

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

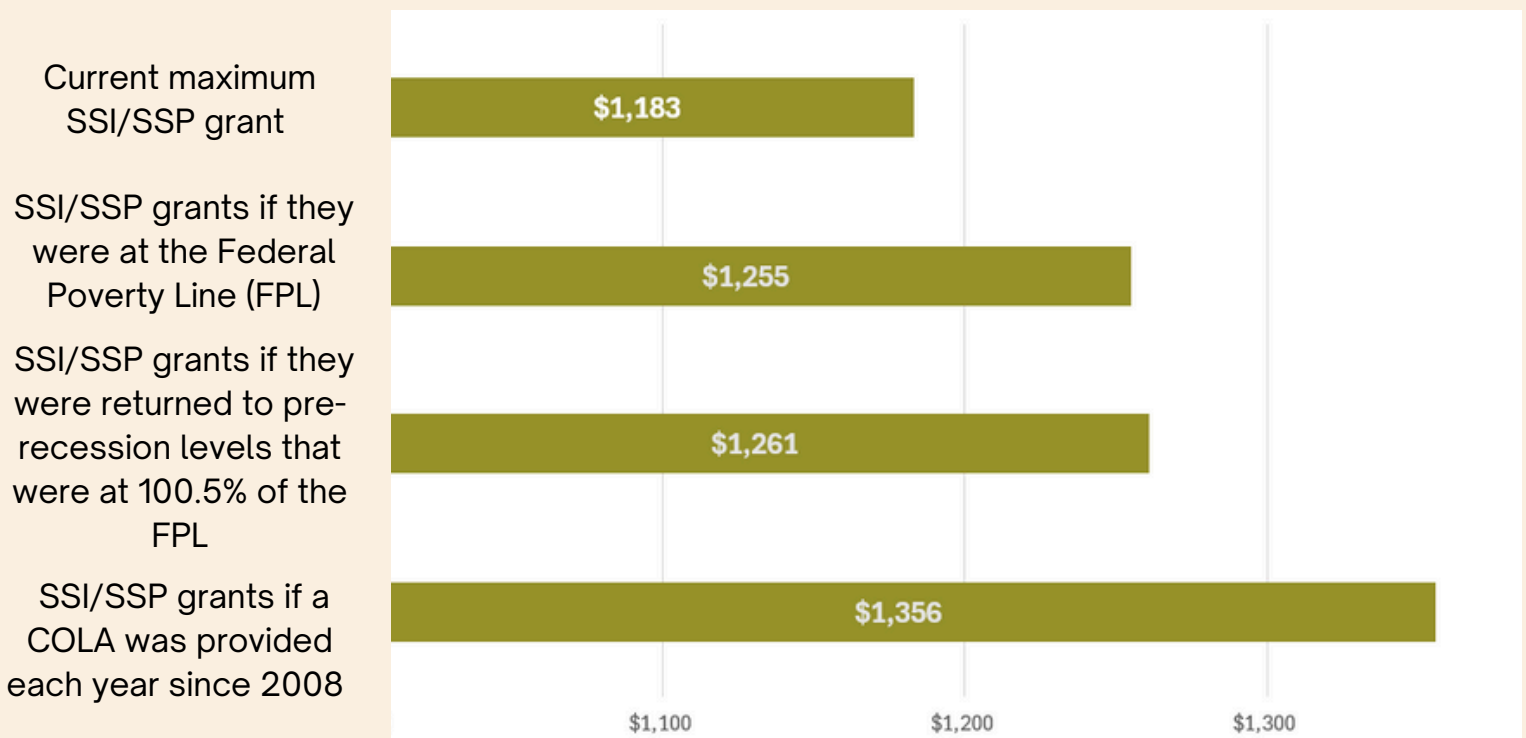


Action is needed to maintain an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for SSP grants and to Bring Individuals on SSI/SSP up to at least the Federal Poverty Line .

Over 1 million older adults and people with disabilities in Californians rely on Supplementary 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 reduced the SSP for SSI recipients and eliminated the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the SSP grant, current funding levels fall short of what individuals need to live safely and comfortably in California:

Individuals on SSI/SSP in 2024 continue to face the consequences of Recession-Era cuts:



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:**

- ▶ **Providing a three-step increase over three years to bring and keep the state’s SSP grant at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level** as a down payment to the Elder Economic Security Index, which reflects the true cost of living for SSI/SSP recipients.
- ▶ **Providing an annual Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment for SSP grants**

“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.”

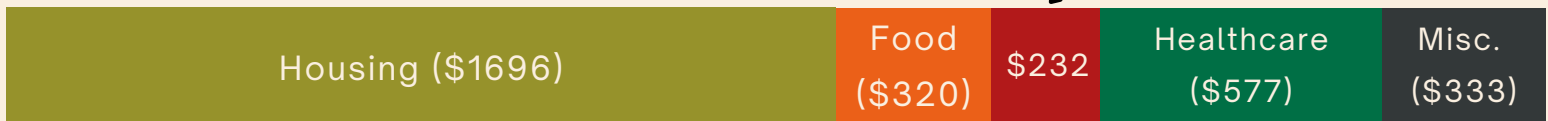
—Sharon, SSI/SSP Recipient

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.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:**

Reality:

Grant/SSP level for an individual (\$1183)

Actual Need Based on the Elder Index:²



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



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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/>

² Cost of living estimate for an elderly single renter in California in poor health in 2023, <https://elderindex.org/explore>