



# **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.

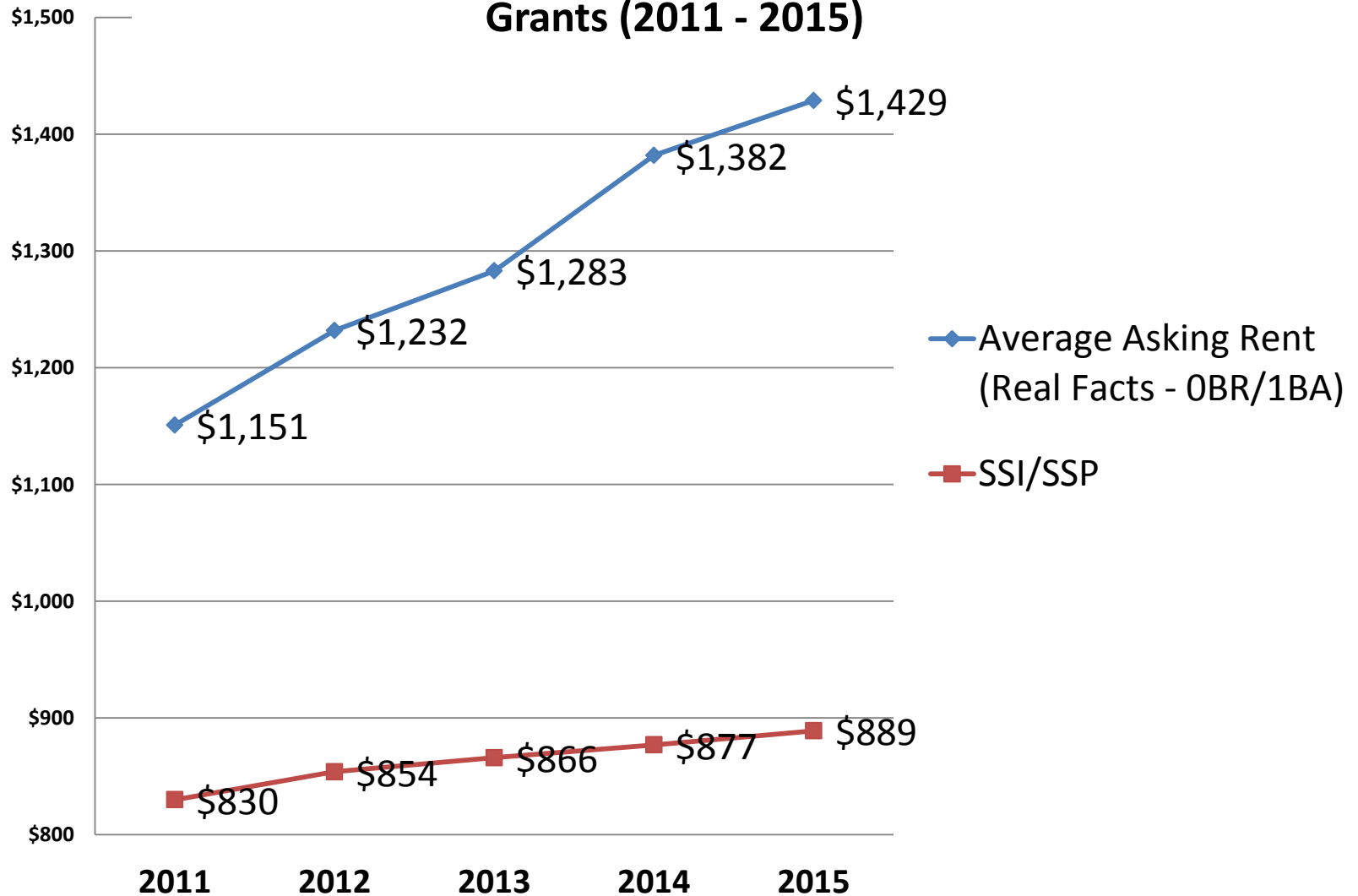
**16 seniors compete for every 1 apartment**

Source: *Housing Element 2013-2021*, adopted December 3, 2013. Los Angeles Department of City Planning. Chpt. 1, p. 1-19.



# Housing Affordability

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



# 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<sup>1</sup>  
4,930 in Los Angeles County<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sermons MW, Henry M. Demographics of Homelessness Series: The Rising Elderly Population. Washington, D.C.: Homelessness Research Institute; 2010

<sup>2</sup>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



Shelter Partnership, Inc.  
Working in partnership to end homelessness...  
[www.shelterpartnership.org](http://www.shelterpartnership.org)

Source: Shelter Partnership. *Homeless Older Adults Strategic Plan*. March 2008.





# Homeless for First Time in Late Middle Age

## *Shelter Partnership Study*

Duration Homeless at Entry to Shelter	New Image Clients
	62 Years and Older
1 day - 1 month	33%
1 month - 6 months	18%
7 months - 12 months	8%
More than 12 months	32%



# 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**

The graphic features a white circle positioned in the center-left, overlapping four overlapping squares: a red one at the top left, a green one at the top right, a yellow one at the bottom left, and a blue one at the bottom right. The background consists of large, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of orange, green, and yellow.

ala  
affordable living  
for the aging