

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

**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



STREET SPIRIT

A publication of the American Friends Service Committee

JUSTICE NEWS & HOMELESS BLUES IN THE BAY AREA

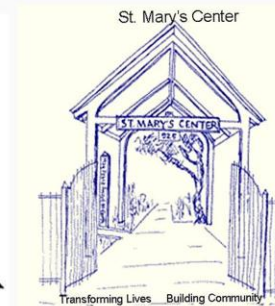
SISTERS OF THE ROAD



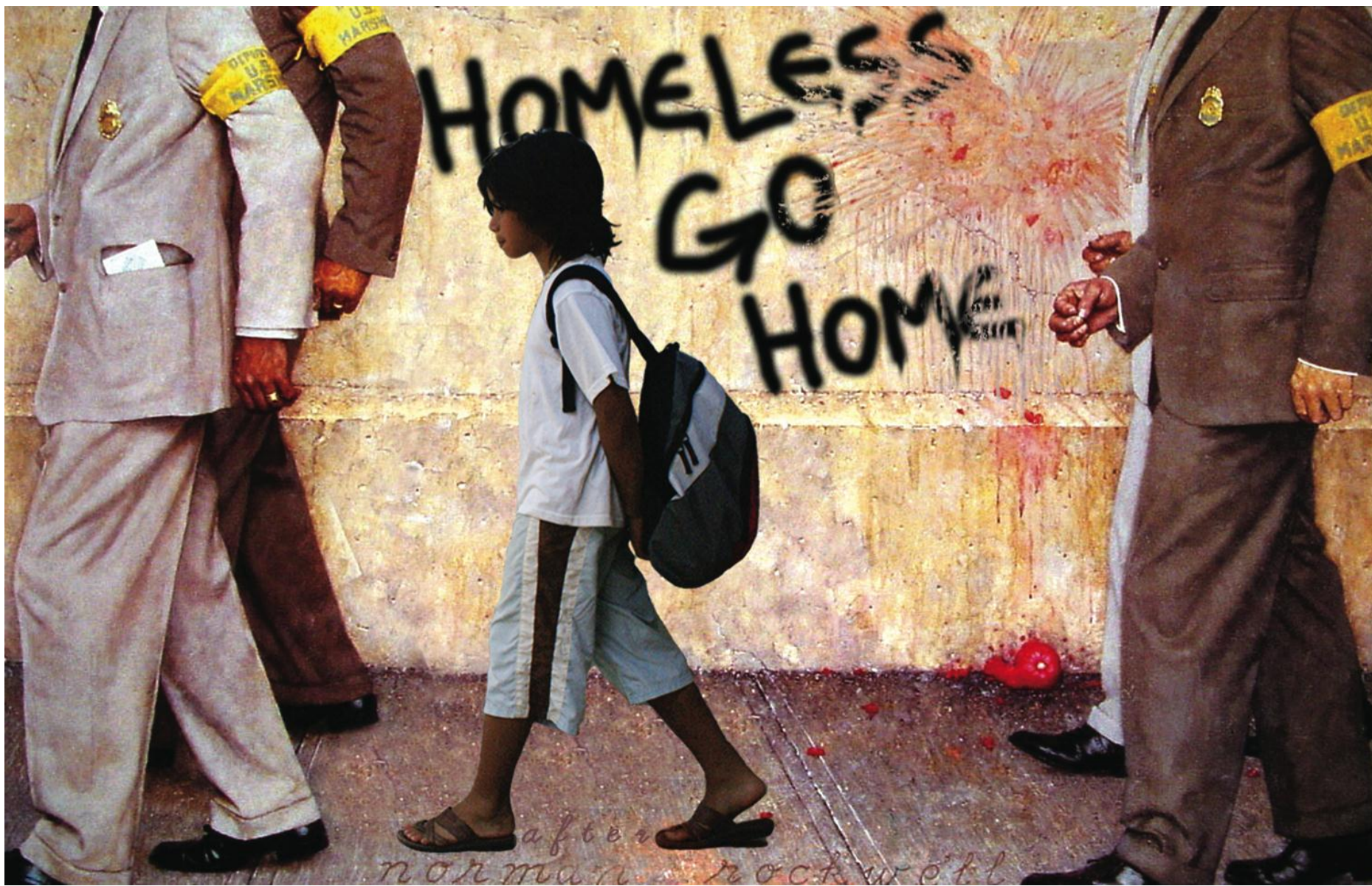
BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

