

WHY IT'S TIME TO ADJUST THE FIP BASIC GRANT



It's time to adjust the FIP basic grant. Way past time.

1989—the Berlin Wall fell, Tiananmen Square erupted in protest, and Pete Rose was banned from baseball. It's also the last time Iowa adjusted the FIP basic grant.

Iowa's Family Investment Program (FIP) basic grants to families haven't been adjusted for 26 years. In the meantime, the Consumer Price Index has increased 125%.

FIP basic grants help struggling families as they work toward economic independence from welfare. LSI serves many of these families, such as those who work on job search and goal setting in the FaDSS program.

Iowa is shamefully behind on this, and it has real consequences for the 17% of Iowa kids who live below the federal poverty level. Since 1989, an Iowa family of four with the maximum FIP basic grant has received \$495 a month. The current grant is so low that even if we doubled that grant to \$990 in 2015, it would still leave a family of four at 50% below the federal poverty level.

How can a family care for kids in 2015 with dollars from 1989? Let's begin getting the FIP basic grant up to speed with a small increase of at least 10% and a discussion on regular adjustment for inflation in the future. As citizens and constituents who are concerned about the welfare of our neighbors, we urge our legislators to support this action that strengthens the social safety net for children and families.



For more information or if you have questions, please contact:

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