

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Federal Threats to Economic Security for Older Adults, and What California Can Do

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Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on populations that have traditionally lacked legal protection such as women, people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

Federal Threats to SSI

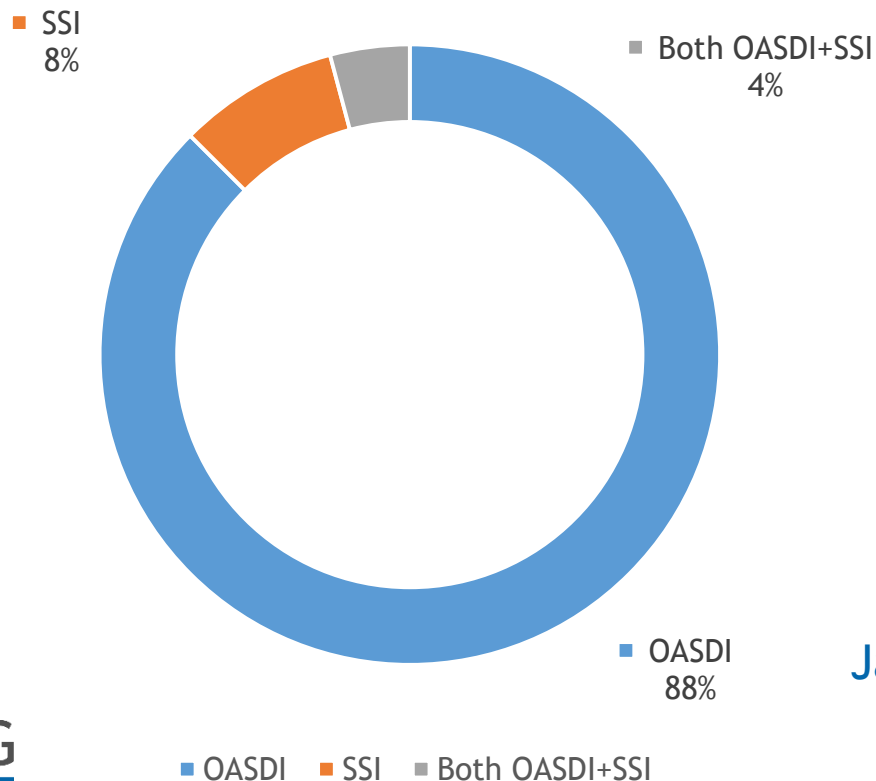
- SSI in real danger of cuts in Congress
- Proposals may reduce the categories of people eligible for SSI or cap funding
- Social Security also in danger of cuts, despite promises to the contrary

Timeline for Federal Threats

- Congress can make significant cuts to SSI through reconciliation, with just a simple majority vote
- Could see these proposals in the summer as part of budget process
- Gathering stories is important to put a “face” to the program

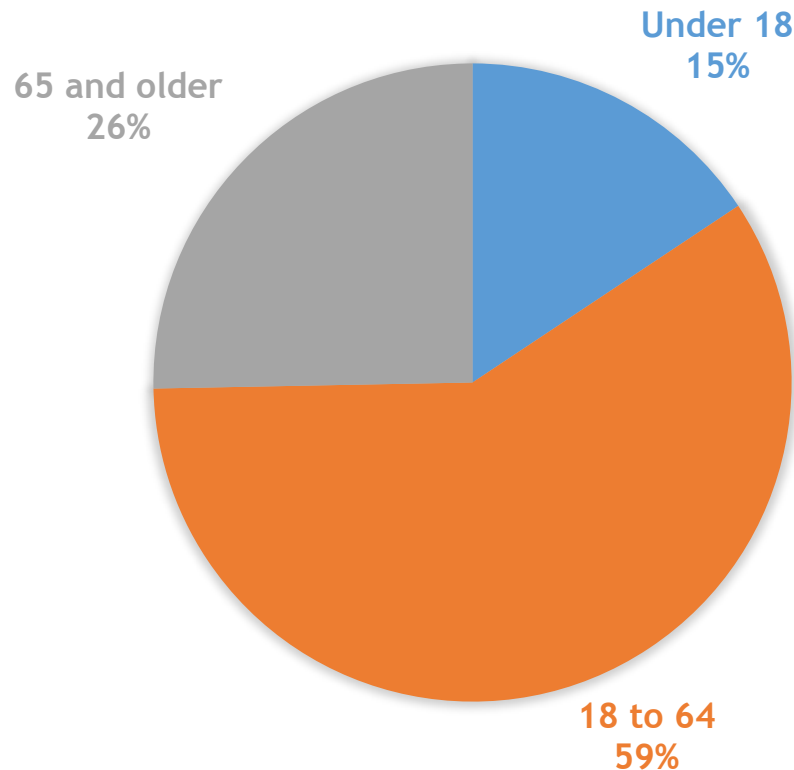
Recipients of SSI (8.3 million) and OASDI (61 million)