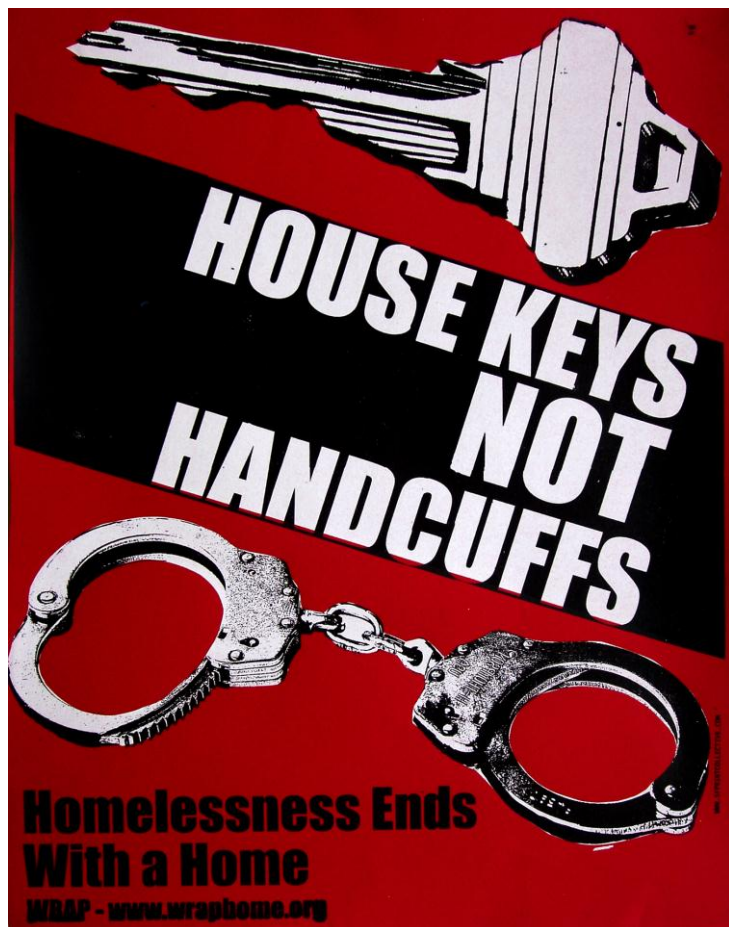


RIGHT 2 SURVIVE PDX



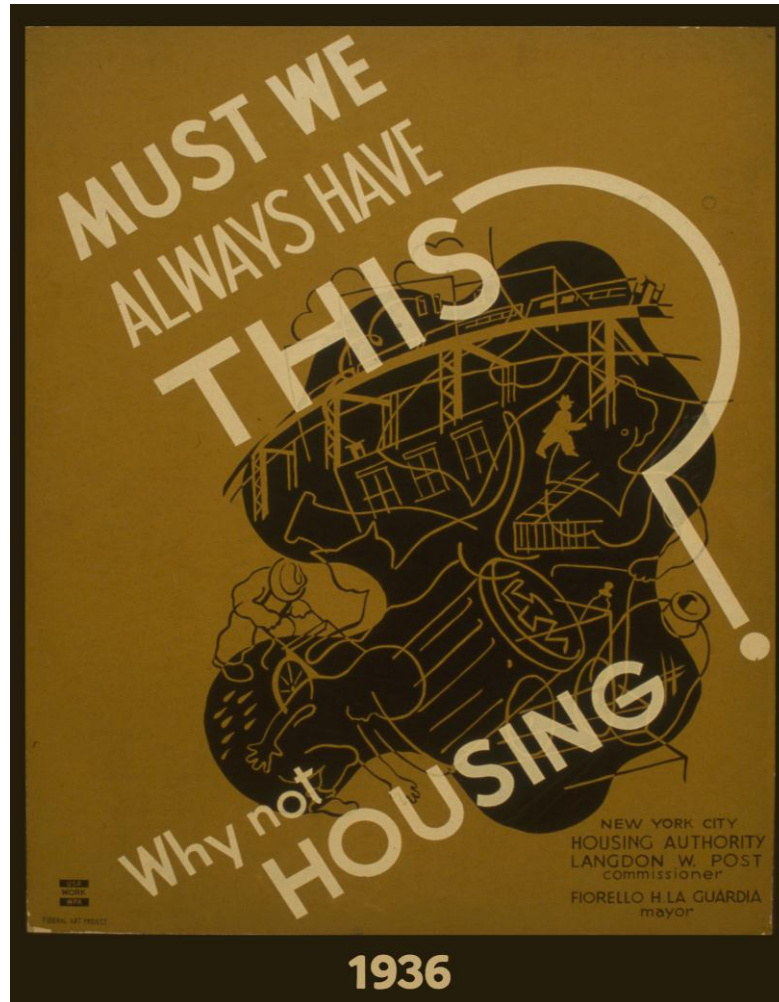
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Overview



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



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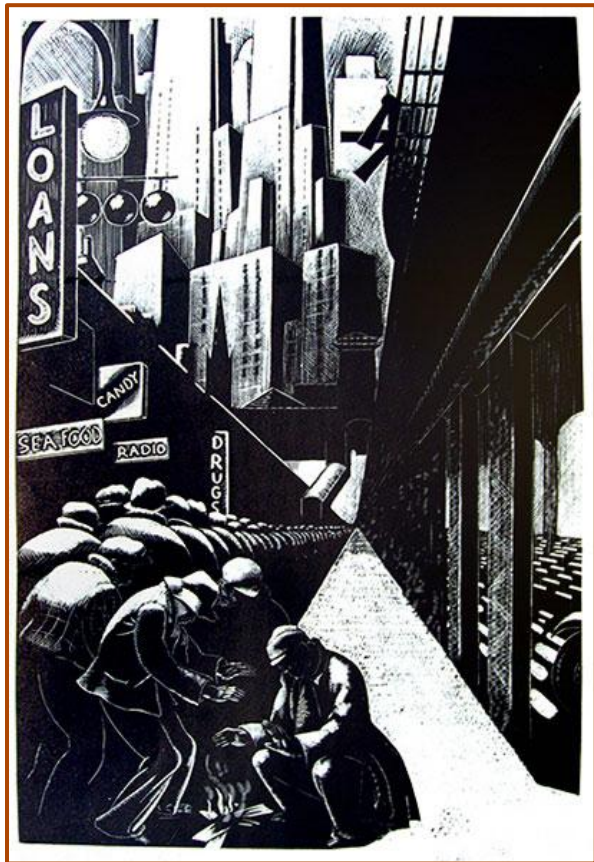


A Tale of Two Acts

There have been two episodes of mass homelessness in the United States. Legislation from each era tells the story...

