



SSI - Supplemental Security Income

SSI is a program administered by the Social Security Administration that provides a monthly payment plus automatic Medical Assistance coverage to children and adults who:

- 1) Meet Social Security's disability criteria and
- 2) Have low income and assets.

To meet disability criteria, the child must have a physical or mental condition, or combination of conditions, that very seriously limits their daily activities. The condition(s) must have lasted or be expected to last at least 1 year.

When assessing income and resource eligibility for children under 18 years of age, both the child's resources and those of other family members living in the house are considered.

Applying for SSI requires two steps: **1) Completing the Disability Report AND 2) Completing the Application for SSI with the help of a Social Security Representative.**

To begin the application process:

- Have your child's social security number available
- Complete the Child Disability Report online at Child Disability Report - Form 3820 (ssa.gov) (or Adult Disability Report for those 18 and older). If you are unable to complete the form online, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 for assistance.
- You will receive call from the SSA within 3-5 days of completing the Disability Report to review the report, obtain household income and resource information, and start the formal SSI application process.

Important Facts:

- Be prepared to provide accurate contact information, including mailing addresses and phone numbers, for ALL of your child's health care providers to ensure that medical records can be requested by the SSA.
- Parents will receive a release of information forms - either as a part of the Child/Adult Disability Report process or in the mail. These releases need to be signed by the parent or legal guardian and promptly returned to the SSA.
- Please review any mail that you receive from the SSA throughout the application process. Additional documentation or information may be requested during the application process.
- You will be notified by mail whether or not the application has been approved. It can take 3 to 5 months for notification
- Your child or young adult's eligibility will be reviewed at least every 3 years
- When your child turns 18, eligibility will be reassessed using adult disability criteria. Keep an eye out for mail from the SSA and respond promptly with the requested information to help ensure that benefits are not lost.
- When being evaluated (or reevaluated) for eligibility at the age of 18 or older, only the young adult's income and resources (not those of parents or other family members) are considered. Even if your child was not eligible for SSI before their 18th birthday due to family income or resources, they may become eligible for SSI at age 18.

