

Homeless Shelters: A Feeble Response to Homelessness

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ABSTRACT

The Western Regional Advocacy Project documents federal cutbacks in housing: * From 1976-1982, HUD (Housing and Urban Development) built over 755,000 new public housing units, but since 1983, HUD built only 256,000 new public housing units. * From 1976-1985, a yearly average of almost 31,000 new Section 515 rural affordable housing units were built, but from 1986-1995, average yearly production was less than half that of the previous decade and from 1996-2005, Section 515 built an average of only 1,700 new units per year. * In recent years, over 200,000 private-sector rental units have been lost annually, and 1.2 million unsubsidized affordable housing units disappeared from 1993-2003. * HUD budget authority in 1978 was 65 percent more than its 2006 budget. While the federal government has been cutting housing for the poor, it has increased housing subsidies for the affluent through tax benefits for home ownership. The U.S. government plans to spend more money on one destroyer than it spent on all 2005 capital expenses for public housing; more on ten F-22 fighter jets than on 2005 operating expenses for public housing; and twice as much on a single submarine than on all McKinney-Vento Act homeless assistance.

DETAILS

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