

# 10th Annual Developmental Disabilities Public Policy Conference



SSI AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
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# The Sad Story of SSI Grants



- Once upon a time persons living on SSI lived above the poverty level.
- But years of failing to pay cost of living adjustments
- And a big bad recession cut the grants to the core.
- And it is time to make this right

# How Did it Happen?



- On January 1, 2009 the state contributed \$233 a month to the SSI check for single individuals and \$568 a month for couples.
- When combined with the federal SSI amount, single recipients' grants were worth 100.6% of the federal poverty level.
- Grants for couple equaled 131 % of the federal poverty level.

# The Cuts and the Damage Done



- In July, 2009 the state began cutting the state contributions to the SSI grant.
- By July 1, 2011 the state SSI contribution for individuals had been reduced to \$156 a month, a \$77 a month reduction.
- SSP grants to couples were cut to the federal minimum of \$396 a month in November, 2009, a \$172 a month cut.

# Cumulative SSI/SSP Cuts



## Single Recipients

- \$77 a month cut
- Total Grant Cuts 7-09 thru 12-16 **\$6.92 Billion**

## Couples Recipients

\$172 monthly cut

Total Grant Cuts 7-09 thru 12-16      **\$3.32 Billion**

# Where Did the Money Go?



Total SSI Grant Cuts

**\$10.25 Billion Cumulatively**

2017-18 State Budget Reserve

\$2.534 Billion

2017-18 Rainy Day Fund

\$7.869 Billion

Total State Reserves

**\$10.403 Billion**

# How Do We Fix It? AB 796 (Kalra)



Proposes a three step process to restoring the cuts to SSP grants.

- On January 1, 2018 the SSP grant would be increased to equal 96 percent of the federal poverty level
- On January 1, 2019 the SSP grant would be increased to equal 100 percent of the federal poverty level
- Thereafter, the statutory cost of living adjustment would be restored and annual grant increases would track with the California Necessities Index.

# Housing and Disability Advocacy Program



- The goal of HDAP is to intervene with disabled and mentally ill persons *before* they become homeless
- Help homeless people living with disabilities to stabilize their income and housing as soon as possible while their SSI claims are pending.
- This approach will increase the likelihood that their disability claims will be approved and make it more likely that they will find permanent stable housing.

# Key Components of HDAP



- Early Intervention
- Assistance with starting an SSI application by using county medical system
- Provide legal advocacy with SSI
- County increases GA grant to pay for cost of temporary housing.
- Permanent housing arranged after SSI approved.

# How HDAP was Funded



- State Committed \$45 Million to counties to match on a dollar for dollar basis.
- County could also claim for reimbursement from Medicaid for services to help enroll in SSI
- After SSI approved county can recoup cost of housing from retroactive SSI check.
- All recoupments must be used to help another person living with disabilities.

# So What Happened?



- The Brown Administration never implemented the program.
- In January they proposed to recapture the \$45 million.
- Both budget sub-committees said no.
- Waiting to see if Governor will change mind at the May Revise.

# Affordable Housing



- California has a supply problem.
- In past 10 years the state has not kept up with population growth.
- Lack of supply drives up price, makes housing formerly somewhat affordable to low income persons unaffordable.

# Governor Wants to Promote Supply



- He proposed “by right” development rights.
- If a project was zoned and approved for development a developer would get a expedited review by local government.
- But never adopted due to opposition from a broad coalition of labor, environmentalists and some affordable housing advocates.
- SB 35 (Wiener) attempting to fix the problem.

# By Right Not Enough



- Market rate developed housing not affordable to people at or below 50% of state median income.
- SSI, CalWORKs and other very poor families must have housing deeply subsidized to be affordable.

# Low Income Housing Proposals



- SB 2 (Atkins) – Would fund a permanent source of funding for housing for low income people by slightly increasing the document transfer tax.
- AB 1505 (Bloom) – Permits local governments to require market rate developments set-aside a portion of housing to low income persons.
- SB 3 (Beall) – Proposes a \$3 billion bond act