Act I

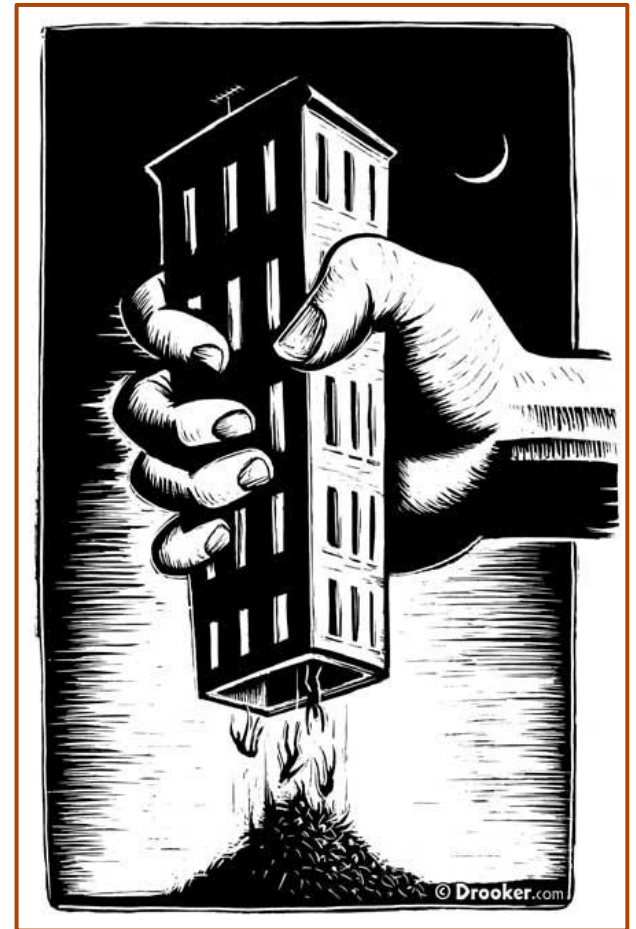
- **The Housing Act of 1937 committed:**
“to remedy the unsafe & unsanitary housing conditions & the acute shortage of decent, safe, & sanitary dwellings for families of lower income...”



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.”



Political & Economic Factors



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War on the Poor



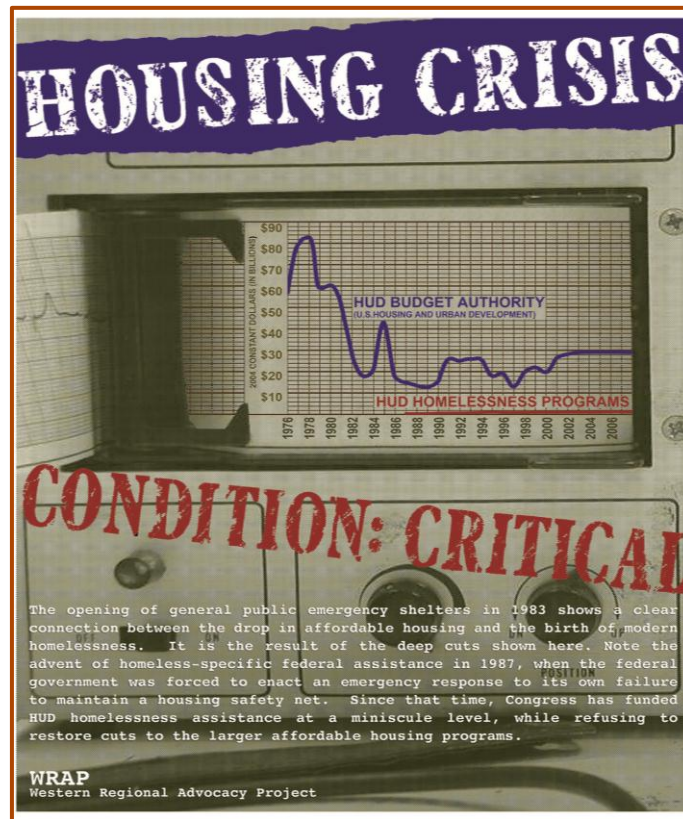
- Trickle-down economics
- Welfare reform
- Mass imprisonment
- Punitive immigration policies
- Attacks on unions
- Income inequality, job insecurity, & debt
- Privatization of public services

Housing As Commodity

- Feds turn housing over to private market in the 1970s.
- 360,000 project-based Section 8 units lost through conversion to market rate since 1995.
- Over 3 million foreclosures since 2008.
- 15 million vacant housing units in 2010.

