

Great Society Programs, 1964–1967

POVERTY

- 1964 Tax Reduction Act** cut corporate and individual taxes to stimulate growth.
- 1964 Economic Opportunity Act** created Job Corps, VISTA, Project Head Start, and other programs to fight the “war on poverty.”
- 1965 Medicare Act** established Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- 1965 Appalachian Regional Development Act** targeted aid for highways, health centers, and resource development in that economically depressed area.

CITIES

- 1965 Omnibus Housing Act** provided money for low-income housing.
- 1965 Department of Housing and Urban Development** was formed to administer federal housing programs.
- 1966 Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Area Redevelopment Act** funded slum rebuilding, mass transit, and other improvements for selected “model cities.”

EDUCATION

- 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act** directed money to schools for textbooks, library materials, and special education.
- 1965 Higher Education Act** funded scholarships and low-interest loans for college students.
- 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities** was created to financially assist painters, musicians, actors, and other artists.
- 1967 Corporation for Public Broadcasting** was formed to fund educational TV and radio broadcasting.

DISCRIMINATION

- 1964 Civil Rights Act** outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and jobs; increased federal power to prosecute civil rights abuses.
- 1964 Twenty-Fourth Amendment** abolished the poll tax in federal elections.
- 1965 Voting Rights Act** ended the practice of requiring voters to pass literacy tests and permitted the federal government to monitor voter registration.
- 1965 Immigration Act** ended national-origins quotas established in 1924.

ENVIRONMENT

- 1965 Wilderness Preservation Act** set aside over 9 million acres for national forest lands.
- 1965 Water Quality Act** required states to clean up their rivers.
- 1965 Clean Air Act Amendment** directed the federal government to establish emission standards for new motor vehicles.
- 1967 Air Quality Act** set federal air pollution guidelines and extended federal enforcement power.

CONSUMER ADVOCACY

- 1966 Truth in Packaging Act** set standards for labeling consumer products.
- 1966 National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act** set federal safety standards for the auto and tire industries.
- 1966 Highway Safety Act** required states to set up highway safety programs.
- 1966 Department of Transportation** was created to deal with national air, rail, and highway transportation.

SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Charts

What did the Great Society programs indicate about the federal government’s changing role?