

#51

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, February 07, 2020 5:13:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, February 07, 2020 5:38:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:34
IP Address: 76.21.3.226

Page 1

Q1 Define the problem: [Outline the challenge(s) your recommendation will address. Insert links to reports where appropriate.]

For our state to be a place where everyone has equitable opportunities regardless of race or economic status, we need to address the legacy cuts from the recession that dropped many California seniors and people with disabilities into poverty.

Q2 Pick your Master Plan for Aging goal(s): [Check the goal(s) your recommendation aims to fulfill. View MPA Framework document for reference]

Goal 1: Services & Supports. We will live where we choose as we age and have the help we and our families need to do so.

,
Goal 2: Livable Communities & Purpose. We will live in and be engaged in communities that are age-friendly, dementia-friendly, and disability-friendly.

,
Goal 3: Health & Well-being. We will live in communities and have access to services and care that optimize health and quality of life.

,
Goal 4: Economic Security and Safety. We will have economic security and be safe from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and natural disasters and emergencies throughout our lives.

Q3 Choose your MPA Framework objective: [Check the objective(s) your recommendation will accomplish. View MPA Framework document for reference.]

Objective 4.1: Californians will be economically secure throughout our life span with access to housing, food, and income as we age.

Q4 Outline your recommendation: [In one to two sentences, sketch out your idea for the Master Plan for Aging.]

For seniors and people with disabilities who have low incomes, economic security is the foundation needed for each person to achieve all of the MPA goals. The SSI/SSP grant is that foundation for over 1.2 million of our lowest income seniors and people with disabilities. The SSI/SSP grant should be set at a level that meets the real cost of living in our state.

Q5 Identify and quantify your target population: [Describe which groups of Californians will be impacted by this recommendation, with numbers if available.]

Over 1.2 million California seniors and people with disabilities who receive SSI/SSP.

Q6 Share your recommendations for an age-friendly California: [Insert detailed bullet points describing your Master Plan for Aging ideas.]

- Recommendation 1: To build on the SSI program's proven ability to reduce poverty, increase the SSI/SSP grant to an amount that reflects the real cost of living for seniors using the California Elder Index.
- Recommendation 2: To ensure that the SSP grant, once it is increased, can keep up with the rising costs of housing, food, and other basic needs, the cost of living adjustment for the SSP should be made mandatory and should be calculated based on the full SSI/SSP grant.

Q7 Provide any supporting evidence for your recommendation: [Add links or summaries of research evidence that support your unique vision.]

The state supplementary payment (SSP) to the combined federal and state SSI grant was cut significantly during the recession, with devastating costs to the individuals who rely on SSI for their basic needs, to their families and communities, and to our state. These recession-era cuts have never been restored, leaving low income seniors and people with disabilities struggling to survive with an income far below the real cost of living in our state. Grants are so low that they do not cover the cost of a studio apartment, food and healthcare in any county – with significant deficits in counties as diverse as Los Angeles and San Benito. (<https://www.accfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/IN-THE-RED.pdf>)

For those who can obtain below-market rent, grants are still insufficient to meet even basic needs for utilities, food, medicine, toiletries, clothing and other necessities that higher income Californians take for granted. This situation has pushed low-income seniors and people with disabilities into homelessness and hunger and is a significant reason why California has the highest percentage of seniors living under the Supplemental Poverty Measure of any state. (<https://www.kff.org/report-section/how-many-seniors-live-in-poverty-tables/>)

CBPC: SSI/SSP Grants Are No Match for California's Housing Costs (January 2020): <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/ssi-ssp-grants-are-no-match-for-californias-housing-costs/>

CBPC: Largely Due to State Cuts, SSI/SSP Grants Have Lost More Than One-Third of Their Purchasing Power Since 1989-90 (May 2019): <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/largely-due-to-state-cuts-ssi-ssp-grants-have-lost-more-than-one-third-of-their-purchasing-power-since-1989-90/>