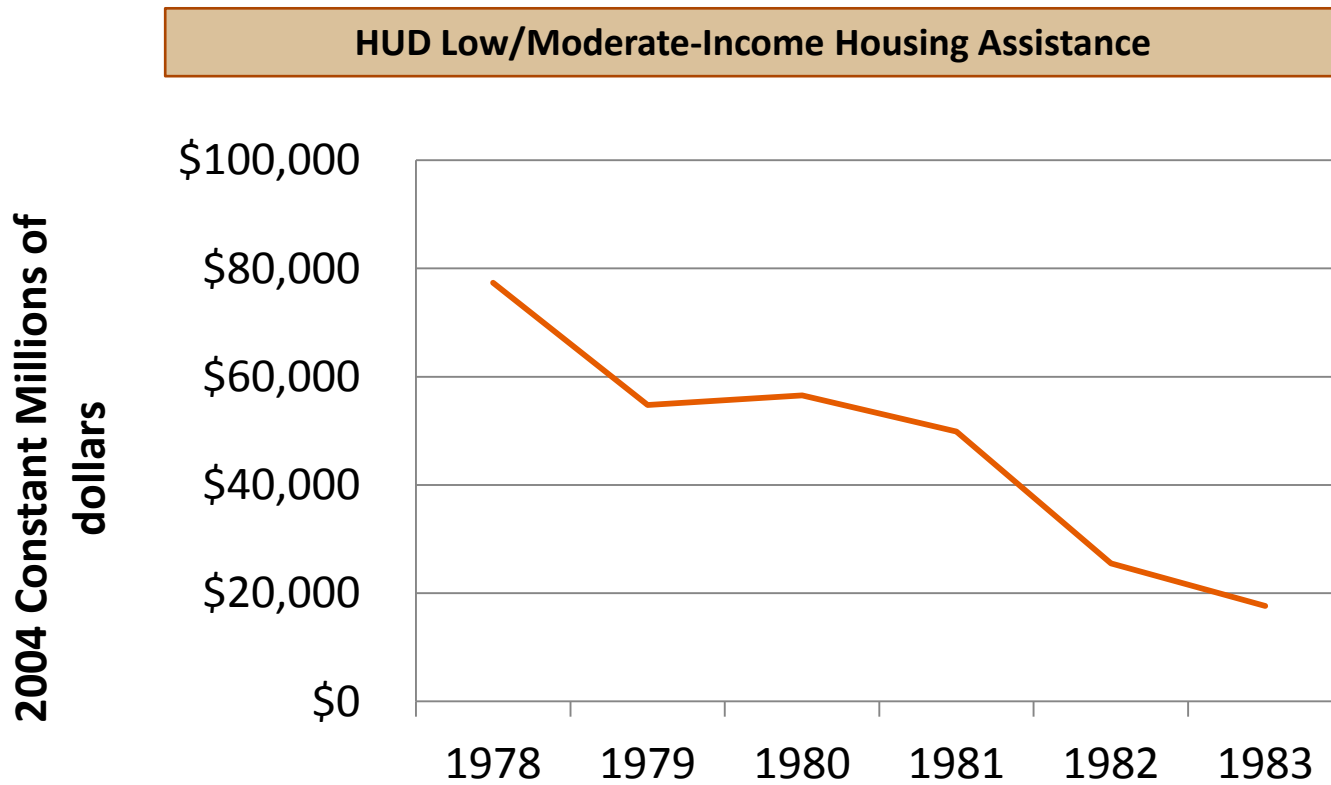


Cutbacks in Low-Income Housing Programs



Cause and Effect

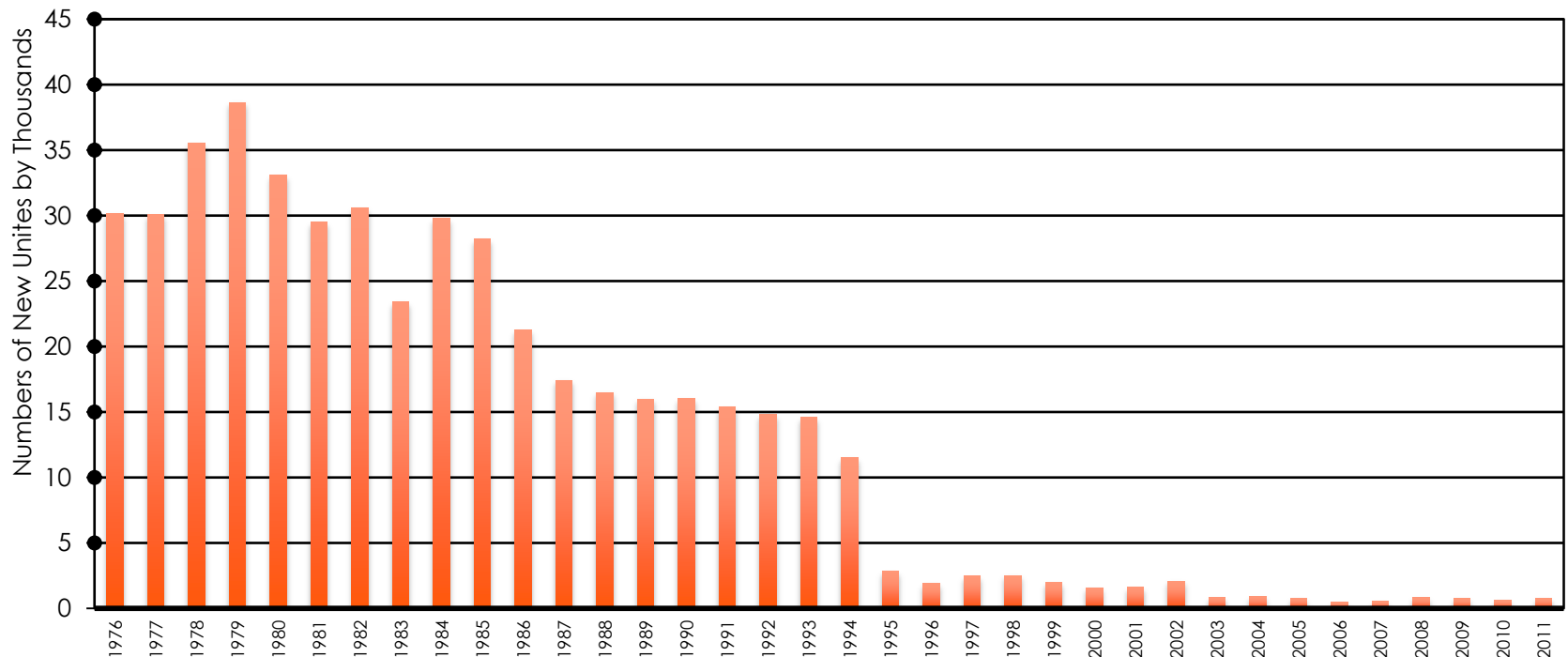
**HUD's budget authority was cut by 77% from 1978 to 1983.
As a result emergency shelters opened nationwide.**



