



# The Job Guarantee: What, Why, How?



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# WHAT IT IS



- A public option for jobs offering decent work at decent pay
- **Permanent** program
- **federally funded, locally administered**
- **voluntary** employment opportunities **on demand** at a **living wage**
- **public service** work in the community
- **Open to all** people of legal working age who want to work, irrespective of labor market status, race, sex, color, or creed
- An employment **safety-net** and a **transitional** job opportunity



# WHAT IS IT NOT

- Not compulsory workfare
- Not a handout or make work
- Not temporary
- Not 100% employment
- Not based on the NAIRU
  - Doesn't target a specific labor force participation rate or # of people
- Not “just another infrastructure program”





# WHY?



Than the current policy approach



# THE CURRENT APPROACH

- “Disposable people” model
  - Unemployment a policy choice, used to stabilize inflation and growth
- Unemployment
  - Volatile, Vicious, Chronic
  - (7-20 million missing full-time jobs)
  - Silent epidemic
    - Spreads like a virus
    - Deadly and costly
    - Linked to every other economic and social problem
  - Already ‘paid for’
- Economically inefficient and morally indefensible



# FASTER



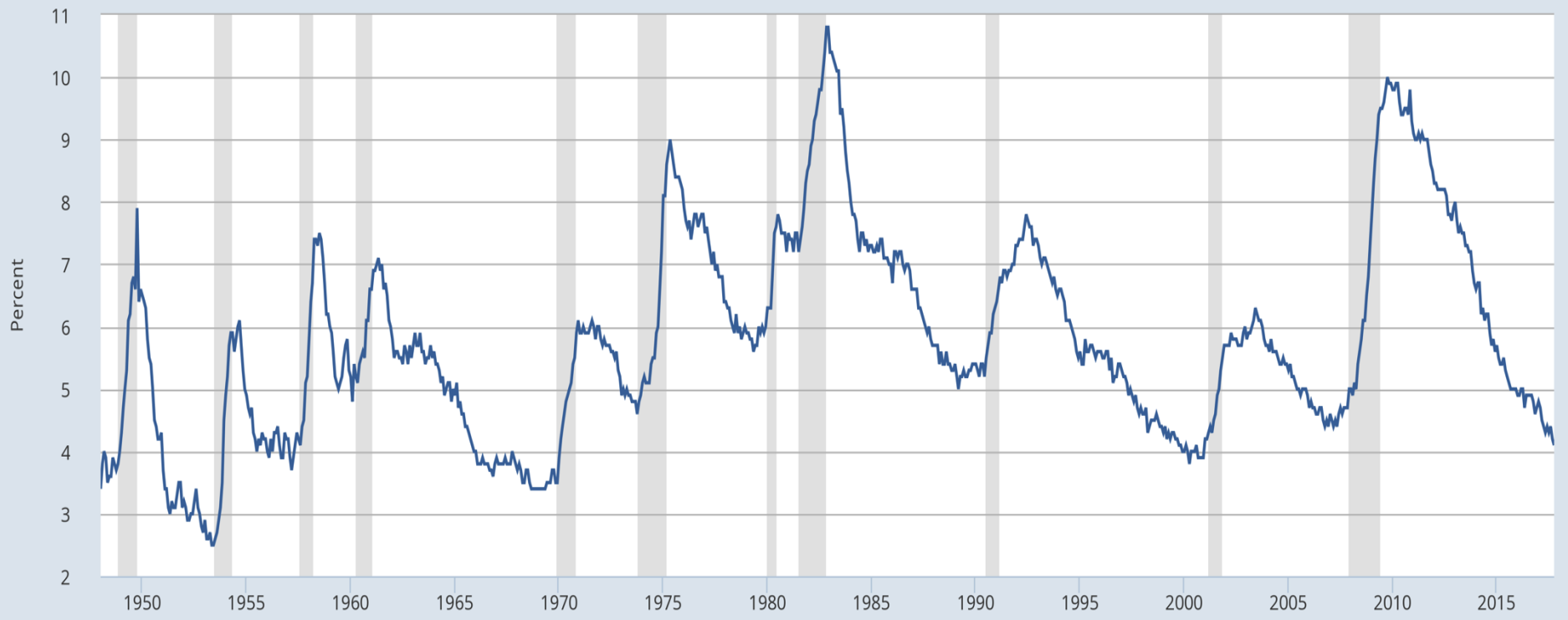
- No more jobless recoveries
- Large scale employment programs can be up and running quickly
- The employment effect is immediate, direct, and targeted
- ARRA budget was enough to create 20million living-wage jobs



