# CAP AND THE WAR ON POVERTY

1964 – 2011

# Going to the Moon

**Click picture to view video**

President John F. Kennedy
Address to Congress, May 25, 1961

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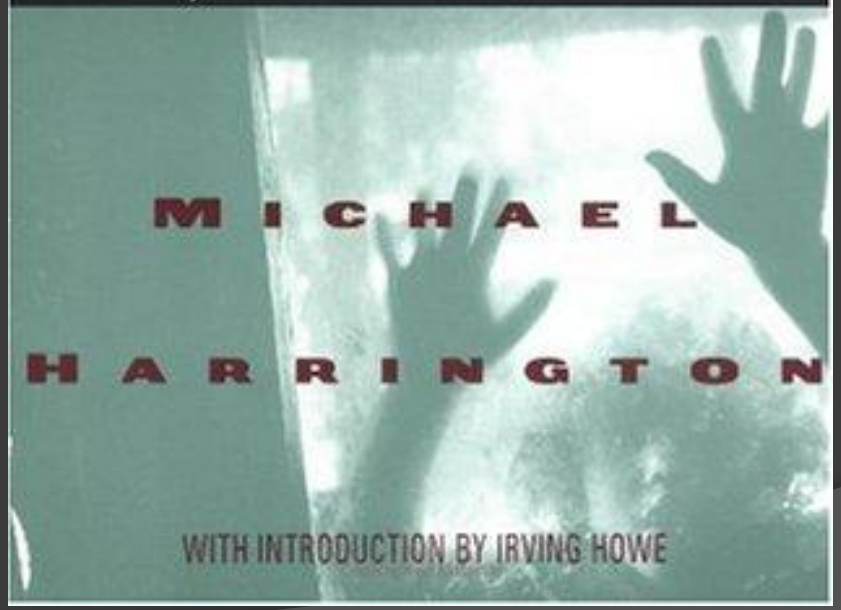
# THE OTHER AMERICA

Poverty in the United States



MICHAEL HARRINGTON

WITH INTRODUCTION BY IRVING HOWE

“What does this poverty mean to those who must endure it?

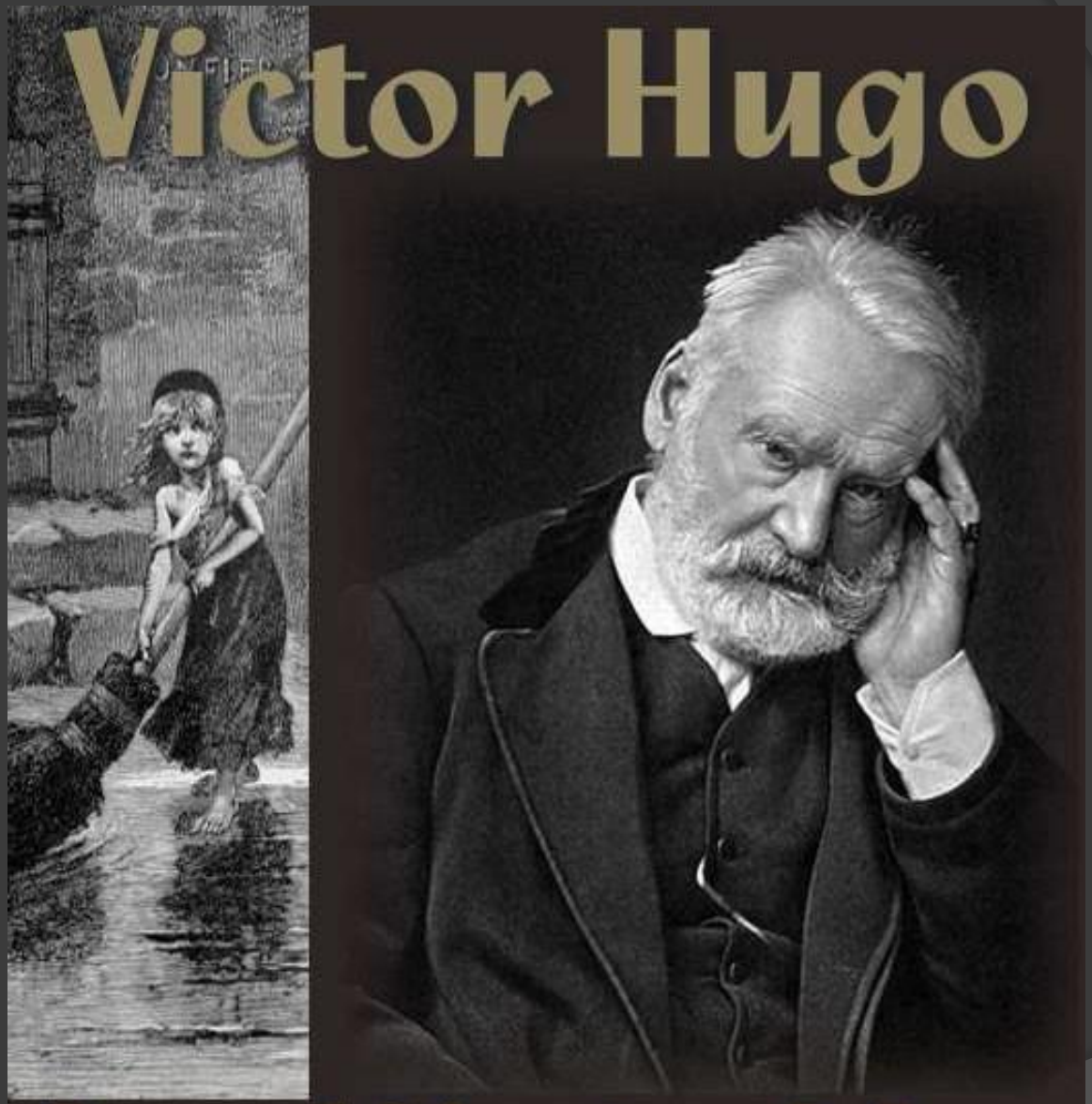
It means a daily struggle to secure the necessities for even a meager existence. It means that the abundance, the comforts, the opportunities they see all around them are beyond their grasp.

