



The Honorable Edmund G.
Brown Jr.
Governor, State of
California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Holly
Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget and
Fiscal Review Committee
California State Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget
Committee
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date

Re: Prioritizing SSI/SSP In the 2017-18 Budget

Dear Governor Brown, Senator Mitchell and Assemblymember Ting,

Californians for SSI (CA4SSI) represents more than 200 organizations that represent the more than 1.3 million Californians who rely on the combined federal/state Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment program and have experienced cuts with devastating costs to themselves and to our state. We write to you regarding the need to prioritize investments in SSI/SSP in the 2017-18 budget.

SSI/SSP Grants & Cost of Living Adjustment

The state contributions to the SSP grant for individuals have been cut from \$233 a month to the federal minimum of \$160 a month, a \$77 monthly reduction per person since 2007. The state contribution for a couple in January 2007 was \$568 a month but has been reduced to \$407, a \$168.80 a month cut. SSI grants for couples are lower now than they were in 2007.

In the 2007-8 budget, the state spent \$3.6 billion on the state portion of the SSI grant. In the proposed budget the Administration will spend \$2.9 billion yet the SSI caseload climbed by around 75,000 persons after 2007. That is a cut of \$700 million - all absorbed by persons with no other way of paying for the essentials of life.

While the Legislature has restored funding for K-12 education, the Judiciary, the state college system, IHSS, Medi-Cal and even some restorations for CalWORKs very few of the funds cut from SSI recipients has been restored. We thank the Administration and Legislature for the first

[post-Recession restoration in the \\$73.2M 2016-17 COLA](#), though that is a one-time investment. that represents “the smallest theoretical increase that can be provided” to SSI/SSP recipients.¹

CA4SSI supports restoring all the cuts and cost of living adjustments that have been denied until the grants for individuals and couples are above the federal Supplemental Poverty Measure that accounts for California’s extraordinary costs of living.

The 2016-17 budget included \$45 million for the Housing & Disability Advocacy Program, part of the Senate Pro Tem’s No Place Like Home Initiative, though this was cut in the 2017-18 January 10 proposal. HDAP would have created a fund of state dollars available for county matching funds. Based on highly successful models, HDAP programs would temporarily house and stabilize SSI applicants to reduce homelessness among this extremely vulnerable population and assist them in the extremely long application process that typically lasts 18-24 months.

CA4SSI asks the Administration & Legislature to fully implement the HDAP program in the 2016-17 budget year.

CA4SSI looks forward to working with the budget committees and the Administration to help every Californian move out of poverty and live with dignity.

Sincerely,

Californians for SSI

CC: Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon
Senate Pro Tem Kevin De León

¹ <http://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/sites/abgt.assembly.ca.gov/files/March%209%202016%20Sub%201%20Agenda%20-%20SSI-SSP%20IHSS%20APS.pdf>

CA4SSI Statewide Endorsers AARP California, AllCare Alliance, ACLU of California, California Association of Food Banks, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Association of Public Authorities, California Church IMPACT, California Council of the Blind, California Emergency Foodlink, California Food Policy Advocates, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, California Partnership, California Senior Legislature, Californians for Disability Rights, CLUE: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Community Services Unlimited Inc., County Welfare Directors Association of CA, Courage Campaign, Disability Rights California, Food Chain Workers Alliance, Housing CA, IHSS Consumer Alliance, Insight Center, Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California, Justice in Aging, Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California, Magnolia Women's Recovery Center, National Association of Social Workers/CA Chapter, National Center for Lesbian Rights, ProduceGood, Resources for Independent Living, Service Center for Independent Life, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Los Angeles / Southern California ACLU of Southern California, Adams Vermont/Gardena CFMS, Clergy Caucus of Inland Congregations United for Change, CLUE-LA, Communities Actively Living Independent & Free, Community Action Agency, Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino, Dayle McIntosh Center, Educate. Advocate., Fair Trade LA, Feeding America Riverside-San Bernardino Counties, FIND Food Bank, Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, Food & Water Watch, Friends Across The Line, Friends In Deed, Guerrilla Food Not Bombs, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, Hunger Action LA, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Jewish Labor Committee Western Region, Latino Diabetes Association, Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition, Los Angeles Community Action Network, Los Angeles for a New Economy, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Orange County Food Access Coalition, Orange County Food Bank, Orange County Hunger Coalition, Personal Assistance Services Council of LA County, Project Angel Food, Prototypes, Santa Barbara Food Alliance, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, SEIU Local 721, Social Justice Learning Institute, Southern CA Resource Services for Independent Living, Starting Over, Inc., Thai Community Development Center, Time for Change Foundation, Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College, VELA, Veterans For Peace Los Angeles, Westside Center for Independent Living, Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge & Services, Youth Justice Coalition

San Diego Access to Independence, A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), Community Resource Center, Feeding America San Diego, Hunger Advocacy Network, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, Leichtag Foundation, Meals-on-Wheels Greater San Diego, Inc., San Diego Food Bank, San Diego Hunger Coalition, San Diego Senior Alliance

Central Valley Community Action Partnership of Kern County, Community Food Bank, Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living, FoodLink for Tulare County, Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin & Stanislaus Counties

Sacramento/Northern California 2-1-1 Humboldt, Area 1 Agency on Aging, California Emergency Foodlink, California IHSS Consumer Alliance, Capitol People First, Cottage Housing Inc., Disability Organizing Group for Initiating Total Equality, Food for People, Inc., Ford Street Project, Life Support Alliance, Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction, Mary Immaculate

Residential Facility, Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program, Placer Food Bank, Placer Independent Resource Services, Resources for Independent Living, Redwood Empire Food Bank, River City Food Bank, Sacramento Housing Alliance, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, The Resource Connection Food Bank, Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, Yuba-Sutter Gleaners Food Bank, Inc.

Bay Area ABD Productions, AIDS Housing Ala Costa Centers, Alliance/SF, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Alameda County Commission on Aging, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council, All Saints Episcopal Church, Allen Temple Arms, Asian Law Alliance, Bay Area Community Services, Berkeley Food Pantry, Berkeley Food Policy Council, Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, CANV Food Bank, Center for the Vulnerable Child, Central City SRO Collaborative, City of Oakland Human Services Department, Community Action Alliance/ Agnes Memorial Church, Community Action Marin, Community Action of Napa Valley Food Bank, Community Resources for Independent Living, CSI Support & Development, Disability Services & Legal Center, Downs Memorial United Methodist Church, East Bay Food Justice Project, Family Emergency Shelter Coalition, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Food 2 Go, Harbor House Ministries, Hayward Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hazon Bay Area, Hope 4 the Heart, Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay, L.A. Kitchen, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church Food Pantry, LIFT – Levantate, LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Los Robles Apartments, Marin Asian Advocacy Project, Marin Food Policy Council, Meals on Wheels of Alameda County, Meals on Wheels of San Francisco, Mercy Brown Bag Program, Mission for the Homeless. Oakland Food Pantry, Oakland Mayor's Commission on Aging, San Francisco Food Security Task Force, Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Second Harvest Santa Cruz, Seventh Step Foundation, Senior & Disability Action, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County, SF-Marin Food Bank, Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul-San Leandro Conference, South Hayward Parish, St. Anthony Foundation, St. Francis Living Room, St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, St. Mary's Center, Street Level Health Project, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, The Gubbio Project, The Neighborhood Village, The R.E.F.U.G.E, Tri-City Volunteers, United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, Whistlestop