Guide to Reading the State Summaries

This guide explains the program features detailed in the summaries for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Although each state does not feature all of the assistive programs listed below, the three major state assistance programs are:

- State supplementation (mandatory and optional) of federal Supplemental Security Income payments,
- State assistance for special needs, and
- Medicaid.

To facilitate comparisons across states, a separate section includes four tables that summarize:

- The number of persons receiving optional supplementation,
- Selected features of state supplementation programs,
- Selected features of medical programs affecting SSI recipients and the needy, and
- State threshold amounts for blind and disabled individuals to maintain Medicaid eligibility under section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act.

With the exception of Arizona, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia, all states have provided current data for this publication. The state summaries contain information on the program features discussed below.

State Supplementation

Mandatory Minimum Supplementation

The states provide mandatory minimum supplementation only to recipients who were converted to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program from the former state assistance programs when the SSI program began in 1974. Mandatory minimum state supplementary payments are required by Public Law 93-66 to maintain the December 1973 payment levels that these recipients received under the former state assistance programs. States are required to provide this supplementation to maintain their eligibility for Title XIX (Medicaid) federal matching funds.

Optional State Supplementation

Some states provide optional monthly supplements to help persons meet needs not fully covered by federal SSI payments. The state determines whether it will make a payment, to whom, and in what amount. These supplements, paid on a regular monthly basis, are intended to cover such items as food, shelter, clothing, utilities, and other daily and special necessities. Some states provide optional supplementary payments to all persons eligible for SSI benefits. Others limit payments to certain SSI recipients such as the blind or residents of domiciliary care facilities, or extend payments to persons who are ineligible for SSI because their income is too high. In most cases a separate count for these individuals is not possible.

Administration. The governmental unit responsible for administering these payments is a state or local agency or the Social Security Administration (SSA). Under state administration, the state must absorb both program benefits and administrative costs. Under federal administration, the state must reimburse SSA for the cost of the program benefits and, as of October 1, 2010, must pay \$10.56 in administrative costs for each benefit paid. The Commissioner may select a different rate for a state, taking into account the complexity of administering the state's supplementary payment program.

Effective date. The date when the state instituted or revised its optional supplementation program.

Statutory basis for payment. The state law(s) authorizing the supplementary payments.

Funding. The source of funds for supplementary payments and administrative costs. In states requiring financial participation from local governments, the portions contributed by the state and the locality are indicated.

Passalong method. To maintain eligibility for Medicaid reimbursement, any state making supplementary payments after June 30, 1977, must continue making payments and must pass along the cost-of-living increase to the federal benefit rate (FBR). Two methods are available to ensure that costof-living increases are passed on to the recipients: the payment levels method and the total expenditure method.

Under the payment levels method, the State must maintain the March 1983 payment level for each living

arrangement category. However, in July 1983, the expected cost-of-living adjustment was delayed until January 1984, so instead there was a general increase in the FBR. Thus, to determine the required supplementary payment levels, the March 1983 payment levels are reduced by the amounts the FBR general increase exceeded the expected July 1983 cost-of-living increase, which are \$10.30 for an individual, \$15.40 for an eligible couple, and \$5.50 for an essential person.

Under the total expenditure method, state expenditures for supplementary payments in the current calendar year must at least equal expenditures in the preceding calendar year. If expenditures fall short in the current year, the state must increase expenditures in the next calendar year by an amount at least equal to the shortfall.

Place of application. The office(s) accepting applications for supplementary payments.

Scope of coverage. The categories of persons the state has elected to supplement. States with state-administered programs establish their own eligibility conditions and payment categories. States with federally administered programs must adhere to SSI eligibility criteria but are allowed to establish additional income exclusions and payment categories.

Resource limitations. The resource limitations and exclusions for federally administered state supplementation are the same as for federal SSI payments: countable resources must be worth \$2,000 or less for an individual, or \$3,000 or less for a couple. Countable resources are properties—real or personal—that count toward the resource limits. Recognizing that not everything an individual owns is available for his or her support and maintenance, the law provides for excluding certain resources in determining eligibility for SSI. Excluded resources include (but are not limited to):

- The house an individual lives in;
- A car, if it is used to provide necessary transportation;
- Household goods (if needed for maintenance, use, and occupancy of the home) and personal effects;
- Life insurance policies with a total face value of \$1,500 or less per person;
- Burial plots or spaces for the individual or his or her immediate family;

- A burial fund of up to \$1,500 each for the burial expenses of the individual and his or her spouse; and
- Property essential to self-support, including property used in a trade or business or on the job if the individual works for someone else.

