

Poverty, Politics and Profit

POSC 459 — Social Welfare Politics and Policy

Week 11 · Monday, November 2

PBS Frontline with NPR, 2017, 54 min.

The film follows the federal money for rent

Nearly **\$50 billion** a year:

- **Section 8 vouchers** (HUD): help paying rent
- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** (IRS): help building

Correction: last Wednesday's slide described this film wrongly.

Film narration · Howard ch. 7, pp. 8–9

You met the tax credit in Week 7: it pays to build

IRS → states → developers → investors → apartments

- About **\$10 billion** a year
- About **100,000** units a year

“‘Low-Income’ does not mean poor.”

Howard ch. 7, p. 9

Paper 4: which reform better survives its own politics?

Welfare reform (1996) or the ACA (2010)? Test case: the tax credit

1. Who benefits?
2. Who can see it?
3. Who defends it?

Policy feedback: Pierson, Week 4

Quick write: four minutes

1. One moment: who, and what they said or did
2. Who benefits, who can see it, or who defends it?
3. Welfare reform or the ACA: who defended it? Is the tax credit like it?

Keep it for Paper 4 and Wednesday

Who stood up for each program?

- The tax credit: who spoke for it?
- Section 8: who spoke for it?
- Grassley: seven audits in 29 years

"policies also shape interest groups" (Pierson, p. 598)

Two counts of one program

	Howard	Film (2017)
Cost a year	~\$10 billion	~\$8 billion
Units a year	~100,000	70,000+ → under 59,000
Credits, 1997–2014		66% more , after inflation

Howard ch. 7, p. 9 · NPR's analysis, in the film

Wednesday: the two reforms, side by side

- **Wed 11/4:** bring your quick write
- **Fri 11/6, 11:59 p.m.:** Paper 4, about 600 words
- One film moment + one reading claim, with a page number

Full prompt on Canvas · transcript on the film's PBS page