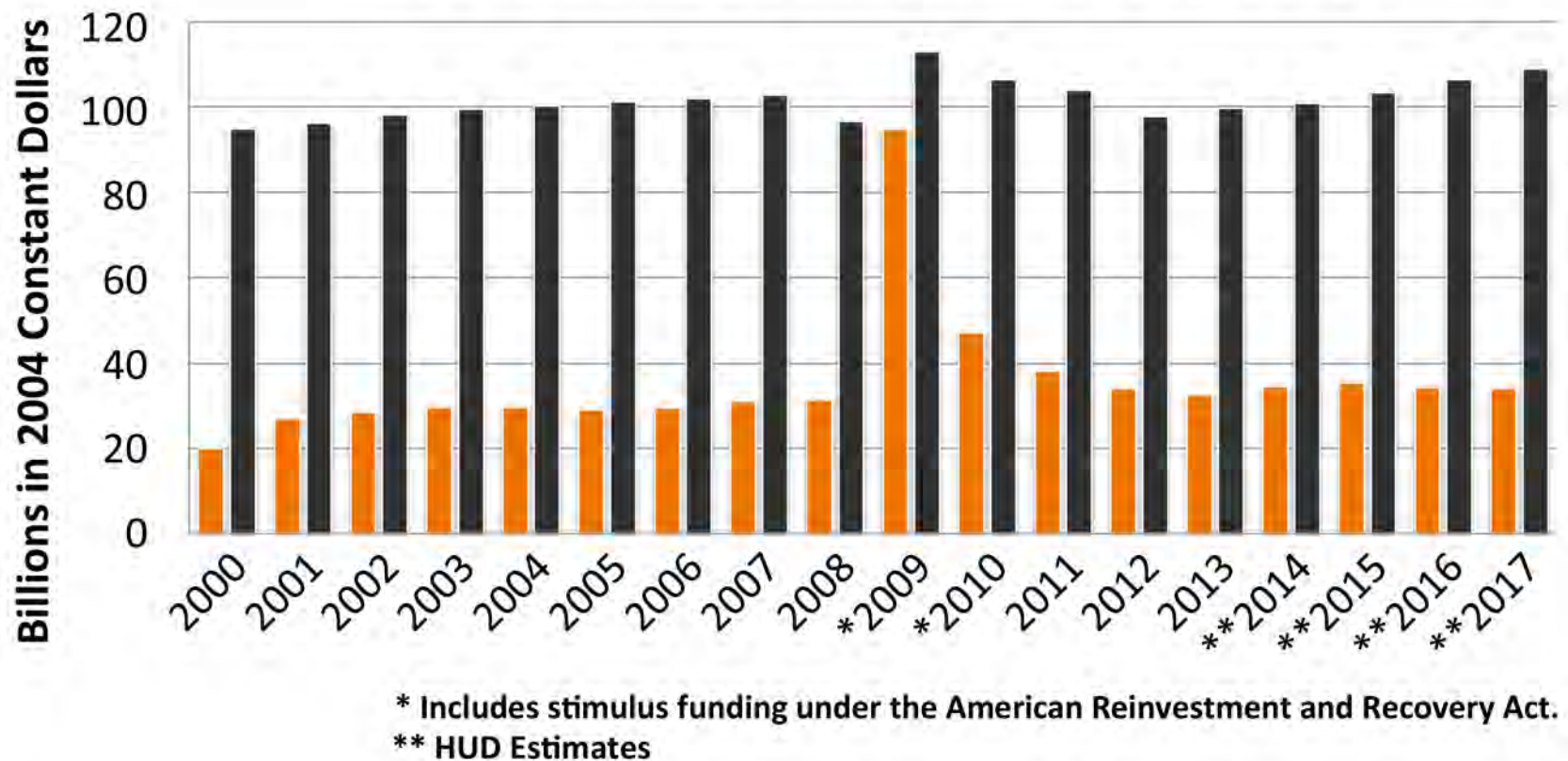
2013 Dollars (in Billions)



