



**CALIFORNIA
PARTNERSHIP**

50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty statement

On today's 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, we pause to recognize the vital investments made in health and education, which curtailed poverty in 1964. We also recognize how vital these investments remain today in 2014, and how there is much more to do to realize this remarkable vision for our country and in the State of California.

The poverty reduction strategies initiated after LBJ declared War on Poverty in 1964 were inspired by and built on the back of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. They successfully reduced poverty to a historically low level of 11.1 percent in 1973, down from 22% in the 60s. Today, programs such as Supplemental Security Income help [keep 3.4 million low income seniors](#) and people with disabilities out of poverty every year. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), often referred to as "food stamps," helps keep [4.7 million people from living in poverty every year](#). Without the safety net that has been put in place over the last 50 years, nearly [30% of American's would be living in poverty in 2012](#). These programs work.

However, in the last 30 years, powerful forces in the American economy have arisen and instead of fighting to reduce and eliminate poverty, policies and systems have been put in place to extract profit and wealth from American workers. A systematic War on the Poor has cut people off from the safety net that was intended to keep them out of poverty. Because of this rampant, shortsighted disinvestment, we are facing a national and statewide poverty crisis and the vision that President Johnson put forward 50 years ago today is at great risk.

At California Partnership, we are working with our partners to carry on this battle and achieve its original intentions. By providing training and support to community based organizations and grassroots leaders across the state, we are taking a stand. We are working to build a strong movement of community members and advocates that can address the wide range of systemic problems that allow a growing number of people to live in poverty in the richest state of the country. We are working to remove barriers that prevent people from receiving health care and human services when they fall on hard times. Together, we are helping build a road out of poverty in California. When we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the War on Poverty, let us do it while speaking of poverty as a thing of the past, and remember the commitments we made in 2014 that started us down that road.

For the future of all Californians, we hope you'll support us by doing one of the following:

1. Join us at one of our six statewide events on January 10: <http://i.imgur.com/BVUDVOY.png>
2. Make an online donation of \$50 dollars to support the war on poverty on its 50th anniversary: <http://www.california-partnership.org/donate/>