CBPC: SSI/SSP Grants Cut Poverty Among Older Californians Who Receive Them, But Many Still Struggle to Get By (February 2017): <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/ssissp-grants-cut-poverty-among-older-californians-receive-many-still-struggle-get/>

Q8 Give examples of local, state or national initiatives that can be used as an example of best practices: [Provide any available links and sources.] Local: State: National: Other:

On the federal level, Social Security and SSI grants provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to ensure that benefits keep pace with inflation. This federal COLA adjusts the SSI part of the combined SSI/SSP grant. The federal COLA is automatic, and is determined each year by a formula based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This automatic formula has ensured that a COLA has been provided to beneficiaries of Social Security and SSI in all but three years since 1975. (<https://www.ssa.gov/oact/cola/colaseries.html>)

Q9 Provide a roadmap to implementation: [Insert any actions state agencies, legislators, counties, local government, or philanthropy can take to move this recommendation forward. Some of the entities listed below may or may not be applicable to each recommendation.] State Agencies/Departments: [action to be taken by Governor or specific state agencies] State Legislature: [legislation needed to implement recommendation] Local Government: Federal Government: Private Sector: Community-Based Organizations: Philanthropy: Other:

Addressing the legacy cuts to the state supplement to SSI will require the Governor and his administration to work with legislators to increase the state supplement and make the COLA automatic.

Q10 Identify person-centered metrics: [What are the individual measures of inputs or outcomes that can be used to predict your recommended action's impact on people.]

- Decrease in the number of seniors and people with disabilities living in poverty
- Decrease in the number of seniors and people with disabilities experiencing homelessness
- Decrease in the number of seniors and people with disabilities who are food insecure

Q11 Measuring Success: [Describe specific metrics that could be used to empirically measure the effectiveness of your recommendation]

- Senior poverty rate in the state across time
- Rates across time for indicators linked to poverty, such as homelessness and hunger

Q12 Measuring Success: [How would we know that the implementation of your recommendation is successful?]

Mid term: By 2025...

In the midterm and long-term, the senior poverty rate in California will have decreased significantly, along with improvements in other indicators that are tied to poverty, such as lower numbers of unhoused and housing-insecure seniors and lower numbers of food-insecure seniors. The poverty rate among seniors disproportionately living in poverty, such as LGBTQ seniors of color, will have decreased as much or more than the overall rate.

Q13 Provide data sources: [What existing data can be used to measure success or progress?]: Existing data sources: [specify datasets, variables, and data owner/location] Suggestions for data collection to evaluate implementation of this goal when no data sources exist:

- Census data to track senior poverty rates. Break out data for SSI/SSP recipients, and break down that data further by race/ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ.
- When tracking indicators like homelessness that are linked to poverty, break out data for SSI/SSP recipients where feasible.

Q14 Identify potential costs and/or savings: [Provide any research, actuarial analysis or other evidence of the cost of, or potential savings from, implementing your recommendation.]

Investing in SSP and enabling older adults to have a modest income sufficient to meet basic needs will bring economic stimulus into our communities that need it most. According to the IMPLAN economic analysis, every \$10 million in increased State Supplementary Payments would support \$15 million in economic output (a multiplier of 1.50), create 93 jobs, and return \$0.9 million in state and local tax revenues.

Ensuring that older adults and people with disabilities have adequate funds to pay for housing and have a good quality of life should result in savings on potentially unnecessary hospital and nursing home days and relieve shelters of the burden of providing large-scale, aging-related care for which they are ill-suited. See *The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness: Could Housing Solutions Be Funded by Avoidance of Excess Shelter, Hospital, and Nursing Home Costs?* (<https://www.aisp.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness-1.pdf>)

Q15 Prioritize your recommendation: [How would you prioritize your recommendation relative to other needs/priorities?] **High**

Q16 Contact information: [Let's stay in touch!]

Name: **Kevin Prindiville**
Affiliation: **Justice in Aging**
Phone: **(510) 663-1055, ext 1**
Email: **kprindiville@justiceinaging.org**