Rural Housing Cuts

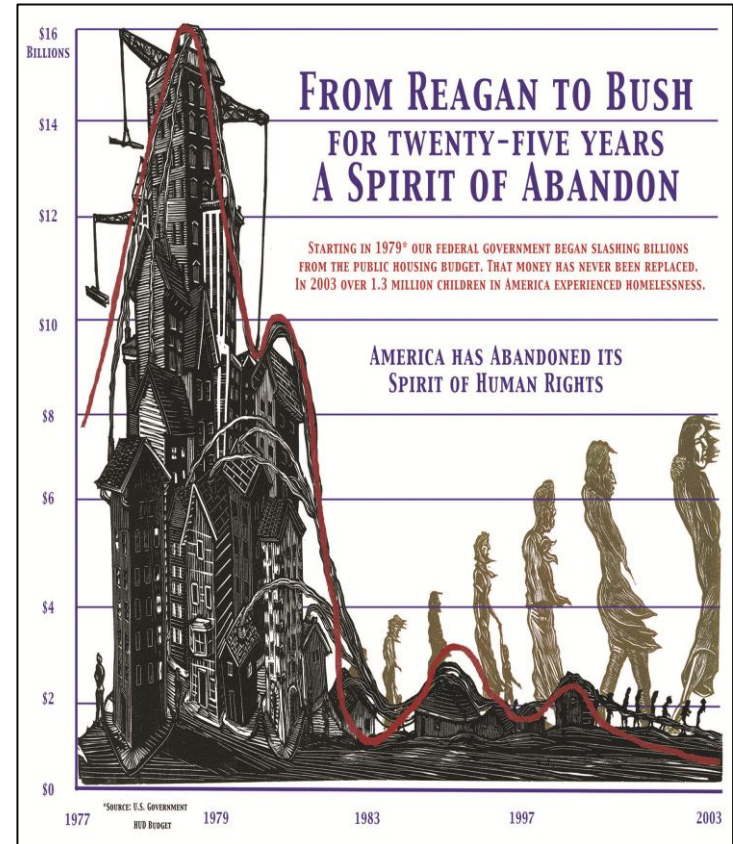
**USDA built 38,650 affordable housing units in 1979
& only 763 in 2011 — a 98% cut.**

Rural Affordable Housing Units Created by Section 515 (USDA)



Starving Public Housing

- Over 210,000 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.



Homelessness in U.S.



Race & Homelessness

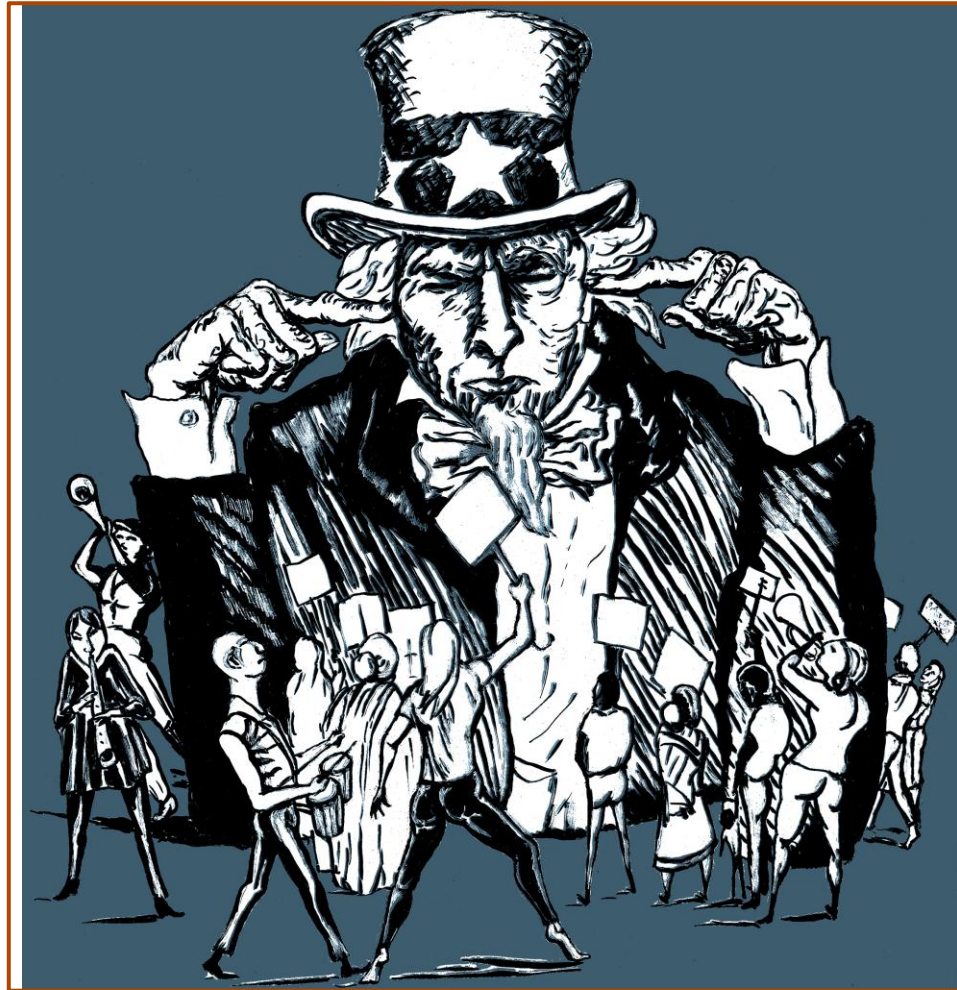
Race/Ethnicity	Estimated % of nation's total population (from US Census Data, 1990,2000 and 2009 estimates)	Estimated % of nation's homeless population (homeless counts/surveys between 1991 and 2009)
African-American	12-12.3%	40-56%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.9-4.4%	1-3%
Hispanic/Latino	9-15%	12-15%
Native American	0.8-1.2%	3-4%
White	59-71%	32-39%