States with state-administered supplementation can establish their own resource limitations and exclusions for optional state supplementary payments.

Income exclusions. An exclusion is the amount of a recipient's income that is not counted against the state supplementary payment.

In general, an SSI recipient's income from sources other than SSI is counted against the SSI payment amount. Some income, however, is excluded from being counted. The federal program excludes \$20 per month of earned or unearned income; in addition, \$65 per month of earned income plus one-half of the remaining earnings is excluded. Some types of income are entirely excluded, such as certain home energy and support and maintenance assistance, food stamps, most federally funded housing assistance, state assistance based on need, one-third of child support payments, and income received infrequently or irregularly.

States that choose federal administration must exclude at least the amounts excluded by the federal program and may exclude more. Countable income is deducted first from the federal payment. Any income that remains to be counted after the federal payment is reduced to zero is deducted from the state supplementary payment.

States with state-administered programs can establish their own income exclusions of any amount and type.

Recoveries, liens, and assignments. Provisions of state supplementation plans governing recovery of assistance payments and assumption of a recipient's property by the agency. As a condition of providing assistance, a state may require that a lien be placed on a recipient's property. Such a requirement does not affect a person's eligibility or payment status for federal SSI benefits or federally administered state supplementary payments.

Financial responsibility of relatives. State supplementation provisions that govern the responsibility of relatives (other than parent for child and spouse for spouse) for providing economic support and returning overpayments.

Interim assistance reimbursement (IAR). The Social Security Administration may reimburse a state that has provided basic needs assistance to an individual during the period in which either the person's application for SSI was pending or his or her SSI benefits were suspended or terminated. The individual's retroactive SSI payment is sent to the state as reimbursement if:

- The state has an agreement with SSA to participate in the IAR program;
- The individual has given SSA written authorization to have his or her retroactive payment sent to the state as reimbursement; and
- The individual is found eligible for SSI payments or has had his or her benefits reinstated for the same period of suspension or termination.

Payment calculation method. States with state administration determine the method by which payments are calculated and what, if anything, will affect the payment. States with federal administration follow federal guidelines.

Payment levels. The maximum state supplementary payments and the combined maximum federal and state payments that can be awarded to recipients without countable income are presented, by state-designated living arrangements, in Table 1 in each state summary. Unless otherwise stated, payment levels apply equally to aged, blind, and disabled recipients. The federal benefit rates that are included in the combined payment levels became effective January 2011 (unless otherwise stated) and are given in the table below.

In states where the SSI payments are federally administered, each living arrangement is described according to the following federal living arrangements. The state may also have other living arrangements. States that administer the SSI payment have the option to supplement and determine their own definitions of living arrangements.

Federal Code A. Includes eligible persons who:

- Live in their own household whether or not they are receiving in-kind support and maintenance;
- Live in a foster or family care situation;
- Have no permanent living arrangement (for example, a transient);
- Live in an institution (except inmates of public institutions) for all or part of a month, provided that Medicaid does not pay more than 50 percent of the cost of their care; or
- Live alone with a child, spouse, or persons whose income may be deemed to the eligible person.

It also includes eligible persons for whom Codes B, C, and D do not apply.

Federal Code B. Includes eligible persons who:

- Live in a household other than their own throughout a month with at least one other person who is not their child, their spouse, or an ineligible person whose income is deemed to them; and
- Receive food and shelter from within that household.

The Code A payment standard is reduced by one-third for people in federal Code B living arrangements.

Federal Code C. Includes eligible children under age 18 who live in the same household as their parents (that is, deeming applies). The payment standard is the same as in Code A.

Federal benefit rates, January 2011 (in dollars)

			Essential
Living arrangements	Individual	Couple	person ^a
Living independently	674.00	1,011.00	338.00
Living in the household of another ^b	449.34	674.00	225.33
Living in a Medicaid facility ^c	30.00	60.00	

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

a. This represents the additional amount included in a recipient's check to cover the needs of a household member who provides essential care and services to the recipient and whose needs were previously taken into account in determining the recipient's assistance payment under a state plan approved under titles I, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act.

b. If the recipient lives in another person's household for a full calendar month and receives both food and shelter from that person, the federal benefit rate (amounts for living independently) is reduced by one-third.

c. Includes eligible persons who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of their care. It also includes eligible children under age 18 who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid, or a combination of Medicaid and private insurance, is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of care.

