

### Then/Now/When

People have said that if we do not learn from history we repeat it. In this section, you will read about how people responded to one issue in the past. You'll look for information about how people respond to this issue today. Then you'll make a recommendation for how we should act on this issue in the future.

In 1932, the United States was in an economic depression. Many people were out of work. Many were homeless. More than 5,000 banks had closed since 1930. The President, Vice-President, and Cabinet had cut their own salaries. Franklin Roosevelt won the election for President. In his speech accepting the nomination, he said: "I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people. Let us all here assembled constitute ourselves prophets of a new order of competence and courage.. This is more than a political campaign; it is a call to arms." Roosevelt was declaring war on poverty. Once elected, he set up programs to reduce poverty. They included setting up the Civilian Conservation Corps, which hired about 3 million young men 18 to 25 years old to work on reforestation, road construction, and flood control. The government gave about \$500,000,000 to state relief agencies to help people. Government also set up support for farmers who needed loans to keep their farms. The government's Public Works Administration spent more than 3 billion dollars on constructing public projects, which gave jobs to many unemployed persons.

It took years to recover from the Depression. Today, we're far from those days. Yet many Americans still live in poverty. Read the Newspaper to look for examples of the effects of poverty on individuals. Also look for examples of programs that national and local governments have set up to help persons who are unemployed or homeless.

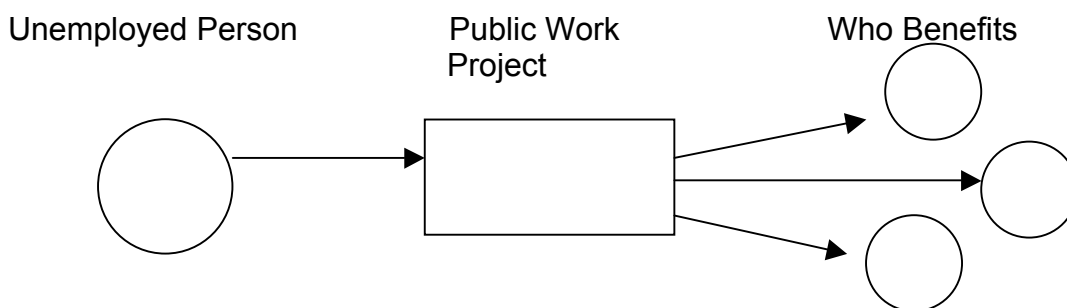
### Discussion Points

- What effect would Roosevelt's programs have had on a poor family in the 1930's?
- What kinds of problems does a family face today if they don't have a steady income?

### Think It Through

Who would benefit from the New Deal employment programs? The person who was employed. The people who benefited from the irrigation project or other work they did.

Complete this diagram. Show how one program could benefit many people, not only the person who was unemployed.



Contrast the programs of two major candidates for President.  
How would each President help poverty level families?

Candidate 1 Poverty Program	Candidate 2 Poverty Program

Which candidate's program is more like Roosevelt's?

Why do you think it is?

#### Get It Across

What program would you set up to reduce poverty if you were President? Write a narrative of how that program would help people.

#### ***Newspaper Connection***

Pretend it's 1933. Roosevelt has just been inaugurated. Who would you interview to find out how people feel about the change in Presidency? What might each of those persons have said to the reporter on that day?