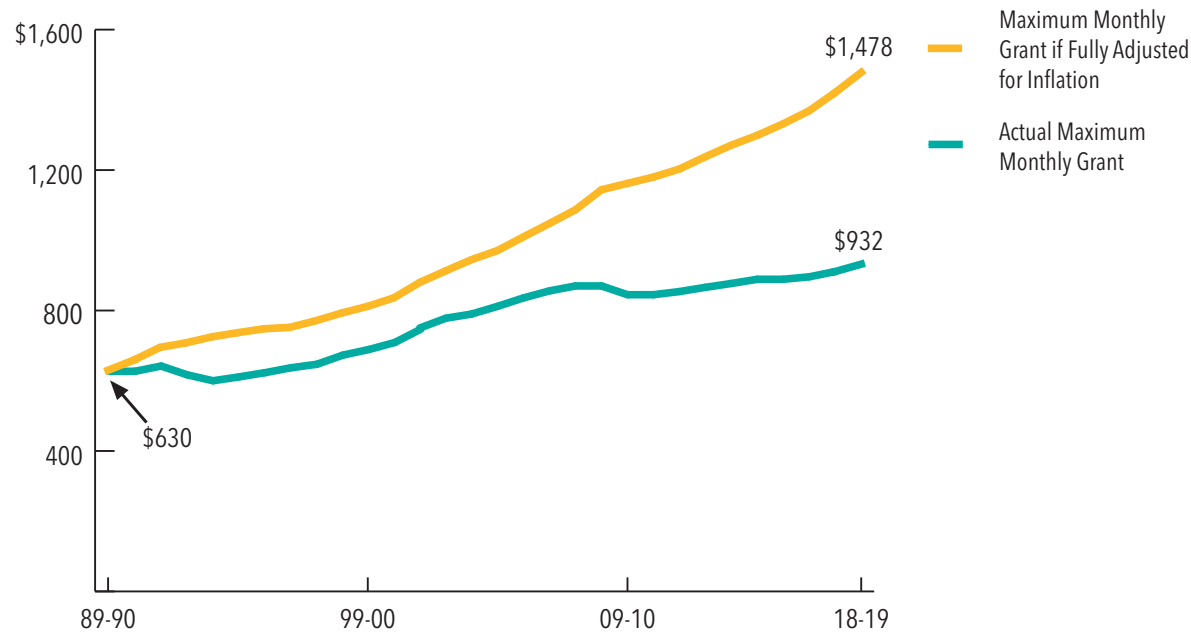




MAY 2019 | BY SCOTT GRAVES

Largely Due to State Cuts, SSI/SSP Grants Have Lost More Than One-Third of Their Purchasing Power Since 1989-90

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



Note: SSI/SSP stands for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment.
Source: Budget Center analysis of Department of Finance and Department of Social Services data

- **SSI/SSP grants provide critical assistance for Californians with low incomes.** These grants help well over 1 million seniors and people with disabilities pay for housing and other necessities. Grants are funded with federal (SSI) and state (SSP) dollars.

- **SSI/SSP grants have lost significant purchasing power since 1989-90.** State policymakers have reduced support for the SSP portion by withholding cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) and cutting grants. Largely as a result, the maximum SSI/SSP grant for an individual is just \$932 per month (89.5% of the poverty line). If this grant had been fully adjusted for inflation, it would equal \$1,478 per month today.

- **By boosting SSI/SSP grants, the state would help low-income Californians to better make ends meet.** Options include increasing the maximum grant for individuals and restoring the annual state COLA beginning in 2020.

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