

Elimination of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Contact your Representative

We need good data to make good decisions! With one phone call you can help us take the first step to saving a critical source of data on poverty and income in the U.S.

Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your Representative, or find their direct lines by entering your zip code at <http://www.congress.org>.

When you call:

- Ask to speak to the legislative director or the staffer who works on poverty issues.
- Tell them you are a constituent and want to know if your Congressperson supports fully funding the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).
- If your Congressperson supports the SIPP, thank him/her.
- If your Congressperson is undecided or has not heard of the SIPP, say that you support fully funding the survey based on the *Talking Points* (you can offer to email these to them: <http://www.ceprdata.org/savesipp/talkingpoints.pdf>).
- If your Congressperson supports cutting the SIPP, urge them to reconsider. The SIPP is an unparalleled source of data that we cannot afford to lose. If the Census wants to restructure the survey, they should involve the government agencies, researchers and advocates who use the data in the process. Until then, the Census should continue to fund the SIPP so that we do not lose critical information on how current policies affect American families.

Sample Script:

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in [your town/city]. I am calling to urge Representative _____ to support fully funding the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) during the current appropriations process. The SIPP is a unique and essential source of data on income and poverty. Without the SIPP we will have a harder time knowing which programs are working and judging how to prioritize scarce government resources. Thanks for your time.