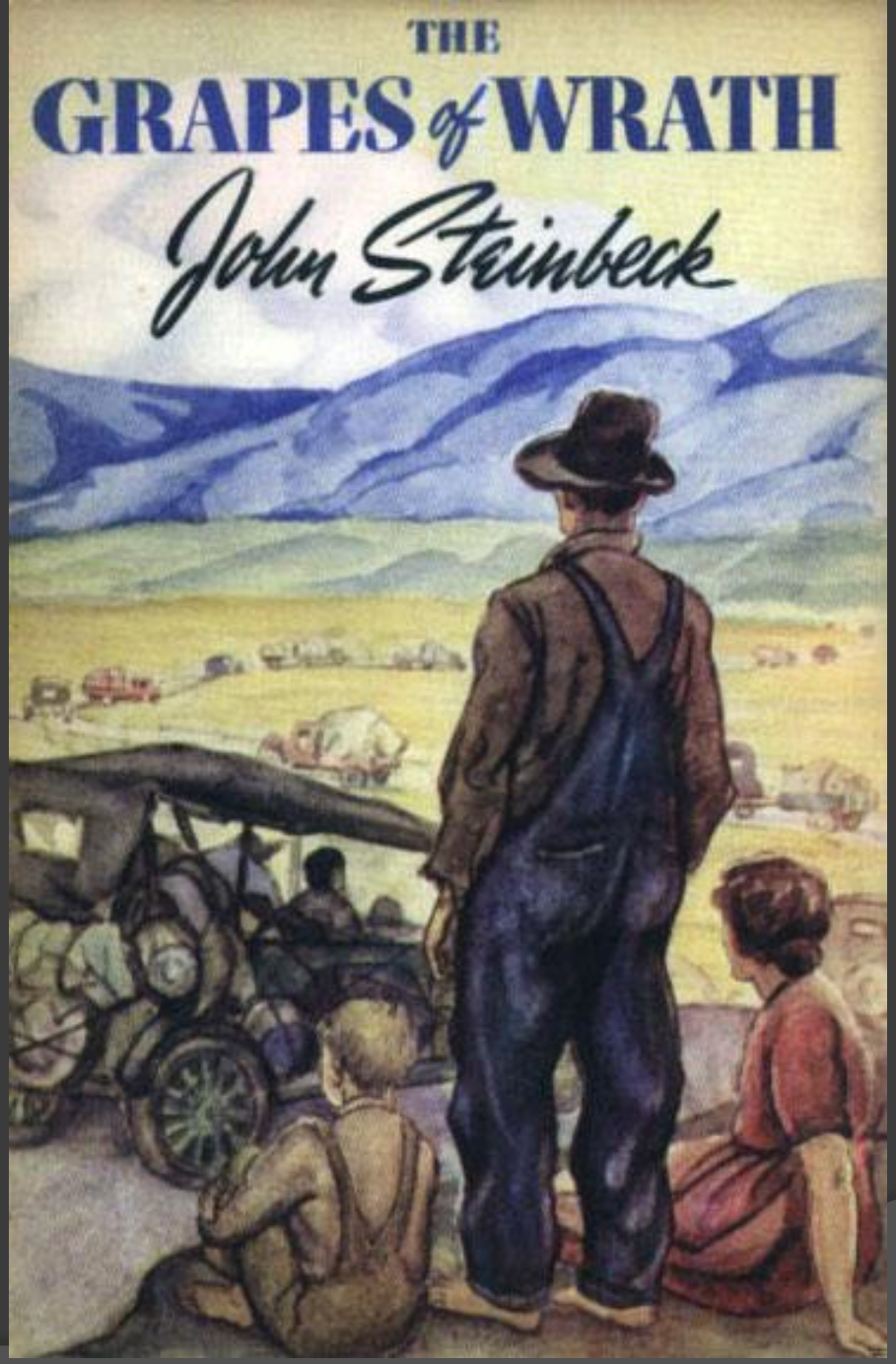
Worst of all, it means hopelessness for the young.”

