

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

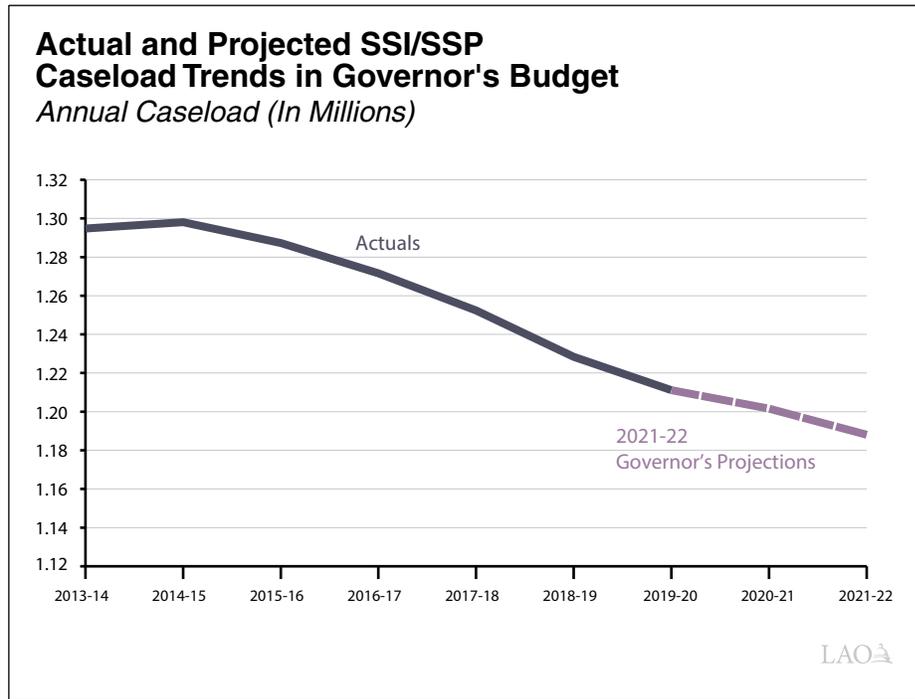
**The 2021-22 Budget:  
Supplemental Security Income/State  
Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) Program**

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LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

## SSI/SSP Caseload



- **Caseload Decline in SSI/SSP.** SSI/SSP caseload has declined at an average annual rate of about 1 percent for the past five years.
- **Governor's Budget Assumes Continued Decline in SSI/SSP Caseload.** The Governor's budget estimates that SSI/SSP caseload will continue to decrease slightly—0.8 percent in 2020-21 and 1.1 percent in 2021-22.
- **SSI/SSP Caseload Trends Did Not Significantly Change During Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Period.** In general, the average month-to-month change in total SSI/SSP cases has remained the same thus far between the period before COVID-19 and the COVID-19 period—less than 1 percent decline. The rate has not changed because the average entry and exit rate into the SSI/SSP program generally has remained the same thus far between the pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 period.



