California’s SSI/SSP Grants:
How Do They Stack Up?

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SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND
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calbudgetcenter.org
Due to Budget Cuts, State Spending for SSI/SSP Grants Is About 40% Below the 2007-08 Level

General Fund Expenditures in Billions, Inflation-Adjusted

Note: Figures are in 2018-19 dollars. All figures are estimates except for 2018-19, which reflects the Governor’s proposed expenditure level. Source: Department of Social Services
Due to State Cuts, SSI/SSP Grants Are Only $4 Per Month Higher Than in 2009 and Remain Below the Poverty Line

Maximum Monthly Grant for Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have a Disability

Note: The federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the SSI portion of the grant is projected to be 2.6% ($20 per month) effective January 1, 2019. The Governor’s proposed 2018-19 budget does not include a state COLA for the SSP portion of the grant in 2019.

Source: Department of Social Services and US Department of Health and Human Services
SSP Grants Would Have to Rise by Over $100 Per Month to Bring the Total SSI/SSP Grant Up to the Poverty Line

Source: Budget Center analysis of Department of Social Services and US Department of Health and Human Services data
In Both Rural and Urban Areas, SSI/SSP Grants Are No Match for California’s Housing Costs

“Fair Market Rent” (FMR) for a Studio Apartment in 2018, Selected California Counties

Note: Studio FMR exceeds the entire SSI/SSP grant in 17 counties and 50% of the grant in all 58 counties. Grant shown is for seniors and people with disabilities who live in their own homes with cooking facilities.

Source: Department of Social Services and US Department of Housing and Urban Development
In the Fresno Area, SSI/SSP Grant Falls Short of Poverty Thresholds and a Basic Budget for Older Adults

Official Poverty Threshold, Supplemental Poverty Threshold, and Elder Index Basic Budget

Note: Grant shown is for seniors and people with disabilities who live in their own homes with cooking facilities.
Source: Department of Social Services, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and US Census Bureau

Maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual in 2018 = $911 per month

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- Poverty Threshold for One Person, Age 65+ (Statewide, 2016) = $959
- Supplemental Poverty Threshold for One Renter, Age 65+ (Fresno Metro Region, 2016) = $972
- Basic Budget for One Renter, Age 65+ (Fresno County, 2015) = $1,656
In the Santa Rosa Area, SSI/SSP Grant Falls Short of Poverty Thresholds and a Basic Budget for Older Adults

Official Poverty Threshold, Supplemental Poverty Threshold, and Elder Index Basic Budget

Note: Grant shown is for seniors and people with disabilities who live in their own homes with cooking facilities.

Source: Department of Social Services, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and US Census Bureau
In the Los Angeles Area, SSI/SSP Grant Falls Short of Poverty Thresholds and a Basic Budget for Older Adults

Official Poverty Threshold, Supplemental Poverty Threshold, and Elder Index Basic Budget

Maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual in 2018 = $911 per month

Note: Grant shown is for seniors and people with disabilities who live in their own homes with cooking facilities.
Source: Department of Social Services, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and US Census Bureau