



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.

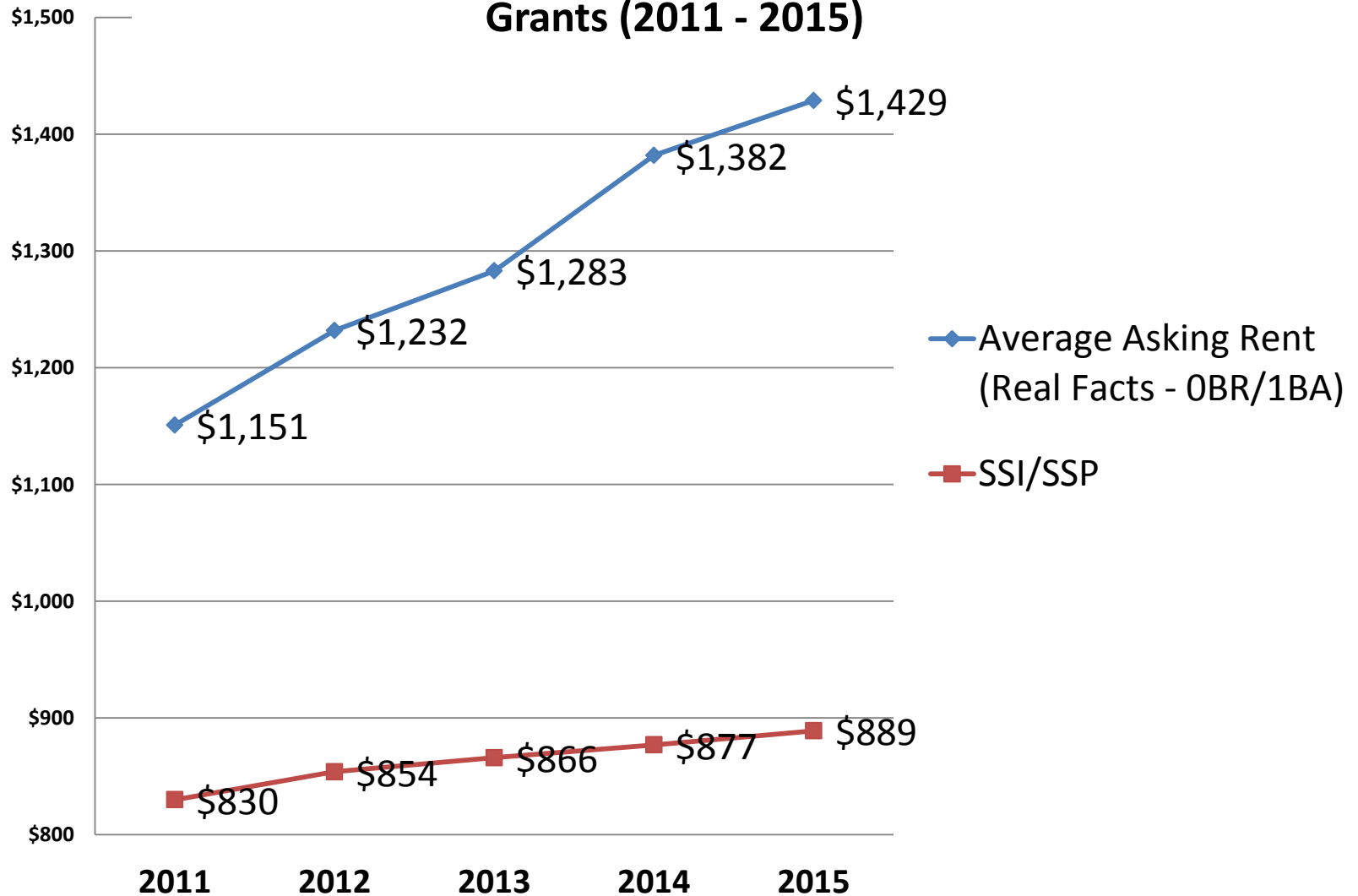
16 seniors compete for every 1 apartment

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 Adults¹
4,930 in Los Angeles County²

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

²Los 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

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 blue one at the bottom-right, and a yellow one at the bottom-left. The background consists of large, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of orange, green, and yellow.

ala
affordable living
for the aging