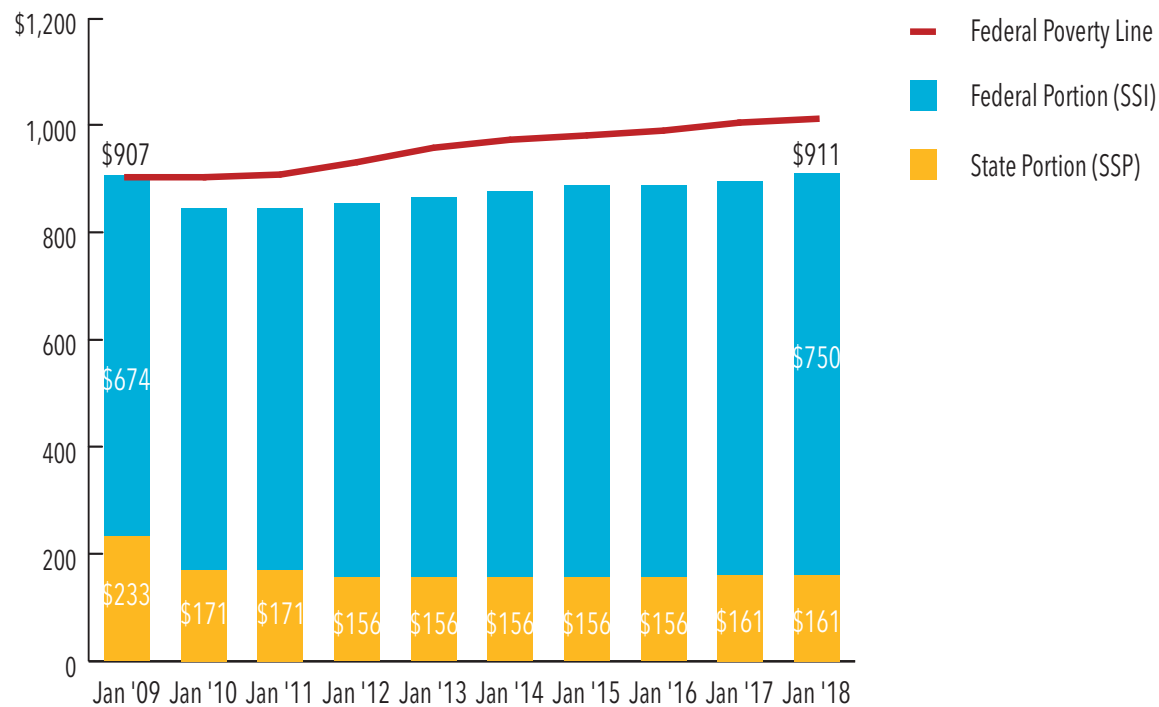




FEBRUARY 2018 | BY SCOTT GRAVES

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

- Supplemental Security Income/ State Supplementary Payment (SSI/ SSP) grants are a critical source of basic income for low-income Californians. SSI/SSP grants help well over 1 million seniors and people with disabilities pay for basic necessities such as housing and food. (People enrolled in SSI/SSP are not eligible for CalFresh food assistance.)

- Policymakers made deep cuts to the state's SSP portion to help close budget shortfalls. By mid-2011, the state had cut maximum monthly SSP grants to the lowest levels allowed by federal law. The state funded a modest 2.76% increase to the SSP portion in 2017, but no further increases have been provided since then.

- Due to state cuts, SSI/SSP grants no longer lift individuals out of poverty. The state's SSP portion would have to increase by just over \$100 per month – to \$262 – to bring the total SSI/SSP grant for individuals up to the 2018 poverty line.

CALIFORNIA BUDGET & POLICY CENTER

calbudgetcenter.org