President Lyndon Johnson
Special Message to the Congress
March 16, 1964

“The first step is to see the problems,
and the first problem is the failure
to see the people.”

David K. Shipler
*The Working Poor: Invisible in America*


Victor Hugo
Les Misérables


THE
GRAPES of WRATH
John Steinbeck

## Programs of the War on Poverty

Job Corps

Head Start

Legal Services

Upward Bound

Comprehensive Health Services

Emergency Food & Medical Planning

Alcohol Counseling & Recovery

Drug Rehabilitation

Community Action Programs (CAPs)

# Poverty in America

People of color are disproportionately represented

Majority of the poor are women

Generational poverty (cyclical)

Poverty as a moral failure (shame)

LIFE
THE WAR GOES ON
FEBRUARY 11 · 1966 · 35¢

STOP THE
Killing
IN
VIETNAM

ONE WAY
SAVE
WAY
CHECKS CASHED
24 HOUR AUTO TAGS
MONEY ORDERS
INSURANCE APPRAISALS
M.H. CARSON & SON
MORTON N. NEUFELD
REAL ESTATE
WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHE
RICH MAN'S WAR!!!

“There was never a war on poverty.
Maybe there was a skirmish on poverty.”

Andrew Cuomo, Housing Secretary
in Clinton Administration

# Organizations Started as CAP Programs in Cowlitz County

HeadStart

Evergreen Legal Services

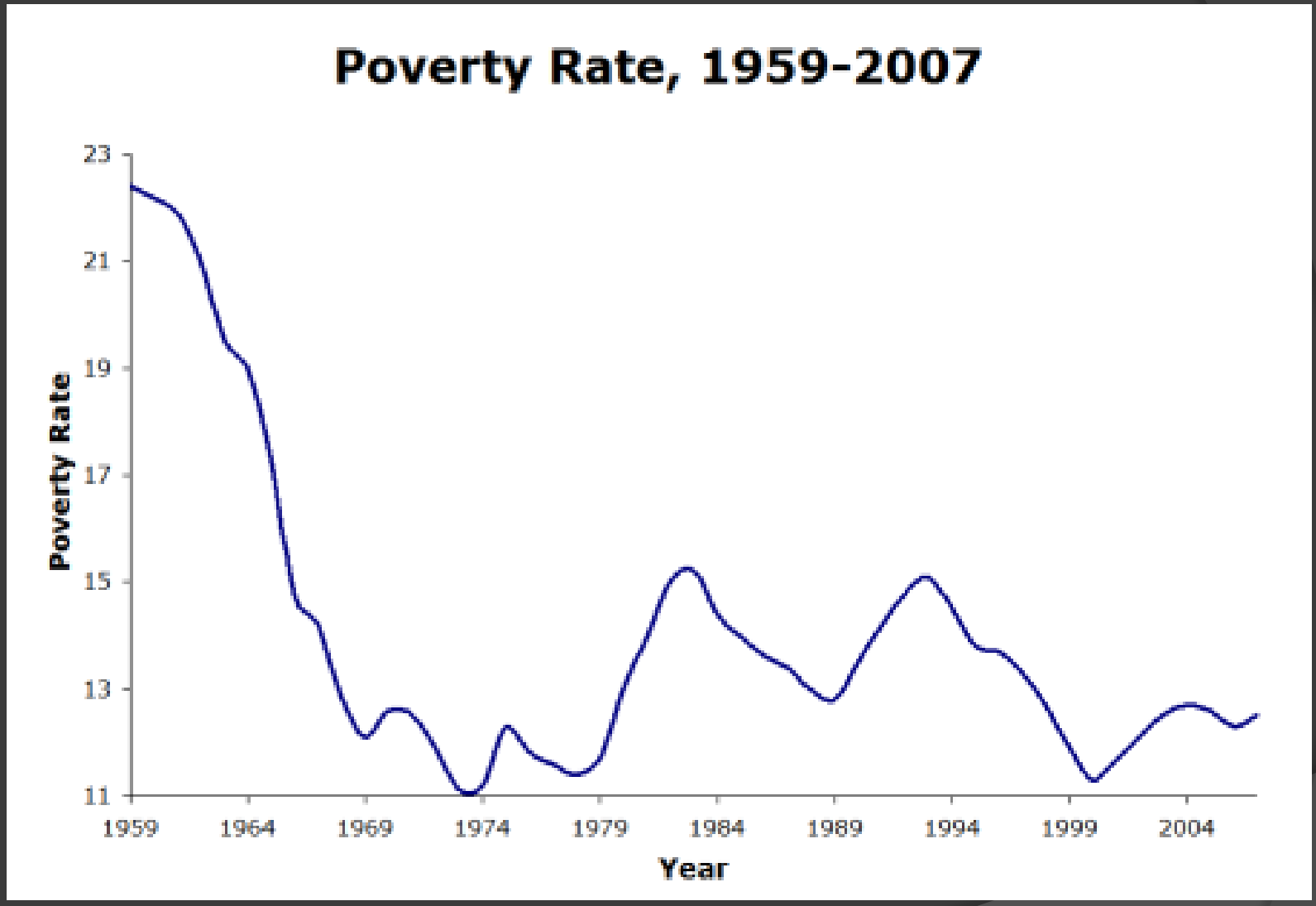
Family Health Center

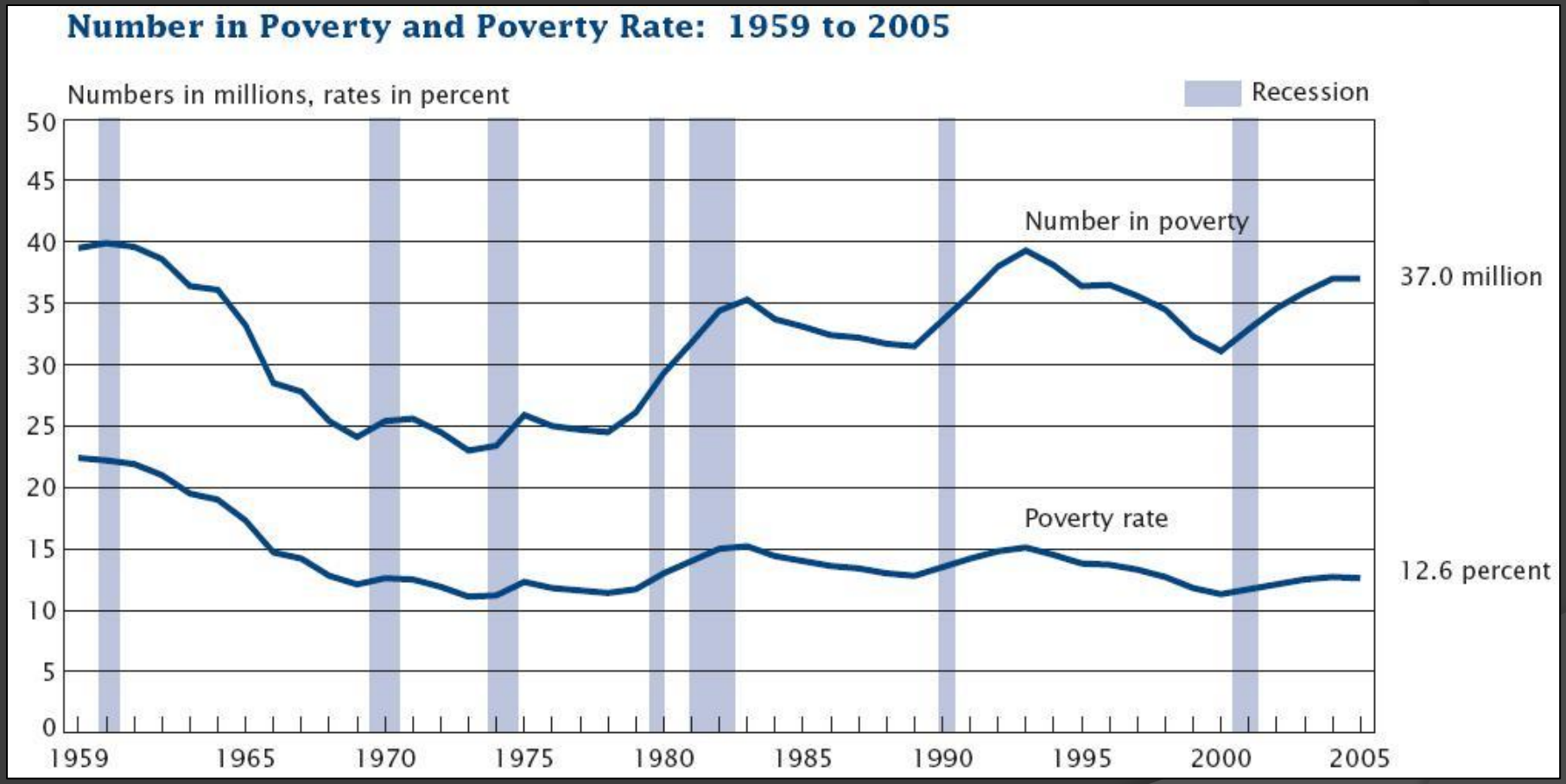
Ethnic Support Council

Emergency Support  Shelter

“My friends, some years ago the federal government declared war on poverty -- and poverty won.”

President Ronald Reagan


Poverty Rate, 1959-2007
Poverty Rate
23
21
19
17
15
13
11
1959
1964
1969
1974
1979
1984
1989
1994
1999
2004
Year


Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2005
Numbers in millions, rates in percent
Recession
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1959
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
Number in poverty
37.0 million
Poverty rate
12.6 percent

How you frame a problem determines how you'll see its solution

# The Great Ideological Divide

| Liberals | Conservatives |
| --- | --- |
| Poverty as society's failure | Individual 's Self-determination |
| Correcting systemic causes of poverty | Personal responsibility & initiative |
| Providing a "safety net" for the poor | "Entitlement mentality" saps the individual's will to better one's life |

# Community Action Programs

find common ground

Community-based

Neighbors helping their neighbors

Locally owned & operated
(non-government)

Seeing a Return On Investment

# SERVICES

Community Support

Financial Independence

# Community Support Services
(Safety Net)

Help Warehouse - food distribution

Energy Assistance

Housing Rehab and Weatherization

Homelessness Prevention
("The New Homeless")

Housing Programs

Transportation Services
(Seniors, Medicaid, I-5 CAP vans)

# Community Support Services
(Safety Net)

Senior Services

- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Community Lunches
- In-Home Care
- Home Care Equipment Bank
- Senior & Medicaid Rides
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- RUOK?—Daily check-in by phone

