



BY SCOTT GRAVES

Due to State Cuts, SSI/SSP Grants Lose Ground to Housing Costs

Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) grants are a critical source of basic income for 1.3 million low-income seniors and people with disabilities in California. Grants are funded with both federal (SSI) and state (SSP) dollars. In order to help close budget shortfalls during the Great Recession, state policymakers made deep reductions to the SSP portion of the grant – cuts that remain in place today. As a result, SSI/SSP grants have lost ground to housing costs, which have risen throughout much of California in recent years. In every county, the “Fair Market Rent” (FMR) for a studio apartment exceeds 50% of the maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual. Moreover, the studio FMR is higher than the *entire* SSI/SSP grant in 16 counties, including Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego. People are at greater risk of becoming homeless when housing costs account for more than half of household income.

Studio Apartment Rent Exceeds One-Half of the SSI/SSP Grant in All 58 Counties and Is Higher Than the Entire Grant in 16 Counties

County	Maximum SSI/SSP Grant for an Individual Effective January 1, 2016*	Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a Studio Apartment**	Amount of Grant Remaining After Paying Studio Rent	Studio FMR as a Percentage of Grant	Rank by FMR (Highest to Lowest)
Alameda	\$889	\$1,380	-\$491	155.2%	4
Alpine	\$889	\$615	\$274	69.1%	47
Amador	\$889	\$649	\$240	73.0%	38
Butte	\$889	\$622	\$267	69.9%	44
Calaveras	\$889	\$645	\$244	72.5%	39
Colusa	\$889	\$524	\$365	58.9%	53
Contra Costa	\$889	\$1,380	-\$491	155.2%	4
Del Norte	\$889	\$726	\$163	81.6%	28
El Dorado	\$889	\$707	\$182	79.5%	29
Fresno	\$889	\$662	\$227	74.4%	35
Glenn	\$889	\$611	\$278	68.7%	48
Humboldt	\$889	\$668	\$221	75.1%	34
Imperial	\$889	\$517	\$372	58.1%	55
Inyo	\$889	\$734	\$155	82.5%	25
Kern	\$889	\$601	\$288	67.6%	51
Kings	\$889	\$607	\$282	68.2%	49
Lake	\$889	\$684	\$205	76.9%	33
Lassen	\$889	\$621	\$268	69.8%	45
Los Angeles	\$889	\$947	-\$58	106.5%	13

County	Maximum SSI/SSP Grant for an Individual Effective January 1, 2016*	Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a Studio Apartment**	Amount of Grant Remaining After Paying Studio Rent	Studio FMR as a Percentage of Grant	Rank by FMR (Highest to Lowest)
Madera	\$889	\$699	\$190	78.6%	32
Marin	\$889	\$1,412	-\$523	158.8%	1
Mariposa	\$889	\$657	\$232	73.9%	37
Mendocino	\$889	\$733	\$156	82.4%	26
Merced	\$889	\$517	\$372	58.1%	55
Modoc	\$889	\$459	\$430	51.6%	58
Mono	\$889	\$872	\$17	98.0%	17
Monterey	\$889	\$961	-\$72	108.1%	12
Napa	\$889	\$925	-\$36	104.0%	15
Nevada	\$889	\$792	\$97	89.0%	24
Orange	\$889	\$1,161	-\$272	130.5%	7
Placer	\$889	\$707	\$182	79.5%	29
Plumas	\$889	\$607	\$282	68.2%	49
Riverside	\$889	\$798	\$91	89.7%	22
Sacramento	\$889	\$707	\$182	79.5%	29
San Benito	\$889	\$925	-\$36	104.0%	15
San Bernardino	\$889	\$798	\$91	89.7%	22
San Diego	\$889	\$1,040	-\$151	116.9%	9
San Francisco	\$889	\$1,412	-\$523	158.8%	1
San Joaquin	\$889	\$616	\$273	69.3%	46
San Luis Obispo	\$889	\$864	\$25	97.1%	18
San Mateo	\$889	\$1,412	-\$523	158.8%	1
Santa Barbara	\$889	\$1,065	-\$176	119.7%	8
Santa Clara	\$889	\$1,348	-\$459	151.6%	6
Santa Cruz	\$889	\$989	-\$100	111.2%	11
Shasta	\$889	\$660	\$229	74.2%	36
Sierra	\$889	\$836	\$53	94.0%	20
Siskiyou	\$889	\$524	\$365	58.9%	53
Solano	\$889	\$830	\$59	93.3%	21
Sonoma	\$889	\$934	-\$45	105.0%	14
Stanislaus	\$889	\$634	\$255	71.3%	40
Sutter	\$889	\$628	\$261	70.6%	42
Tehama	\$889	\$517	\$372	58.1%	55
Trinity	\$889	\$629	\$260	70.7%	41
Tulare	\$889	\$580	\$309	65.2%	52
Tuolumne	\$889	\$733	\$156	82.4%	26
Ventura	\$889	\$994	-\$105	111.8%	10
Yolo	\$889	\$864	\$25	97.1%	18
Yuba	\$889	\$628	\$261	70.6%	42

* Grant level is for seniors and people with disabilities who live independently in their own homes and have cooking facilities.

** The FMR is for federal fiscal year 2016, which ends on September 30, 2016. FMRs are determined by the federal government and generally estimate the dollar amount below which 40% of standard-quality rental housing units are rented.

Source: Department of Social Services and US Department of Housing and Urban Development