Federal Code D. Includes eligible persons who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of their care. It also includes eligible children under age 18 who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid, or a combination of Medicaid and private insurance, is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of care.

Number of recipients. The number of recipients receiving optional payments from the state is displayed in Table 2 in each state summary. This number may also include persons who are ineligible for federal SSI payments but meet state eligibility criteria.

Total expenditures. The total amount of expenditures for SSI recipients reported by states who participate in the Optional Supplementation Program. The expenditures reflect previous year counts.

State Assistance for Special Needs

This assistance is for emergency or special conditions not covered by monthly SSI or optional state supplementary payments. Disaster benefits, burial expenses, additional subsidies for institutional care, and moving expenses are included in this category.

Administration. The governmental unit responsible for administering these payments is indicated.

Special needs circumstances. The special needs circumstances (recurring and nonrecurring) for which assistance can be approved are defined. Where available, eligibility requirements and payment limitations are described.

Medicaid

All states have federally assisted medical assistance (Medicaid) programs.

Eligibility

States may grant Medicaid eligibility to all SSI recipients or apply state guidelines in determining eligibility.

Either the SSI program guidelines or the state guidelines may be used to determine eligibility. State guidelines may not be more restrictive than the state's January 1972 medical assistance standards. The governmental unit responsible for determining eligibility is indicated.

Medically Needy Program

The presence or absence of a medically needy program for SSI-related populations is indicated. States can choose among no medically needy program, a restricted program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or a program for the TANF-related and one or more of the SSI-related categories (that is, aged, blind, or disabled). States determine eligibility for this program.

Unpaid Medical Expenses

Medicaid law requires states to pay covered medical expenses for up to 3 months prior to the Medicaid application, if the individual would have been eligible at the time. In many states the SSI application serves as the Medicaid application, and this entry indicates whether SSA has a contractual agreement with the state to inquire about the unpaid medical expenses of SSI claimants.

Summary Tables

Summary Table 1.

Number of persons receiving optional state supplementation, by state and eligibility category, January 2011

State				Disabled	
	Total	Aged	Blind	Adults	Children
Alabama ^a	166	48	3	115	
Alaska ^a	17,630	5,096	75	12,459	b
Arizona ^c	• • • •				
Arkansas ^c					
California	1,257,811	356,636	16,842	718,457	165,876
Colorado ^d	28,932				
Connecticut	10,348	2,769	56	7,523	е
Delaware ^f	657	35	12	535	75
District of Columbia ^f	1,417	105	7	1,212	93
Florida ^a	13,160	5,239	14	7,907	50
Georgia ^d	2,929			7,507	
Hawaii	2,929	 840	 32	 1,758	 106
Idaho	14,251	2,104	78	10,884	1,185
Illinois	26,864	5,321	91	21,452	1,100
Indiana	3,442	797	6	2,639	b
lowa ^h	5,281	594	453	3,927	307
Kansas ^d	7,481			5,927	507 b
	3,974	 1,146	 21	2,807	D
Kentucky Louisiana	4,539	1,140	33	3,391	
Maine ^d				3,391	
	36,889				
Maryland ^d	3,439				b
Massachusetts	193,725	47,107	3,640	108,978	34,000
Michigan	234,935	15,621	1,488	177,563	40,263
Minnesota	42,311	12,508	260	29,543	
Mississippi ^c					· · ·
Missouri	 968	 32		 616	b 309
Montana			11		309
Nebraska ^{a, g}	5,437	1,031	54	4,352	
Nevada ^{h,i}	10,707	10,018	444		126
New Hampshire ^a	10,239	1,403	236	8,600	
New Jersey	166,130	33,495	731	96,535	35,369
New Mexico	57	3	1	53	b
New York	659,606	127,835	2,439	413,097	116,235
North Carolina	23,671	11,687		11,984	е
North Dakota ^c					
Ohio ^j	1,475	403			b
Oklahoma	88,966	15,603	364	58,407	14,592
Oregon ^d	1,848				
Pennsylvania	310,703	60,736	675	210,192	39,100
Rhode Island	31,086	3,503	150	21,097	6,336
South Carolina	3,913	1,503	9	2,401	
South Dakota ^d	3,870				
Tennessee ^c					
Texas	1,844	249	26	1,569	

(Continued)

Summary Table 1. Number of persons receiving optional state supplementation, by state and eligibility category, January 2011—*Continued*

				Disabled		
State	Total	Aged	Blind	Adults	Children	
Utah	2,414	541	16	1,519	338	
Vermont	15,152	1,024	53	11,105	2,970	
Virginia	5,104	1,966	28	3,110	b	
Washington	33,308	15,923	856	16,529		
West Virginia ^c						
Wisconsin	112,439	7,863	915	73,101	30,560	
Wyoming ^d	3,176					

SOURCES: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data; information in the state summaries.