SSI and OASDI Recipients

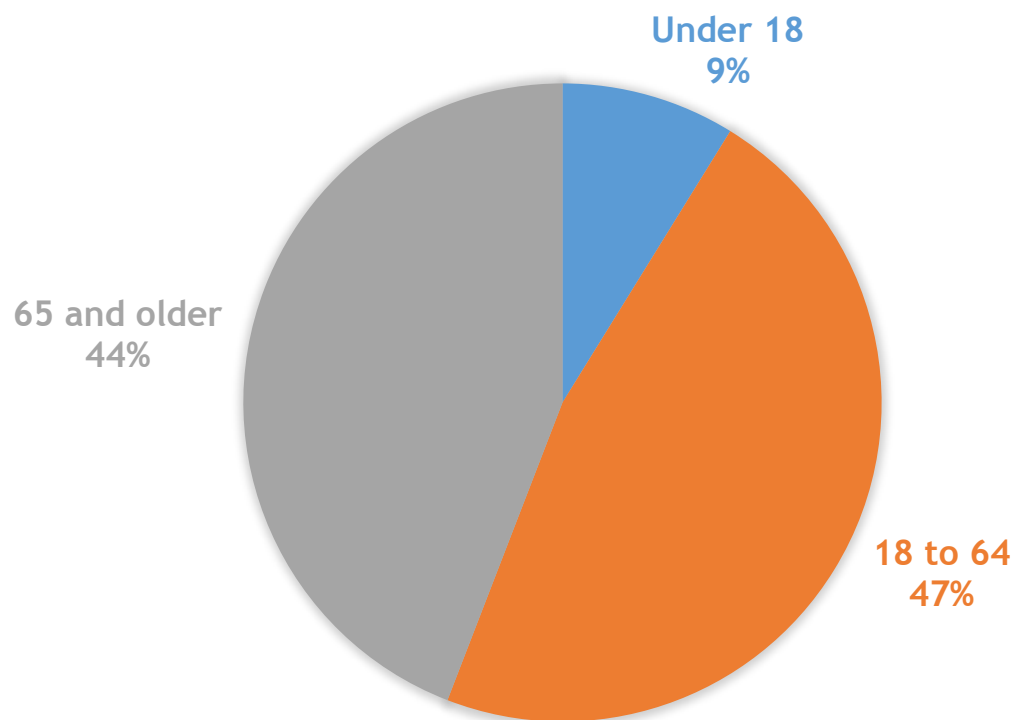


January 2017

8.3 Million People Currently Receive SSI Benefits (Jan. 2017)



1.3 Million Californians Receive SSI Benefits (December 2015)



Federal: Past Proposals

- Johnson bill (targeting Social Security)
- Proposals to change/eliminate SSI for children with disabilities
- CUFF Act

Reading Tips

- Look at details on proposals that seek to “reform” or “restructure” the program
- Block grants, imposing caps, vouchers
- Changes to eligibility criteria (e.g., raising the full retirement age)
 - Disproportionate impact on low wage, manual labor jobs that are difficult to sustain into older age

State: Policy Opportunities

- Restoring State Supplemental Payment
- Related programs that help increase access to SSI (HDAP)
- Other policies that help related issues (housing and homelessness, increasing access to CalFresh among older adults)



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