

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

What is SSI?

“Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a needs-based program for people who are disabled, blind, or aged.” SSI “pays benefits to adults and children with disabilities who have limited income and resources.”

Difference between SSI and SSDI

“Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is open to any individual with disabilities, of any age, regardless of work history, as long as they meet the medical eligibility and financial limitation threshold requirements. SSI is a needs-based program, meaning the applicant must have a very limited income/financial resources available to pay for every day needs and ongoing care.”

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is only available if the person meets the definition of disability as defined by SSI and has worked in jobs covered by social security (i.e. paying into SSI).

When to apply

It's a good idea to start gathering documentation and information close to your child's 18th birthday and submit everything as soon as your child turns 18

What you need to apply

You might not need all of these documents

SSI needs to see the original document – but keep a copy for yourself!

- Social Security Card
- Proof of Age
 - Public/religious birth record
 - Other document showing age/date of birth
- Citizenship or Alien Status Record
 - Birth certificate showing you were born in the US
 - Religious record of birth or baptism showing place of birth
 - Naturalization certificate
 - US Passport or passport card
 - Certificate of citizenship
 - Permanent resident card
 - Arrival/Departure Record
- Proof of Income
 - Earned income: payroll stubs, tax return for last year
 - Unearned income: any records you have showing how much you receive, how often, and source of payment
- Proof of Resources
 - Checking and savings bank statements
 - Life or disability insurance policies
 - Burial contracts, burial plots
 - Certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds
 - Titles or registration for vehicles

- Proof of Living Arrangements
 - Lease or rent receipts
 - Names, dates of birth, medical assistance cards or social security numbers for all household members
 - Deed or property tax bill
 - Information about household costs such as rent, food, and utilities
- Medical Sources
 - Medical reports, if you have them
 - Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of doctors, hospitals and other providers of medical services to you and the approximate dates you were treated
 - Names of the prescription and non-prescription medications you are taking
- Work History
 - Job titles
 - Type of business
 - Names of employers
 - Dates worked
 - Hours worked per day and per week
 - Days worked per week, and rates of pay for work you did in the 15 years before you became unable to work because of your illnesses, injuries, or conditions
 - Description of job duties for the type of work you performed

Where to apply:

Complete the online application at: www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits

Contact Information:

Call here for questions or if you need assistance applying

National: (800)-772-1213

Boston: (866)-964-7311

Resources:

<https://www.exceptionallives.org/>

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>