Senior Poverty & Housing Insecurity in the Golden State

Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-term Care and Assembly Committee on Human Services

March 17, 2015
ALA provides affordable permanent supportive housing, shared living residences, and roommate matching for financially vulnerable, isolated, and homeless seniors.

Since 1978
Housing as a Platform
Housing Supply & Access

There are 125,000 low-income seniors in the City of LA and approximately 7,800 affordable senior units.

16 seniors compete for every 1 apartment

Housing Affordability

Average Asking Rent in Los Angeles compared to Monthly Grants (2011 - 2015)

- **Average Asking Rent** (Real Facts - 0BR/1BA)
- **SSI/SSP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Asking Rent (0BR/1BA)</th>
<th>SSI/SSP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$1,151</td>
<td>$830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$1,232</td>
<td>$854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$1,283</td>
<td>$866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$1,382</td>
<td>$877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$1,429</td>
<td>$889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consequences

High Housing Costs + Low Fixed Incomes

Seniors who have trouble affording their housing spend:

- 43% less on food
- 59% less on healthcare

Source: *Housing America’s Older Adults – Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population*. Chpt. 3, p. 17. Joint Center on Housing Studies, Harvard University.
Consequences

High Housing Costs + Low Fixed Incomes

Increasing Number of Homeless Older Adults\(^1\)
4,930 in Los Angeles County\(^2\)


\(^2\)Los Angeles County Point and Time Count, 2011 (individuals 55+)
Homeless Older Adults (62+)

*Shelter Partnership Study*

**Racial Groups**
- 57% Black
- 27% White
- 2% Native
- 2% Asian
- 13% Other

**Ethnicity**
- 37% Latino

**Military Status**
- 28% Veterans

Homeless for **First Time** in Late Middle Age

*Shelter Partnership Study*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration Homeless at Entry to Shelter</th>
<th>New Image Clients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day - 1 month</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 month - 6 months</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 months - 12 months</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 12 months</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Homeless for First Time in Late Middle Age

Most Common Reasons:
- Poverty
- Housing Instability

Prompted by Crisis:
- Job Loss
- Illness
- Relationship Breakdown
- Mental Health Problem
Aging on the Streets ➔ Permanent Supportive Housing
Low Fixed Incomes

Not Enough Affordable Housing

Increased Longevity

Inadequate Retirement

Caregiver Shortage

Healthcare Reform

Solutions

Increase SSI/SSP financial assistance

Increase supply of housing and units for seniors (Ex. AB 1335, AB 35)

Use a poverty measure that includes the cost of housing