



BY SCOTT GRAVES

SSI/SSP Assists Low-Income Seniors and People With Disabilities in Every California House District, 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. SSI/SSP recipients live in all 53 of California’s congressional districts. For example, in the 23rd District, represented by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), 3.6% of residents rely on SSI/SSP to help make ends meet. In the 12th District, represented by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), 5.2% of residents are enrolled in SSI/SSP. 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

District	Representative	Party	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
1	LaMalfa, Doug	R	2,193	23,515	6,418	32,126	4.5%	10	\$238,580,000
2	Huffman, Jared	D	1,087	12,906	4,880	18,873	2.6%	35	\$137,910,000
3	Garamendi, John	D	2,081	14,398	6,758	23,237	3.2%	28	\$169,300,000
4	McClintock, Tom	R	961	8,706	3,445	13,112	1.8%	47	\$95,400,000
5	Thompson, Mike	D	1,476	10,885	5,407	17,768	2.4%	37	\$128,730,000
6	Matsui, Doris O.	D	4,024	27,038	14,337	45,399	6.0%	2	\$367,240,000
7	Bera, Ami	D	1,881	12,323	8,958	23,162	3.1%	31	\$184,300,000
8	Cook, Paul	R	3,838	17,646	6,939	28,423	4.0%	16	\$219,120,000
9	McNerney, Jerry	D	3,469	16,746	9,614	29,829	4.0%	15	\$230,740,000
10	Denham, Jeff	R	2,860	14,383	8,797	26,040	3.5%	25	\$197,660,000
11	DeSaulnier, Mark	D	1,805	11,519	7,334	20,658	2.7%	34	\$159,600,000
12	Pelosi, Nancy	D	638	14,540	23,842	39,020	5.2%	5	\$302,390,000
13	Lee, Barbara	D	2,286	16,792	14,068	33,146	4.4%	12	\$267,210,000
14	Speier, Jackie	D	544	4,917	9,583	15,044	2.0%	43	\$102,370,000

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			Under Age 18	Ages 18 to 64	Age 65 or Older	Total			
15	Swalwell, Eric	D	1,113	6,693	8,139	15,945	2.1%	41	\$121,090,000
16	Costa, Jim	D	4,518	20,483	13,375	38,376	5.2%	6	\$292,400,000
17	Khanna, Ro	D	573	4,091	10,234	14,898	2.0%	44	\$110,800,000
18	Eshoo, Anna G.	D	575	4,143	6,788	11,506	1.6%	49	\$86,120,000
19	Lofgren, Zoe	D	1,591	9,642	14,861	26,094	3.4%	26	\$198,190,000
20	Panetta, Jimmy	D	1,548	8,157	5,563	15,268	2.1%	40	\$101,950,000
21	Valadao, David	R	3,408	12,421	10,495	26,324	3.7%	21	\$179,410,000
22	Nunes, Devin	R	3,439	13,656	9,330	26,425	3.6%	24	\$193,990,000
23	McCarthy, Kevin	R	3,053	16,804	7,104	26,961	3.6%	23	\$208,070,000
24	Carbajal, Salud	D	1,158	8,262	4,490	13,910	1.9%	46	\$94,460,000
25	Knight, Steve	R	3,174	12,664	6,889	22,727	3.2%	30	\$178,590,000
26	Brownley, Julia	D	1,549	7,170	5,846	14,565	2.0%	42	\$97,080,000
27	Chu, Judy	D	1,050	8,037	20,654	29,741	4.1%	14	\$219,320,000
28	Schiff, Adam	D	1,052	13,273	30,590	44,915	6.3%	1	\$367,230,000
29	Cárdenas, Tony	D	2,842	12,490	17,950	33,282	4.6%	9	\$250,100,000
30	Sherman, Brad	D	1,043	7,155	13,939	22,137	2.9%	33	\$166,000,000
31	Aguilar, Pete	D	3,515	15,490	9,299	28,304	3.8%	17	\$210,800,000
32	Napolitano, Grace	D	2,537	9,884	14,777	27,198	3.7%	18	\$194,660,000
33	Lieu, Ted	D	415	4,088	7,419	11,922	1.7%	48	\$88,940,000
34	Becerra, Xavier	D	3,403	14,943	25,623	43,969	6.0%	3	\$326,860,000
35	Torres, Norma	D	2,958	10,129	9,703	22,790	3.1%	32	\$163,180,000
36	Ruiz, Raul	D	2,684	12,767	8,384	23,835	3.2%	29	\$165,110,000
37	Bass, Karen	D	2,576	14,698	13,290	30,564	4.2%	13	\$238,300,000
38	Sánchez, Linda	D	2,257	10,734	13,787	26,778	3.7%	20	\$191,350,000
39	Royce, Ed	R	1,144	5,236	10,287	16,667	2.3%	38	\$117,580,000
40	Roybal-Allard, Lucille	D	4,102	10,045	12,242	26,389	3.7%	22	\$185,320,000
41	Takano, Mark	D	3,244	12,979	8,818	25,041	3.4%	27	\$185,100,000
42	Calvert, Ken	R	1,181	5,671	5,072	11,924	1.5%	50	\$85,660,000
43	Waters, Maxine	D	4,128	17,106	11,613	32,847	4.4%	11	\$255,720,000
44	Barragán, Nanette	D	5,066	17,960	13,078	36,104	5.1%	7	\$276,850,000
45	Walters, Mimi	R	606	3,025	6,196	9,827	1.3%	52	\$70,530,000
46	Correa, J. Louis	D	3,132	9,269	14,906	27,307	3.7%	19	\$194,770,000
47	Lowenthal, Alan	D	2,186	13,528	17,798	33,512	4.7%	8	\$259,830,000
48	Rohrabacher, Dana	R	637	3,593	6,228	10,458	1.4%	51	\$77,010,000
49	Issa, Darrell	R	773	4,380	3,354	8,507	1.2%	53	\$59,640,000
50	Hunter, Duncan D.	R	1,293	8,688	5,958	15,939	2.1%	39	\$117,210,000
51	Vargas, Juan	D	3,312	16,210	19,626	39,148	5.4%	4	\$268,690,000
52	Peters, Scott	D	476	6,282	7,549	14,307	1.9%	45	\$110,270,000
53	Davis, Susan	D	1,440	9,951	8,663	20,054	2.6%	36	\$153,290,000

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

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

Source: Budget Center analysis of data from the Department of Social Services, US Census Bureau, and US Social Security Administration; US House of Representatives