## SSI/SSP Grant Levels

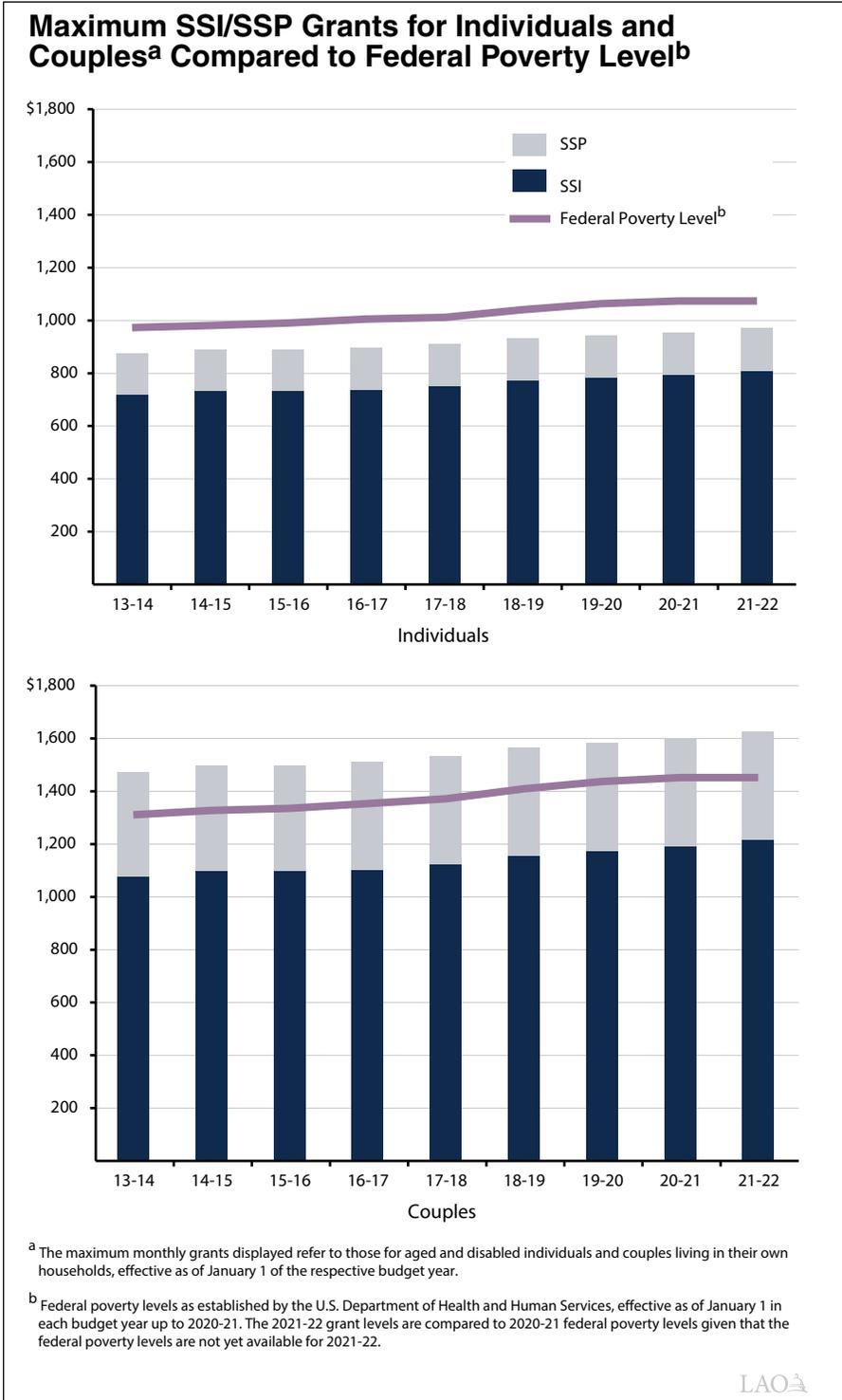
<b>SSI/SSP Monthly Maximum Grant Levels<sup>a</sup> Governor's Proposal</b>			
	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22 Governor's Estimates<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Change From 2020-21</b>
<b>Maximum Grant—Individuals</b>			
SSI	\$794.00	\$811.00	\$17.00
SSP	160.72	160.72	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$954.72</b>	<b>\$971.72</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
Percent of federal poverty level <sup>c</sup>	89%	90%	
<b>Maximum Grant—Couples</b>			
SSI	\$1,191.00	\$1,217.00	\$26.00
SSP	407.14	407.14	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,598.14</b>	<b>\$1,624.14</b>	<b>\$26.00</b>
Percent of federal poverty level <sup>c</sup>	110%	112%	
<sup>a</sup> The maximum monthly grants displayed refer to those for aged and disabled individuals and couples living in their own households, effective as of January 1 of the respective budget year. <sup>b</sup> Reflects Governor's budget estimate of the January 2022 federal cost-of-living adjustment for the SSI portion of the grant. <sup>c</sup> Compares grant level to federal poverty guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for 2021.			

- **Federal SSI Grant Increases by Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA).** The federal government generally applies a COLA to SSI grant levels annually. The Governor's budget estimates that the federal COLA will be 2.2 percent in 2022, increasing the maximum monthly SSI grant by \$17 for individuals and \$26 for couples. The actual value of the federal SSI COLA will not be known until the fall.
- **Total SSI/SSP Grant for Individuals Remain Below Federal Poverty Level (FPL).** The current maximum SSI/SSP grant level for individuals remains below the 2021 FPL, while the grant level for couples remains just above the 2021 FPL. The last time the maximum SSI/SSP grant level for individuals was equal to or above the FPL was in 2009, prior to the SSP grant reductions.



# SSI/SSP Grant Levels

(Continued)



## Eligibility for Federal and State Stimulus Payments

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- ***SSI/SSP Recipients Were Eligible for Federal Stimulus Payments.*** Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government has provided two one-time stimulus payments to eligible adults— (1) up to \$1,200 for eligible adults and an additional \$500 for each eligible child in late March 2020, and (2) up to \$600 for eligible singles (\$1,200 for eligible married couples) and an additional \$600 for each eligible child in December 2020. In general, SSI/SSP recipients were eligible to receive the federal stimulus payments. We understand that the federal stimulus payments did not affect an individual’s eligibility for SSI/SSP or other means-tested programs, including Medi-Cal and CalFresh.
- ***SSI/SSP Recipients Expected to Receive State-Funded Golden State Stimulus Payment.*** On February 17, 2020, it was announced that the Legislature and Governor reached an agreement on the Golden State Stimulus proposal, which will provide \$600 one-time payments to lower-income Californians, including SSI/SSP recipients. The state is currently working with the federal government (current administrators of the SSI/SSP payment system) to determine the timing of the payment to SSI/SSP recipients. Similar to the federal payments, we expect that the Golden State Stimulus payments will not affect an individual’s eligibility for SSI/SSP or other social service programs.