# VOLATILE

FRED

— Civilian Unemployment Rate

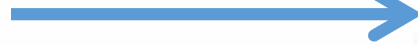




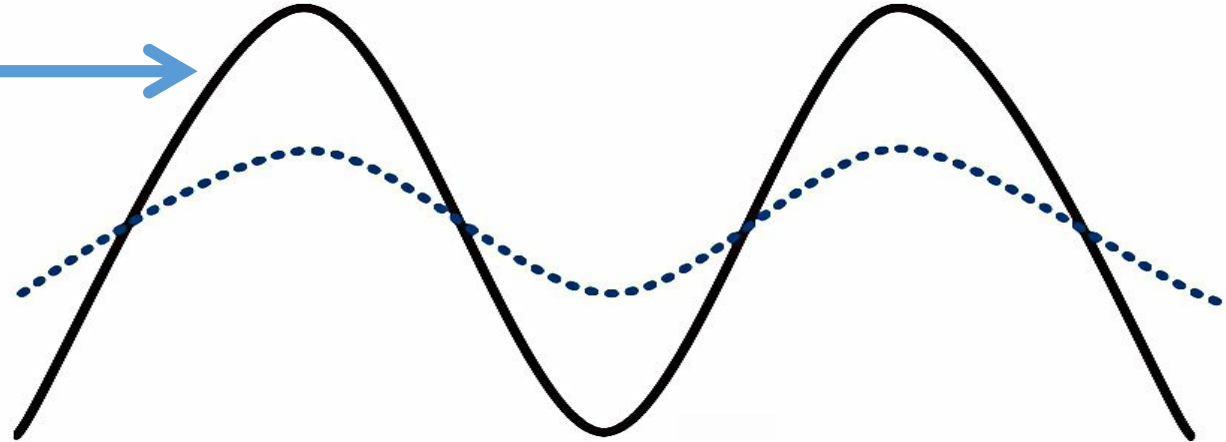
# BETTER Stabilizer



The pool of  
unemployed  
people



The pool of  
Job Guarantee  
workers

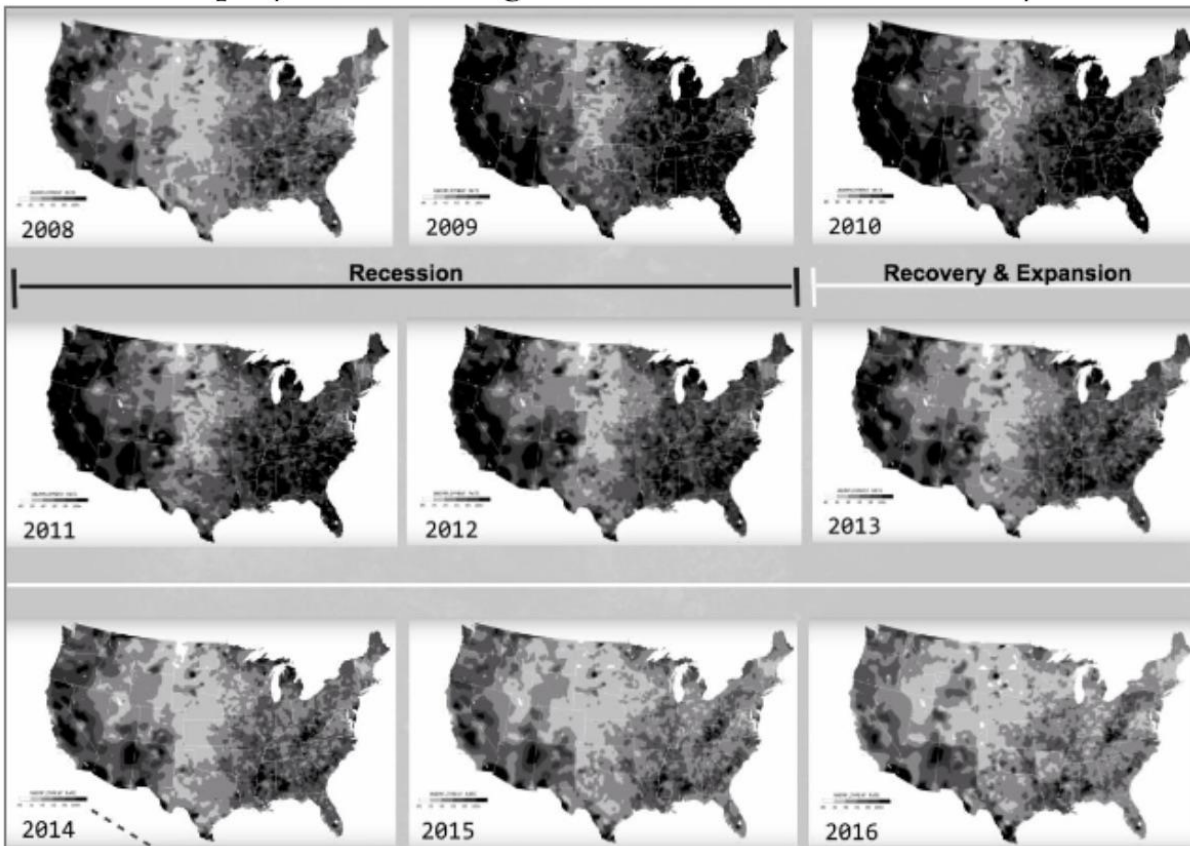






# BETTER: Cure and Prevention

Unemployment During the Great Recession and Beyond





# BETTER



- Effective **minimum wage** policy
- **Raises** the floor
- **Invests in the public good:** investment in people, communities, the environment
- Addresses other **social ills**
- **Inoculates** against the vast economic, social and political costs of unemployment
- Guarantees a basic **human right**



# CHEAPER

- Costs 1.5% - 3% of GDP
- Permanently reduces other welfare expenditures
- Permanently increases real GDP by \$500-\$600b
- Permanently increases private sector jobs by 3-4million
- Insignificant impact on inflation
- Reduces the invisible social costs





# HOW?



- Preparedness Response
  - Modeled after the CDCs Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
  - **The Public Jobs Bank** (which warehouse the “on-the-shelf” jobs)
- Funding Mechanism modeled after Disaster Emergency Relief
  - **Unemployment Relief Fund**
  - **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**



# WHO?

- Department of Labor
- States and Municipalities
- One-Stop Job Centers (aka Unemployment Offices)
- Public Institutions and Community Groups
- NGOs and Social Entrepreneurial Ventures





# WHAT?

- **National Care Act**
  - care for the environment
  - care for the community
  - care for the people
  
- The **Public Jobs Bank** will include a list of:
  - monitoring programs
  - rehabilitation programs
