End SSI Cash-Out With a Full Hold Harmless Policy:
No Californian Should Suffer from a State Policy Decision

CA4SSI supports an equitable end to California’s cash-out policy, which denies SNAP benefits (CalFresh) to persons enrolled in SSI. More than 1.3 million Californians receive meager SSI grants and struggle to meet basic needs. In 1974, California sought administrative efficiency in choosing the cash-out option to provide the then minimum SNAP benefit of $10 per month in cash as a part of state-funded SSP grants. That $10 has been lost to decades of inflation while SSI recipients are categorically denied $140-$171 a month in SNAP benefits.

The 2018-19 budget should provide an equitable end to cash-out that has caused hunger and poverty by funding a state supplement to SNAP that would hold harmless any household that would lose benefits as a result of this policy change.

If California ended SSI cash-out, approximately 400,000 SSI recipients would become enrolled in SNAP, and the state would draw down $365 million in SNAP benefits. Single SSI individuals would benefit the most.

Yet ending cash-out would also reduce or eliminate SNAP benefits for 140,000 households that include an SSI recipient because SSI will be considered when determining the household’s SNAP benefit. The majority of these households would be plunged into poverty as a result, a simply unacceptable result. All of these households have heightened costs and challenges in caring for a family member with a disability – the majority of whom are children.

No Californian should suffer from a state policy decision. CA4SSI does not accept that ending cash-out can be allowed to result in low-income households losing SNAP benefits. California must include a ‘hold harmless’ provision for households that would lose some or all of their SNAP benefits.

Californians for SSI (CA4SSI) is a statewide coalition of over 200 organizations across the aging, disability rights, housing and homeless, anti-hunger and anti-poverty sectors. CA4SSI seeks to ensure that blind, aged and people living with disabilities living on SSI/SSP obtain adequate support to lead their lives with dignity.
CAASSI Statewide Organizational Endorsers

AARP, ACLU California, AllCare Alliance, The ARC CA, California Association of Food Banks, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS, California Church IMPACT, California Council of the Blind, California Emergency Foodlink, California Food Policy Advocates, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, California IHSS Consumer Alliance, 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, Educate Advocate, Food Chain Workers Alliance, Housing California, IHSS Consumers Union, 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, Produce Good, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Resources for Independent Living, SEIU, Service Center for Independent Life, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Bay Area


Central Valley

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

Los Angeles / Southern California

ACLU of Southern California, Adams Vermont/Gardena CFMS, Center for Health Care Rights, 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., Disabled Resources Center, Inc., Downtown Women's Center, 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 Action Center, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, Hunger Action LA, Huntington Hospital Senior Care Network, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Jewish Labor Committee Western Region, John Tennant Memorial-Episcopal Senior Communities, Latino Diabetes Association, Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, Legal Aid of San Mateo County, 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, MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, Orange County Food Bank, Orange County Hunger Coalition, Personal Assistance Services Council of LA County, Project Angel Food, Prototypes, Retirement Housing Foundation, 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., St. Barnabas Senior Services, Thai Community Development Center, The East Los Angeles Community Union, 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

Sacramento/Northern California

2-1-1 Humboldt, Area 1 Agency on Aging, California Emergency Foodlink, Capitol People First, Cottage Housing Inc., DOGFITe (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, River City Food Bank, Sacramento Housing Alliance, Resources for Independent Living-Sacramento, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, 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 Food Bank, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, Yuba-Sutter Gleaners Food Bank, Inc.

San Diego