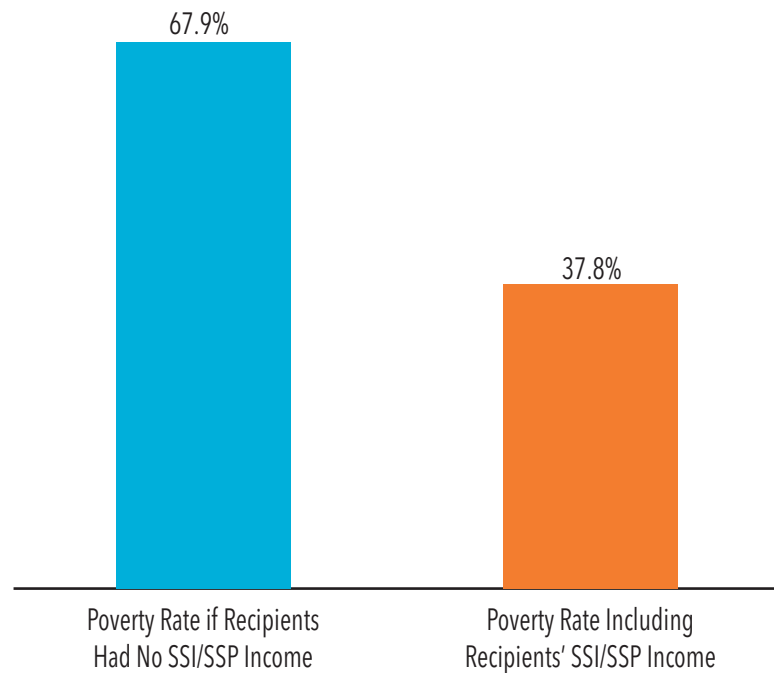




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SSI/SSP Grants Cut Poverty Among Older Californians Who Receive Them, But Many Still Struggle to Get By

Percentage of SSI/SSP Recipients Age 65 or Older Living in Poverty, 2013-15



- Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) grants help 1.3 million low-income people with disabilities and adults age 65 or older in California pay for housing, food, and other basic living expenses.

- Without these grants, more than two-thirds of SSI/SSP recipients age 65 or older would be living in poverty. Still, SSI/SSP grant levels remain so low that almost 2 in 5 older adults who receive SSI/SSP live in poverty.

- Although the 2016-17 budget agreement included a one-time cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the state's portion of SSI/SSP grants – the first state COLA in a decade – grant levels remain inadequate due to cuts the state made to help close budget shortfalls during the Great Recession.

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Note: Analysis is based on the Supplemental Poverty Measure and is limited to Californians age 65 or older with SSI/SSP income.
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data