CA4SSI Responds to the Governor’s Proposed 2023-24 Budget

CA4SSI, a coalition of advocates, SSI/SSP recipients and more than 200 organizations across the state, advocates to provide sufficient funding to California’s older adults and people living with disabilities so that they can reach economic self-sufficiency and rise above the poverty level. We applaud the Governor’s proposal to continue to make ongoing investments to SSP grants. More than a decade ago, the recession era budget was balanced on the backs of over a million SSI/SSP seniors and people with disabilities including 100,000 children with disabilities, plunging many deeper into poverty, hunger, and homelessness. As California has been in a position to restore safety net cuts, the Governor and Legislature have rightly prioritized restoring and bolstering our support system, including protecting people on SSI. Now is the time to continue that work, not just meet current needs, but to begin addressing structural racism and inequality to bring us to a new, inclusive normal that provides dignity for all.

Thank you, Governor Newsom, for these anti-poverty investments included in the budget:

- **SSP Increase**- The budget reflects $146 million General Fund in 2023-24 and $292 million ongoing for an additional SSP increase of approximately 8.6 percent, effective January 1, 2024. This follows on from a 10.3% SSP increase that took effect with SSI/SSP payments this month, January 2023, and an earlier SSP increase that took effect in January 2022. Ultimately, grants must be established at the Elder Economic Index, as stated in California’s Master Plan for Aging, that sets a minimum level for a dignified life.

We look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to strengthen anti-poverty investments in the final 2023-24 budget act

There are about 1.1 million SSI recipients in the state of California. 64% of seniors receiving SSI are women. SSI/SSP recipients increasingly rely on emergency food, shelter, and health providers. Many are becoming homeless and going hungry, requiring expensive food, medical, and nursing home services that are needed in part because the grants do not cover basic needs. By strengthening safety net programs impacting SSI recipients, we are reducing homelessness, supporting local communities, and helping seniors and people with disabilities live in dignity.

We look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature to lift SSI/SSP grants to account for the high cost of living for older adults and people with disabilities and ensure that SSI recipients have access to food benefits and other resources to meet their needs. You can find more information about the CA4SSI Policy Agenda here.
CAASSI Statewide Organizational Endorsers

AARP, ACLU California, AllCare Alliance, The ARC CA, California Association of Food Banks, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS, California Church IMPACT, California Council of the Blind, California Emergency Foodlink, California Food Policy Advocates, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, California IHSS Consumer Alliance, California Partnership, California Senior Legislature, Californians for Disability Rights, CLUE: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Community Services Unlimited Inc., County Welfare Directors Association of CA, Courage Campaign, Disability Rights California, Educate Advocate, Food Chain Workers Alliance, GRACE/End Child Poverty CA, Housing California, IHSS Consumers Union, Insight Center, Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California, Justice in Aging, Lutheran Office of Public Policy — California, Magnolia Women’s Recovery Center, Meals on Wheels California, National Association of Social Workers/CA Chapter, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Produce Good, SEIU, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Bay Area


Central Valley

Central California Food Bank, Community Action Partnership of Kern County, Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living, Foodlink for Tulare County, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, Kern County Independent Living Center, Neighborhood Industries, Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin & Stanislaus Counties

Los Angeles / Southern California

ACLU of Southern California, Adams Vermont/Gardena CFMS, Center for Health Care Rights, Clergy Caucus of Inland Congregations United for Change, Communities Actively Living Independent, ACT! Federal Housing Fund, Community Action Agency, Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino, Dayle McIntosh Center, Educate Advocates, Disabled Resources Center, Inc., Downtown Women’s Center, Fair Trade LA, Feeding America Riverside-San Bernardino Counties, FIND Food Bank, Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, Food & Water Watch, Friends Across The Line, Friends In Deed, Guerrilla Food Not Bombs, Homeless Action Center, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, Hunger Action LA, Huntington Hospital Senior Care Network, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Jewish Labor Committee Western Region, John Tennant Memorial- Episcopal Senior Communities, Latino Diabetes Association, Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition, Los Angeles County Civilian Action Network, Los Angeles for a New Economy, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Orange County Food Access Coalition, MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, Orange County Food Bank, Orange County Hunger Coalition, Personal Assistance Services Council of LA County, Project Angel Food, Prototypes, Retirement Housing Foundation, Santa Barbara Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, SEIU Local 721, Service Center for Independent Life, Social Justice Learning Institute, Southern CA Resource Services for Independent Living, Starting Over, Inc., St. Barnabas Senior Services, Thai Community Development Center, The East Los Angeles Community Union, Time for Change Foundation, Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College, VELA, Veterans For Peace Los Angeles, Westside Center for Independent Living, WORKS (Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge & Services), Youth Justice Coalition

Sacramento/Northern California

2-1-1 Humboldt, Area 1 Agency on Aging, California Emergency Foodlink, Capitol People First, Cottage Housing Inc., DOGFITE (Disability Organizing Group for Initiating Total Equality), Food for People, Inc., Ford Street Project, Life Support Alliance, Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction, Mary Immaculate Residential Facility, Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program, Placer Food Bank, Placer Independent Resource Services, River City Food Bank, Sacramento Housing Alliance, Jewish Family Service of Sacramento, Sacramento Food Bank, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, The Resource Connection Food Bank, Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services, Yolo Food Bank, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, Yuba-Sutter Gleaners Food Bank Inc.

San Diego