NOTES: -- = not available; . . . = not applicable.

- a. Includes some grandfathered non-SSI recipients who meet state eligibility criteria, but do not meet federal eligibility guidelines.
- b. Children under 18 years old are not eligible for optional payment.
- c. The state does not have an optional supplementation program.
- d. Data not available by eligibility category.
- e. Only blind children under 18 are eligible; a separate count is not available.
- f. Benefits received under a child welfare program.
- g. Data reflect 2009 reporting.
- h. Only disabled children living with a dependent relative are eligible for payments.
- i. Includes 119 recipients not distributed by eligibility category.
- j. Includes 1,072 recipients not distributed by living arrangement and eligibility category.

Summary Table 2. Selected features of state supplementation, by state, January 2011

	Administration of—			Participation in	
	Mandatory minimum	Optional state		interim assistance	
State	supplementation	supplementation	Method of passalong	reimbursement program	
Alabama	No recipients	State	Payment levels	No	
Alaska	No recipients	State	Total expenditures	Yes	
Arizona	State	No program	No program	Yes	
Arkansas	Federal	No program	No program	No	
California	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
Colorado	State	State	Total expenditures	Yes	
Connecticut	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Delaware	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes	
District of Columbia	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes	
Florida		State	Payment levels	Yes	
	No recipients Federal	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Georgia			-		
Hawaii	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
Idaho	State	State	Payment levels	No	
Illinois	State	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Indiana	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Iowa	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes	
Kansas	Federal	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Kentucky	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Louisiana	Federal	State	Payment levels	No	
Maine	State	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Maryland	Federal	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Massachusetts	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
Michigan	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes	
Minnesota	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Mississippi	Federal	No program	No program	No	
Missouri	State	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Montana	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
Nebraska	State	State	Total expenditures	Yes	
Nevada	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
New Hampshire	State	State	Payment levels	Yes	
New Jersey	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
New Mexico	State	State	Payment levels	Yes	
New York	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes	
North Carolina	State	State	Payment levels	Yes	
North Dakota	No recipients	No program	No program	No	
Ohio	Federal	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Oklahoma	State	State	Total expenditures	No	
Oregon	No recipients	State	Total expenditures	No	
Pennsylvania	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes	
Rhode Island		Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes	
	No recipients				
South Carolina South Dakota	No recipients	State	Payment levels	No	
	Federal	State	Payment levels	No	
Tennessee	Federal Ne reginiente	No program	No program	Yes	
Texas	No recipients	State	Payment levels	No	
Utah	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
Vermont	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes	
Virginia	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes	
Washington	State	State	Total expenditures	Yes	
West Virginia	No program	No program	No program	No	
Wisconsin	No recipients	State	Total expenditures	Yes	
Wyoming	State	State	Payment levels	No	

SOURCE: Based on information in the state summaries.

Summary Table 3. Selected features of medical programs affecting SSI recipients and the needy, by state, January 2011

	Medicaid eligibility			SSA obtains information on unpaid	
State	Criteria	Determined by—	Medically needy program	medical expenses	
Alabama	Federal	Federal	No	No	
Alaska	Federal	State	No	No	
Arizona	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
Arkansas	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
California	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
Colorado	Federal	Federal	No	Yes	
Connecticut	State	State	Yes	No	
Delaware	Federal	Federal	No	Yes	
District of Columbia	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Florida			Yes		
	Federal	Federal		No	
Georgia	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
Hawaii	State	State	Yes	No	
Idaho	Federal	State	No	No	
Illinois	State	State	Yes	No	
Indiana	State	State	No	No	
Iowa	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Kansas	Federal	State	Yes	No	
Kentucky	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Louisiana	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Maine	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Maryland	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Massachusetts	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Michigan	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
Minnesota	State	County	Yes	No	
Mississippi	Federal/State	Federal/State	No	No	
Missouri	State	State	No	No	
Montana	Federal		Yes	No	
		Federal			
Nebraska	Federal	State	Yes	No	
Nevada	Federal	State	No	No	
New Hampshire	State	State	Yes	No	
New Jersey	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
New Mexico	Federal	Federal	No	No	
New York	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
North Carolina	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
North Dakota	State	State	Yes	No	
Ohio	State	State	No	No	
Oklahoma	State	State	No	No	
Oregon	Federal	State	No	No	
Pennsylvania	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Rhode Island	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
South Carolina	Federal	Federal	No	No	
South Dakota	Federal	Federal	No	Yes	
Tennessee	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Texas	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
			Yes		
Utah	Federal	State		No	
Vermont	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
Virginia	State	State	Yes	No	
Washington	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
West Virginia	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes	
Wisconsin	Federal	Federal	Yes	No	
Wyoming	Federal	Federal	No	Yes	

SOURCE: Based on information in the state summaries.