  - public investment programs





# CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



- 21<sup>st</sup> century CCC and Tree Army
- Soil erosion, flood control, environmental surveys
- specie monitoring, removal of invasive species
- sustainable agriculture practices to address the “food desert” problem
- support for local fisheries, CSAs, rooftop gardens, tree planting
- park maintenance and renewal, small-scale irrigation systems
- anti-salinization, storage of runoff waters, land terracing
- fire and other disaster prevention measures, weatherization, composting, etc.



# CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY



- cleanup of vacant properties, reclaiming materials
- restoration and other small infrastructure investments
- school gardens and urban farms
- co-working spaces, solar arrays, tool libraries, classes and programs
- community theaters, oral histories projects
- building of playgrounds, pedestrian areas, bike lanes
- organizing car-pooling programs, recycling, water recycling and reuse programs





# CARE FOR THE PEOPLE



- afterschool activities, extended day programs
- shadowing and assisting teachers, coaches, hospice workers, librarians
- nutrition surveys, health awareness programs for young parents
- outreach programs for veterans, at-risk-youth, former inmates
- urban campuses, co-ops, classes and training, apprenticeships in:
  - sustainable agriculture, and all of the above-mentioned community care jobs, training new generation of urban teachers, artists and artisans, makers, inventors



# WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?

- Sanders-Conyers “Employ Young Americans Now Act”



# WHY AREN'T WE DOING IT ALREADY?

Good question



# THANK YOU