# Financial Independence Services

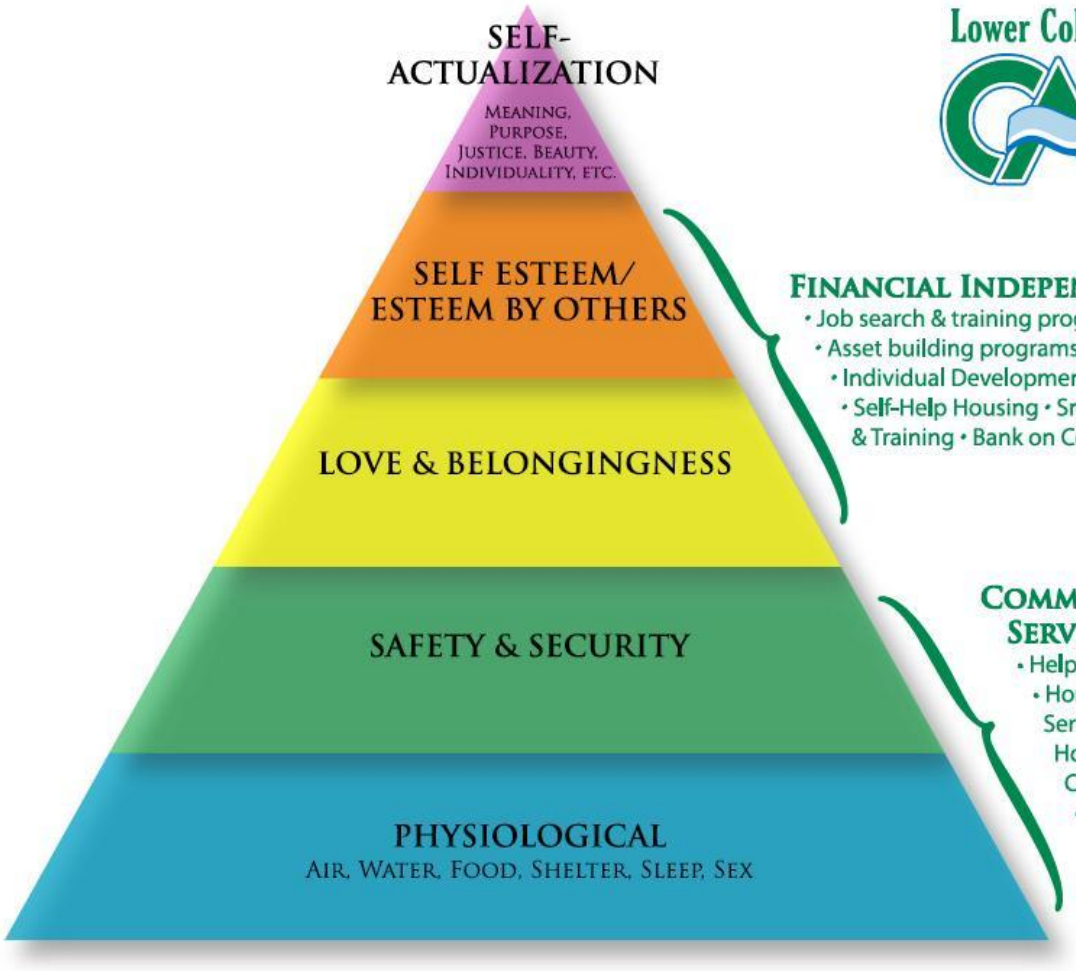
**JOBS**--Employment & Job Training Programs

**HOMEOWNERS**--Self-Help Housing

**ASSETS**--Business & Asset Building Programs

- MoneySmart Classes
- Individual Development (Savings) Accounts
- Free Tax Assistance
- Small Business Development

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs




Lower Columbia CAP

**Financial Independence Services**

- Job search & training programs • Career Assessment
- Asset building programs • MoneySmart classes
- Individual Development (Savings) Accounts
- Self-Help Housing • Small Business Development & Training • Bank on Cowlitz Initiative

**Community Support Services (Safety Net)**

- Help Warehouse (food distribution center)
- Homelessness Prevention • Emergency Services, Energy Assistance • Transitional Housing, Meals on Wheels • Senior Community Lunches • In-Home Care
- Senior Transportation • Housing Rehab & Weatherization • Home Care Equipment Bank

# The Future of CAP

1. Keeping responsive to the changing needs of our community

2. Building a stable financial base to protect programs and services from the fluctuations of politics and the economy

- Building CAP Foundation endowment

- Creating “social enterprises”
  - Grounds for Opportunity café & training ctr
  - CAPtured Treasures boutique clothing
  - HEAT (Home Energy Audit Team)

# Closing Thought

Most people see things as they are,
and ask why?

But I see things that have never been,
and ask why not?

Robert Kennedy

(Adapted from George Bernard Shaw)