

Food Stamp Outreach & Access Toolkit

Appendix C: Food Stamps and SSI/SSP in California

Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) **and** the California State Supplement to SSI, State Supplementary Payment (SSP) are not eligible for food stamps. This policy is related to the fact that SSI recipients in California receive one of the highest SSP payments in the country. While the SSI/SSP recipient is not eligible, other household members may be and it is important to use a prescreening tool to determine if a household with an SSI/SSP recipient may have household members that are potentially eligible.

Please Note: SSI is different than Social Security or Social Security Disability and recipients of those programs are not categorically excluded from the Food Stamp Program. See Chapter Eleven of this Toolkit to learn more about how these programs are different and about other safety-net programs that serve low-income populations in California.

Other Food Support for SSI/SSP Recipients: Many community-based outreach workers find that most SSI/SSP households experience hunger, and some of these clients might also be housing insecure or homeless. Some SSI/SSP recipients in California may be eligible to receive a supplemental payment if they do not have access to a working kitchen. If a client receiving SSI/SSP does not have access to cooking facilities, s/he should be eligible for the Restaurant Meals Allowance, providing him/her with an extra allocation per month. This link will give you data about SSI/SSP allotments: www.cclcd.ca.gov/res/pdf/SSI-SSPStandardChart01-05.pdf

The following resources will help you understand SSI/SSP and how it intersects with the Food Stamp Program:

Explanation of the SSI/SSP Program:

<http://www.dss.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG1422.htm>

History of SSI/SSP Cash-out policy in California, by USDA:

<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v67n4p71.html>

Explanation of SSI/SSP Cash-out by California Food Policy Advocates:

www.cfpa.net/CashoutinCA2003.pdf

Findings about SSI Cash-out by the Social Security Administration:

http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/rulings/ssi/07/SSR79-09-ssi-07.html

Discussion about how SSI/SSP Cash-out impacts California's Food Stamp participation rate:

http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2003/12/23_usda.shtml

All County Letters pertaining to SSI/SSP Cash-out:

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/getinfo/acl75/75-153.pdf>

