



BY SCOTT GRAVES

SSI/SSP Assists Low-Income Seniors and People With Disabilities in Every County in California, but Could Face Federal Cuts

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides federally funded cash assistance to help low-income seniors and people with disabilities pay for housing, food, and other necessities. The maximum monthly SSI grant for most recipients in California is currently \$735 per month – less than 75% of the federal poverty line for an individual. Also, California funds a State Supplementary Payment (SSP), which provides up to an additional \$160.72 per month for most recipients. Yet, the *combined* maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual – \$895.72 per month – is still equal to only about 90% of the poverty line. Total funding for SSI/SSP will reach nearly \$10 billion in 2016-17, with the federal government providing \$7.2 billion and the state, \$2.5 billion. Of the 10 California counties with the highest shares of residents enrolled in SSI/SSP, most – including the top three of Del Norte (7.3%), Lake (6.0%), and Siskiyou (5.9%) – are in rural areas. The efforts of Republican leaders in Washington to scale back federal support for the safety net could include reductions to SSI. Any such cuts would be a further blow to SSI/SSP recipients who already struggle with California’s high cost of living.

Funding for SSI/SSP Grants Will Total Nearly \$10 Billion in 2016-17

County	SSI/SSP Recipients (December 2015)*				Recipients as a Share of Population	Rank (Highest to Lowest Percentage)	Estimated SSI/SSP Payments, 2016-17**
	Under Age 18	Ages 18 to 64	Age 65 or Older	Total			
California	113,894	608,111	570,297	1,292,302	3.3%	N/A	\$9,661,980,000
Alameda	3,508	24,442	23,976	51,926	3.2%	28	\$408,790,000
Alpine	N/A	26	N/A	39	3.3%	26	\$210,000
Amador	54	519	147	720	1.9%	49	\$4,920,000
Butte	823	8,244	2,323	11,390	5.1%	8	\$84,540,000
Calaveras	91	788	207	1,086	2.4%	40	\$8,400,000
Colusa	50	294	232	576	2.6%	36	\$3,450,000
Contra Costa	2,420	14,399	9,675	26,494	2.4%	42	\$204,530,000
Del Norte	142	1,461	363	1,966	7.3%	1	\$14,650,000
El Dorado	211	2,209	728	3,148	1.7%	52	\$22,260,000
Fresno	4,992	22,070	16,367	43,429	4.4%	14	\$327,530,000
Glenn	126	697	331	1,154	4.0%	20	\$7,880,000
Humboldt	387	4,955	1,158	6,500	4.8%	11	\$48,940,000
Imperial	785	3,832	5,804	10,421	5.6%	5	\$62,780,000
Inyo	16	285	147	448	2.4%	41	\$2,970,000
Kern	3,956	20,090	9,700	33,746	3.8%	23	\$256,740,000
Kings	653	2,424	1,514	4,591	3.1%	31	\$31,950,000
Lake	258	2,803	780	3,841	6.0%	2	\$27,680,000

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	Under Age 18	Ages 18 to 64	Age 65 or Older	Total			
Lassen	78	733	177	988	3.2%	27	\$7,220,000
Los Angeles	36,425	167,152	215,250	418,827	4.1%	18	\$3,172,160,000
Madera	635	2,377	1,794	4,806	3.1%	29	\$32,990,000
Marin	158	1,966	1,389	3,513	1.3%	57	\$25,620,000
Mariposa	32	336	121	489	2.7%	34	\$3,580,000
Mendocino	194	2,300	933	3,427	3.9%	22	\$24,690,000
Merced	1,342	6,117	3,832	11,291	4.2%	16	\$82,850,000
Modoc	23	311	95	429	4.5%	13	\$3,650,000
Mono	N/A	66	N/A	101	0.7%	58	\$660,000
Monterey	1,027	4,497	3,453	8,977	2.1%	45	\$59,970,000
Napa	198	1,386	778	2,362	1.7%	53	\$16,050,000
Nevada	108	1,444	450	2,002	2.0%	46	\$15,210,000
Orange	6,066	24,342	44,181	74,589	2.3%	43	\$539,110,000
Placer	432	3,429	1,794	5,655	1.5%	55	\$41,450,000
Plumas	38	508	140	686	3.5%	24	\$4,920,000
Riverside	7,227	32,042	22,828	62,097	2.6%	35	\$445,320,000
Sacramento	5,880	39,138	22,868	67,886	4.5%	12	\$545,340,000
San Benito	102	481	345	928	1.6%	54	\$5,740,000
San Bernardino	9,462	40,096	23,841	73,399	3.4%	25	\$548,800,000
San Diego	6,266	40,458	38,241	84,965	2.6%	38	\$628,480,000
San Francisco	735	15,913	27,533	44,181	5.1%	7	\$337,290,000
San Joaquin	3,398	16,284	9,820	29,502	4.0%	21	\$226,740,000
San Luis Obispo	317	3,208	1,252	4,777	1.7%	51	\$32,140,000
San Mateo	539	4,058	6,383	10,980	1.4%	56	\$75,310,000
Santa Barbara	840	5,024	3,226	9,090	2.0%	47	\$62,030,000
Santa Clara	2,488	15,786	28,975	47,249	2.5%	39	\$356,840,000
Santa Cruz	422	3,625	1,881	5,928	2.1%	44	\$40,630,000
Shasta	642	7,609	1,815	10,066	5.6%	4	\$74,930,000
Sierra	N/A	67	N/A	92	2.9%	33	\$550,000
Siskiyou	166	1,844	623	2,633	5.9%	3	\$19,010,000
Solano	1,243	7,748	3,620	12,611	2.9%	32	\$95,040,000
Sonoma	719	5,983	2,752	9,454	1.9%	50	\$66,350,000
Stanislaus	2,415	12,460	7,227	22,102	4.1%	17	\$169,100,000
Sutter	354	2,131	1,605	4,090	4.2%	15	\$28,560,000
Tehama	263	2,306	656	3,225	5.0%	10	\$23,980,000
Trinity	30	513	147	690	5.0%	9	\$4,900,000
Tulare	2,597	9,628	6,729	18,954	4.1%	19	\$131,530,000
Tuolumne	117	1,218	347	1,682	3.1%	30	\$12,450,000
Ventura	1,666	8,073	6,736	16,475	1.9%	48	\$110,490,000
Yolo	452	3,046	2,053	5,551	2.6%	37	\$40,670,000
Yuba	317	2,870	891	4,078	5.5%	6	\$31,420,000

* December 2015 is the most recent month for which data are available.

** The statewide figure is a Department of Social Services estimate. County estimates are based on each county's share of SSI/SSP payments in December 2015. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. County estimates do not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Budget Center analysis of data from the Department of Finance, Department of Social Services, and US Social Security Administration