Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) grants are a critical source of basic income for low-income Californians. SSI/SSP grants help 1.3 million seniors and people with disabilities pay for housing, food, and other necessities.

Deep cuts to the state’s (SSP) portion have reduced annual state support for SSI/SSP by more than $1 billion. After adjusting for inflation, California spent $3.9 billion for its share of SSI/SSP grants in 2007-08, the fiscal year the Great Recession began. With these cuts still in place, state spending for SSI/SSP grants has declined to $2.5 billion and would remain at that level in 2015-16 under the Governor’s proposed budget.

State policymakers must decide whether to maintain these recession-era cuts in 2015-16. These cuts result in more than $1 billion in annual state General Fund “savings,” but jeopardize the well-being of 1.3 million vulnerable Californians.

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