

END POVERTY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) OLDER ADULTS & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Increase the SSI/SSP Grant and Restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment!

— Action is Needed to Bring Individuals on SSI up to the Federal Poverty Line —

- » In 2009 and 2011, California cut the State Supplementary Payment (SSP) for SSI/SSP recipients and repealed the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the SSP grant.
- » If these cuts had not been made and the state COLA had been provided every year since 2008, the maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual would be \$1,419 today, or nearly 117% of the federal poverty line. If the grants simply returned to pre-recession levels relative to the poverty line, the maximum grant for an individual would be \$1,261 today, or 100.5% of the federal poverty line. Instead, the maximum grant for an individual is \$1,183 or about 94% of the federal poverty line.

Our Request to Meet Community Need:

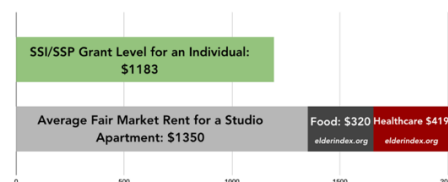
We are grateful for the decisive action taken in the 2021-2024 budgets to mitigate the harm the Great Recession-era cuts have caused. We must take further action by:

- » Protecting against cuts to SSI/SSP grants during a budget deficit.
- » Increasing the state's SSP grant to bring the SSI/SSP grants up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- » Providing an annual COLA to ensure grants keep up with the cost of living and remains about the FPL.

By strengthening safety net programs impacting SSI recipients, we are reducing homelessness, supporting equity, and helping seniors and people with disabilities live with dignity.

- » In all 58 California counties, the "Fair Market Rent" (FMR) for a studio apartment exceeded 50% of the maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual and rent in 25 counties is higher than the entire grant. ¹Even for those who can obtain below-market rent, SSI/SSP grants cannot provide for utilities, food, medicine, toiletries, clothing, and other necessities, pushing people into homelessness and hunger. The pandemic has revealed why grants need to keep up with the cost of living, as the price of necessities continues to rise, causing grants to lose purchasing power.

IN THE RED



"They give you enough so you can stay alive but still struggle and be in pain. It's not enough to have any quality of life." —Sharon, SSI/SSP Recipient



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¹ California Budget and Policy Center, <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/inadequate-ssi-ssp-grants-leave-californians-unable-to-afford-basic-needs/>