



There are at least 92 federal programs designed to help lower income Americans. For instance, there are dozens of education and job training programs, 17 different food aid programs, and over 20 housing programs. The federal government spent \$799 billion on these programs in fiscal year 2012. So Congressman Paul Ryan is asking why the nation's poverty level is at 15%. He tells the Mclver Institute that not all programs are faltering.

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Ryan says but rather than provide a roadmap out of poverty, Washington has created a complex web of programs that are often difficult to navigate. Some programs, Ryan says, provide critical aid to families in need. Others discourage families from getting ahead. And for many of these programs, they just don't know. He says there's little evidence either way.