War on Poverty
Who is the ENEMY?
Absolute Poverty

*Noun*

a) condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs
b) widely refers to earning below the international poverty line of $1.25/day

Relative Poverty

*Noun*

a) the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions
Relative Poverty

*Noun*

a) : the state of one who lacks a *usual or socially acceptable* amount of money or material possessions

Absolute Poverty

*Noun*

a) condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs
b) : widely refers to earning below the international poverty line of $1.25/day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of family unit</th>
<th>None</th>
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<th>Eight or more</th>
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<td>One person (unrelated individual)</td>
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<td>Householder under 65 years</td>
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<td>Seven people</td>
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<td>Nine people or more</td>
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
“Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity…It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to… It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.”
Who are we fighting for?
Oklahoma poverty rate, by educational attainment, 2014

- Less than high school: 28.4%
- High school graduate/GED: 15.3%
- Some college: 11.1%
- Bachelor's degree or higher: 4.4%

Source: Census Bureau
Oklahoma poverty rate, by gender, 2014

- Male: 14.9%
- Female: 18.2%

Oklahoma poverty rate, by age, 2014

- Under 18 years: 22.4%
- 18 to 64 years: 16.2%
- 65 years and over: 8.5%

Source: Census Bureau
Oklahoma poverty rate, by race/ethnicity, 2014

- Black or African American: 29.9%
- Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race): 27.2%
- American Indian and Alaska Native: 21.4%
- Two or more races: 20.6%
- White, not Hispanic or Latino: 12.9%

Source: Census Bureau
Causes or Effects Of WAR
Cause → Cause → Cause → Effect
VS.
Health Outcomes

• 7.5% of households went hungry at some point during the year because they couldn’t afford food

• Malnutrition, poor health, or untreated illness stunt a worker’s capacity to earn and drains their assets.
Data from 3,139 counties in the U.S. Quintiles are cohorts of counties ranked by the percentage of people living with poverty.
Educational Attainment

- Educational attainment is highly correlated with employment and earnings
- Public schools are chronically underfunded and its physical infrastructure is badly neglected
Employment... or lack thereof

• People in eastern Oklahoma and people of color are unemployed at disproportionately higher rates

• The state consistently tops the nation for the share of adult workers that are not fully employed, currently at 8.3%

• 30% of occupations pay below poverty level*
Policies & Statutes

Do they help or hurt?
Safety Net Programs

• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
• Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children
Basic Assistance Spending: 20%
Work-related Activities and Supports: 9%
Child Care: 14%
Administration and Systems: 7%
Refundable Tax Credits: 0%
Non-recurrent short term Benefits: 13%
Transferred to SSBG: 32%
Pregnancy Prevention & Two Parent Family Formation+Maintenance: 0%
AUPL+Other Nonassistance: 5%

2014 TANF Spending in Oklahoma
894,346 total persons received SNAP benefits.

Average monthly benefit of $122.
WIC’s Big 3
Food Benefits
Nutrition Education
Breastfeeding Support
EITC
Earned Income Tax Credit
“People who sit on the couch all day don’t deserve the EITC. My tax dollars shouldn’t go to free loaders.”
The Sales Tax Relief Credit, sometimes known as the “grocery tax credit,” is an income tax credit that provides a rebate of $40 per household member to households with incomes at or below the following 50K for seniors and 20k for everyone else.
Child Tax Credit