Impacts on Communities



- 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



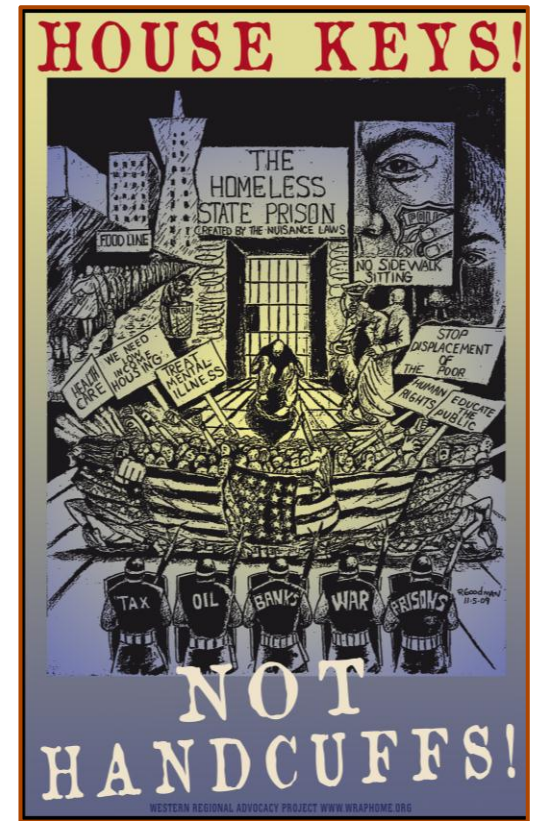
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The Vicious Cycle of Homeless Policy



Criminalization of Homelessness

- Sleeping outside, sitting or lying on the sidewalk, hanging out, & panhandling are now criminal acts.
- Business Improvement Districts use private security to remove homeless people from public space.
- Revives aspects of Jim Crow, Ugly Laws, Anti-Okie Laws, & Operation Wetback.



