

End Poverty For Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Older Adults & People With Disabilities



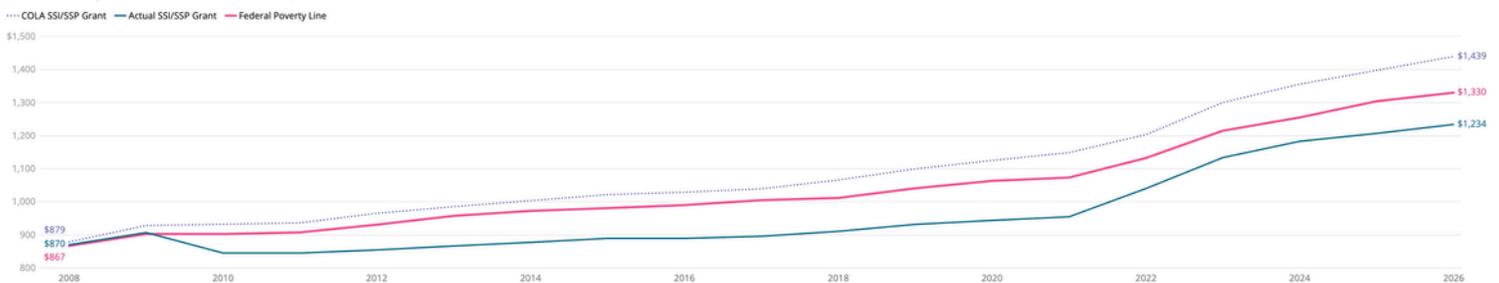
Action is needed to maintain an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for individuals living on SSI/SSP.

Almost 1 million older adults and people with disabilities in California rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplementary Payment (SSP) income to meet their needs like staying housed, fed, clothed, and healthy.

Due to recession-era cuts in 2009 and 2011, when California eliminated the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the state portion (SSP grant), current funding levels fall short of what individuals living on SSI/SSP need to live safely and comfortably in California.

COLA Adjusted SSI/SSP Grant Levels Steadily Outpace Actual Benefit Levels

Maximum Monthly SSI/SSP Grant Levels for an Individual, 2008-2026



Note: The COLA SSI/SSP grant projects what the grant would look like across time if the maximum SSP grant in January 2007 had been adjusted for cost of living using the California Necessities Index starting in January 2008.
Source: CA Department of Social Services and US Department of Health & Human Services • Download image



As shown in this graph, the maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual in 2026-2027 is \$1233. It would have been \$1408 if a COLA was provided each year since 2008

Individuals on SSI/SSP continue to face the consequences of SSP cuts as the cost of living in California continues to rise:

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 in 2025 and rent in 30 counties is higher than the entire grant.¹ Even for those who can obtain below-market rent, **current SSI/SSP grants cannot provide for utilities, food, medicine, toiletries, clothing, and other necessities, pushing people into homelessness and hunger.**

Our Request to Meet Community Need:

- **Provide an annual Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment for SSP grants.** The first step would cost about \$155 million General Fund this year to provide a 4.32% COLA.

Questions? Visit ca4ssi.org/contact

¹ California Department of Social Services, <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/ssi-ssp>