

# THE TRUTH ABOUT \$1 BILLION IN SSI/SSP "SAVINGS"

## MYTH

The government has saved  
\$1 billion in SSI/SSP cuts



## REALITY

"Savings" have come at the cost of **1.3 million** blind, aged, and disabled Californians being pushed below the poverty level



## MYTH

SSI/SSP grants have kept pace with the  
state's rising cost of living



## REALITY

Grants are now even lower  
than they were in 1990,  
**a loss of \$400+/month**

Grants have not been adjusted to account for a **14% rise in cost of living** since the cuts.

## MYTH

**\$889<sup>+</sup>** is enough to make ends meet

\* Maximum individual grant as of 2015

+ In every county, the Fair Market Rent for a studio apartment exceeds 50% of the maximum individual grant.

In 13 counties, it exceeds 100% of the maximum individual grant.

## REALITY

**It's nowhere near enough.**



**\$735**  
Avg 2014 Fair Market Rent for a studio apartment in CA



**\$257\***  
Avg monthly food costs



**\$239\***  
Avg monthly transportation costs  
*\* Public transport = primary method for half of recipients*



**\$334\***  
Avg monthly med + healthcare costs



**\$249\***  
Miscellaneous costs

**= \$1,814**

\*The Elder Economic Security Index is the only county-specific measure of the minimum income necessary to cover all basic expenses.



“ SHARON: They give you enough so you can stay alive, but still struggle and be in pain. It’s not enough to have any quality of life.

RON: With the way rents are, it’s the rare landlord that will even consider subsidized or section 8. You just can’t get housing.

ANGEL: If we didn’t have extra help from the Food Bank we would starve. Not to mention soap, toothpaste, toilet paper — stuff you need to survive. I’m just a paycheck away from being homeless.

NADINE: The worst thing about SSI cuts is that it’s prevented me from being able to build equity and move out of poverty. I haven’t been able to save any money.

BENNY: I don’t feel like the world or society has been fair to me at all. I worked hard for years. I did what I was supposed to do. Yet every day is hell for me. I’m scared to death.

”

AB 474 would increase SSI/SSP grants from **90.7%** (\$889) of the federal poverty level to **112%** of the federal poverty level, or \$1,099 per month.

## WHAT \$200 MORE EACH MONTH WOULD MEAN:

“Being able to eat more nutritious food and stay healthy.”



“Clothing. I haven’t bought things like that for myself in four years.”

“Shoes for my grandson.”



“I would finally be able to save some money.”

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## POLICY ASKS

It’s time to reverse these cuts. No person on SSI should be living in poverty or even at the Supplemental Poverty Level.

***We’re asking you to help restore both the SSP grant cuts and the cost of living adjustment!***