

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.

About 1 million older adults and people with disabilities in Californians 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.



Individuals on SSI/SSP continue to face the consequences of Recession-Era 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 2023-2024 and rent in 25 counties is higher than the entire grant. 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 into¹ homelessness and hunger.**

Our Request to Meet Community Need:

- ▶ **Provide an annual Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment for SSP grants.** To provide a 4.32% ongoing COLA for SSP grants, which is the average cost-of-living increase for the federal SSI portion in the last 5 years, the appropriations would be 156,445,714 in the 2025-2026 State Budget.

Questions? Visit ca4ssi.org/contact

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