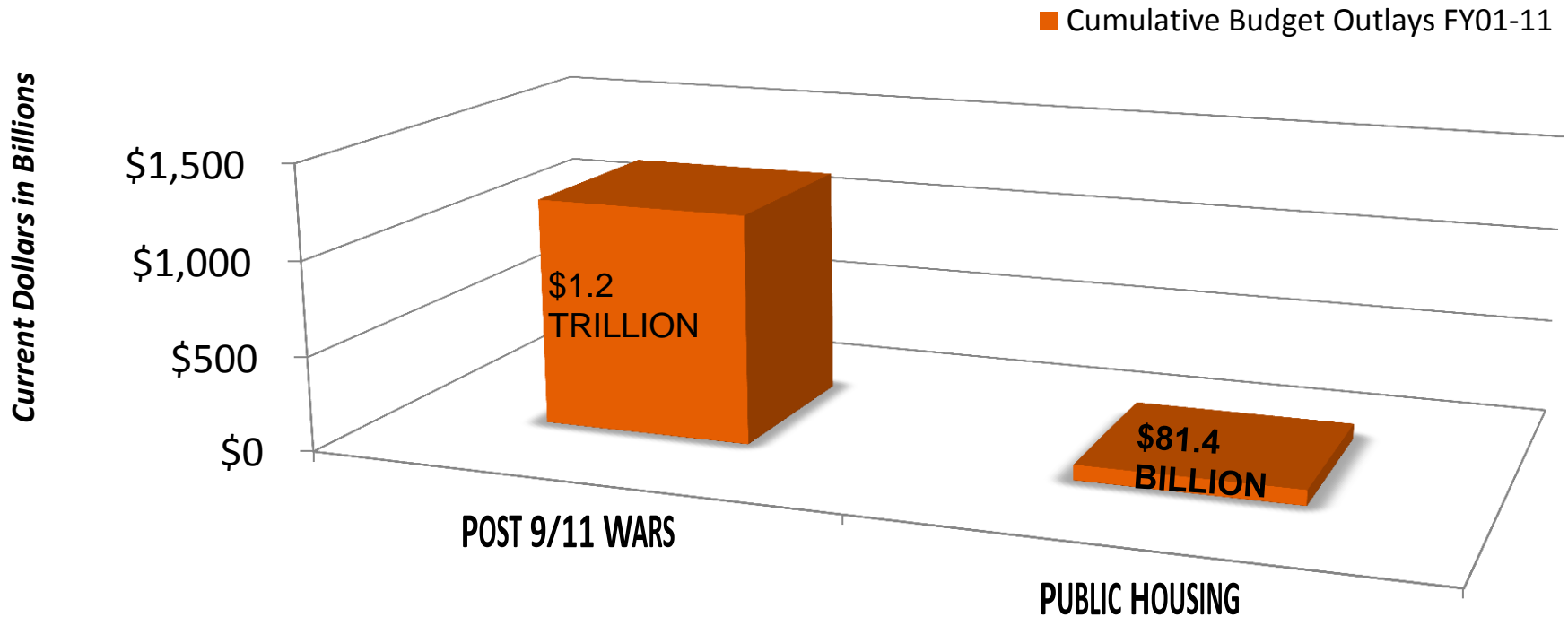
Federal Funding Priorities



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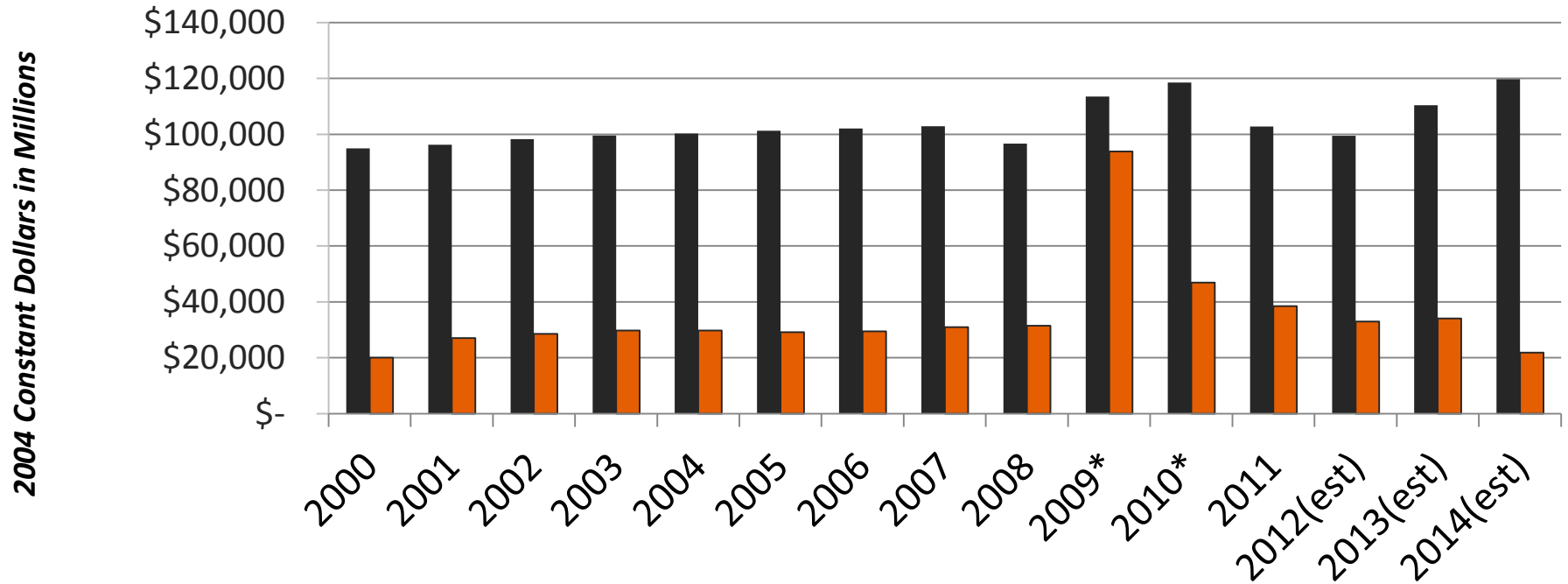
Lethal Tradeoffs