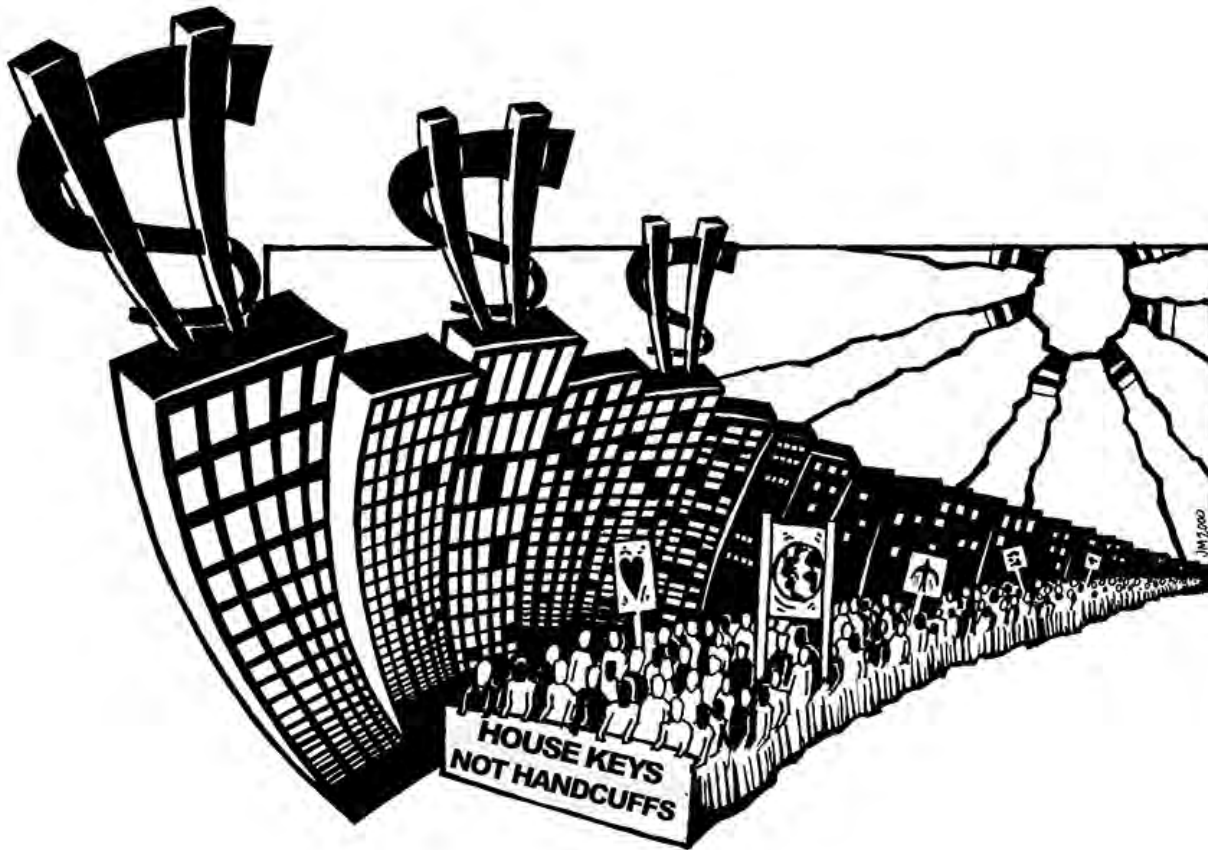
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Mortgage Interest Deductions

- HUD Low/Moderate-Income Housing Assistance
- Federal Tax Expenditure Estimates on Home Ownership



What Must Be Done



Artist: Josh MacPhee

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Making Housing A Human Right

- Restore federal housing funding.
- Turn vacant buildings into housing.
- Repeal immigration status as screening criteria for housing assistance.
- End demolitions without replacement and right of return.
- Stop the criminalization of poor people.



Artist: Favianna Rodriguez

Organize Around People



Artist: Art Hazelwood

- Build alliances across race, nationality, class, gender, & religion.
- Connect organizing for housing to education, health care, dignified work, immigrant rights, Native People's sovereignty, & economic security.
- Value mutual humanity.

Take Action Now

- Connect local organizing with efforts to build a broader social justice movement.
- Speak out for housing as a human right!
- Educate your community!
- Join WRAP!



Photo: Nicholas Dahmann

Download Without Housing

www.wraphome.org



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