

## FDR's New Deal 1933-1936

These unemployed women are learning to type so they can work as secretaries in a local or state office. These women are making mattresses for hospitals and other institutions. The WPA offered many types of training programs to give people basic skills to find jobs. The WPA paid for thousands of construction jobs large and small, from schools to the Lincoln Tunnel connecting New York and New Jersey and parks to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in California. Over 8.5 million workers built 650,000 miles of highways and roads, 125,000 public buildings, and thousands of bridges, reservoirs, and more. The WPA hired doctors and nurses and paid them to work in areas where there were no medical facilities, either because they were so rural or because they had gone out of business in the Depression. This nurse in New Orleans is making a house call in 1936. This nurse gives a vaccination. The Federal Writers' Project was a branch of the WPA that hired writers to create travel guides, children's books, and other literature and, most importantly, to collect folklore and interviews from around the country. Many WPA writers interviewed elderly people who had been enslaved before the Civil War, like this man named Wes Brady, preserving their important stories. The famous novelist Zora Neale Hurston was a WPA writer who collected folklore from people in Florida. The Federal Theater Project hired actors, stage hands, writers, and directors to put on productions that were sometimes free to the public. Theater workers had suffered heavily from unemployment, as their jobs were not considered vitally important. The WPA saw the popularity of the movies, and figured that Americans would flock to see stirring patriotic plays like this one, "Created Equal" (put on in Boston in 1935) or funny plays like this one, called "Horse Eats Hat", that took their minds off their troubles. Even the circus was paid to perform by the WPA. This branch of the WPA paid artists—painters and sculptors—to create public works of art. This is a WPA mural in the main post office in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Like the plays of the Federal Theater Project, the public art was often patriotic and inspiring, reminding Americans of their proud heritage as a nation. Musicians also found themselves described as "unnecessary" and out of work. The WPA created the Federal Music Program to give concerts for the public that would raise their spirits, and to give children free music lessons around the country.

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