Funding War vs Public Housing



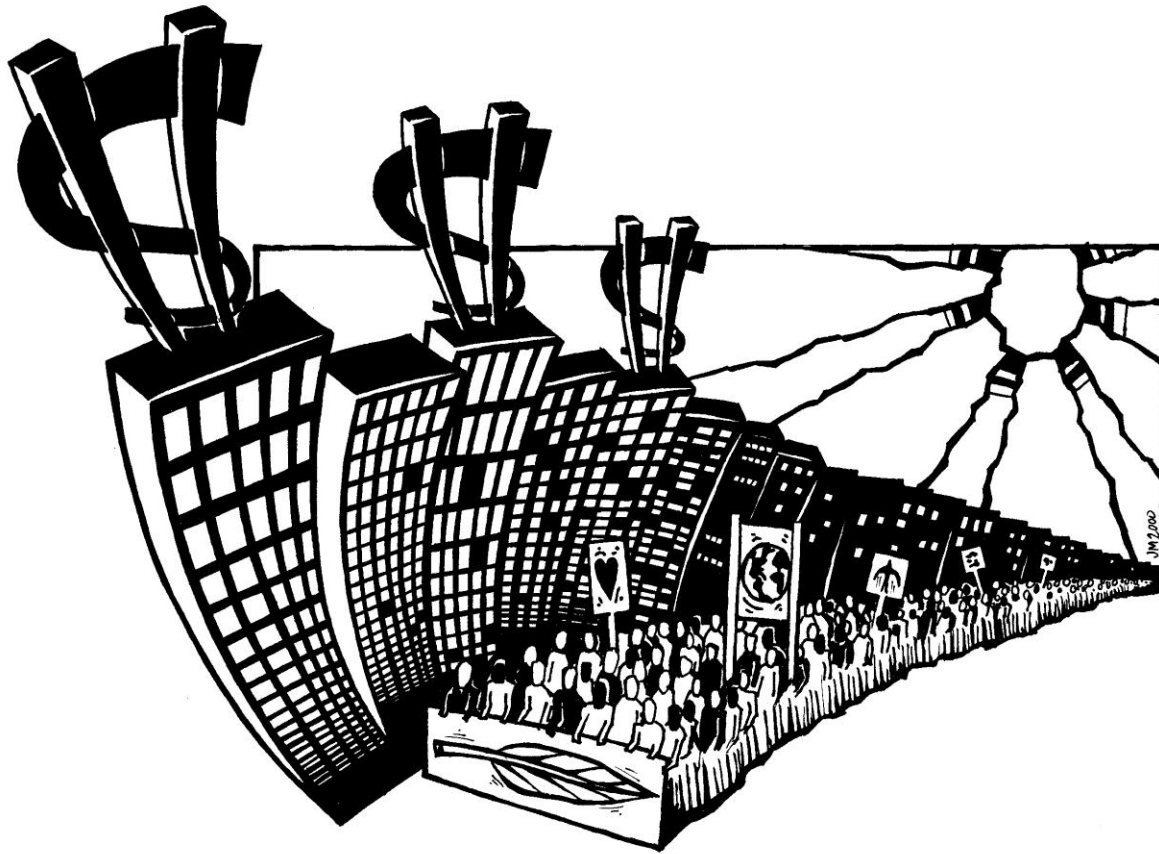
Mortgage Interest Deductions

■ Federal Tax Expenditures on Home Ownership



* Includes stimulus funding under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

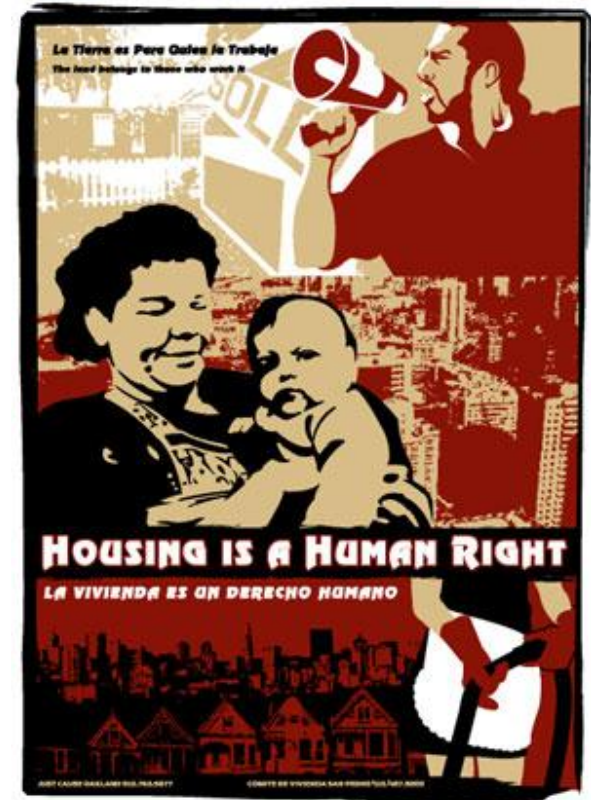
What Must Be Done



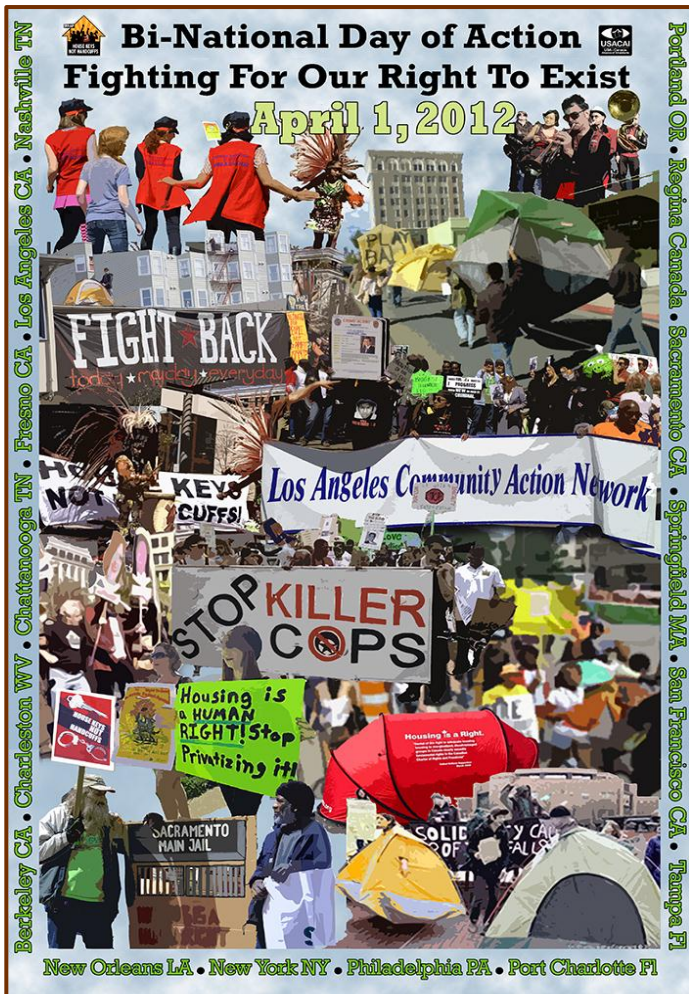
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Making Housing A Human Right

- 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.



Organize Around People



- 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!



Download Without Housing

www.wrAPHOME.org



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