Summary Table 4. State threshold amounts for disabled and blind individuals to maintain Medicaid eligibility under section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act, calendar year 2011

	Twice state		State per capita	Threshold	d
	supplementation ^a	Base amount ^b	Medicaid expenditure ^c	Amount	
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	Rank
		Di	sabled individuals		
	0	17,196	7,242	24,438	51
	8,688	25,884	25,641	51,525	2
	0	17,196	13,674	30,870	31
	0	17,196	11,534	28,730	35
	4,104	21,300	13,723	35,023	17
	600	17,796	14,194	31,990	27
ıt	4,032	21,228	35,274	56,502	1
	0	17,196	21,472	38,668	7
Columbia	0	17,196	25,841	43,037	5
	0	17,196	11,557	28,753	34
	0	17,196	10,313	27,509	45
	0	17,196	19,781	36,977	11
	1,272	18,468	20,027	38,495	9
	0	17,196	8,945	26,141	49
	0	17,196	17,517	34,713	18
		17,196	13,615		32
	0			30,811	
	0	17,196	16,875	34,071	19
	0	17,196	10,149	27,345	46
	0	17,196	12,567	29,763	39
	240	17,436	14,967	32,403	26
	0	17,196	21,464	38,660	8
setts	2,745	19,941	16,450	36,391	13
	336	17,532	11,504	29,036	44
	1,944	19,140	30,410	49,550	2
	0	17,196	8,727	25,923	50
	0	17,196	13,984	31,180	30
	0	17,196	12,233	29,429	40
	120	17,316	18,982	36,298	15
	0	17,196	12,939	30,135	33
shire	984	18,180	22,540	40,720	6
y	750	17,946	15,541	33,487	23
0	0	17,196	19,225	36,421	12
	2,088	19,284	26,170	45,454	4
lina	0	17,196	16,372	33,568	22
ota	0	17,196	20,853	38,049	10
	0	17,196	16,817	34,013	20
	1,008	18,204	8,276	26,480	48
	0	17,196	14,266	31,462	29
nia	658	17,854	11,556	29,410	41
nd	958	18,154	18,170	36,324	14
olina	0	17,196	10,945	28,141	38
ota	360	17,556	15,435	32,991	24
	0	17,196	9,449	26,645	47
	0	17,196	12,133	29,329	42
	0	17,196	11,980	29,176	43
	0	17,196	12	2,133	2,133 29,329

(Continued)

Summary Table 4. State threshold amounts for disabled and blind individuals to maintain Medicaid eligibility under section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act, calendar year 2011—*Continued*

	Twice state		State per capita	Thresh	old ^d	
State	supplementation ^a	Base amount ^b	Medicaid expenditure ^c	Amount	Rank	
	Disabled individuals (cont.)					
Vermont	1,249	18,445	17,109	35,554	16	
Virginia	0	17,196	15,349	32,545	25	
Washington	1,104	18,300	9,860	28,160	37	
West Virginia	0	17,196	11,087	28,283	36	
Wisconsin	2,011	19,207	12,261	31,468	28	
Wyoming	600	17,796	16,059	33,855	21	
	Blind individuals					
California	5,616	22,812	12,904	35,716	2	
Iowa	528	17,724	13,615	31,339	5	
Massachusetts	3,594	20,790	16,450	37,240	1	
Nevada	2,623	19,819	12,940	32,759	3	
Oregon	0	17,196	14,266	31,462	4	

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Program Operations Manual System (POMS), SI 02302.200, Charted Threshold Amounts.

a. Twice the annual state supplementation rate, if any, for an individual living independently.

b. The base amount is the annual amount of earned income it takes to reduce the annual SSI federal plus state benefit to zero. It is calculated as the sum of twice the state individual supplementation rate plus \$17,196; \$17,196 is the amount of earned income it takes in calendar year 2011 to reduce the annual federal benefit to zero, based on the monthly calculation (\$85 plus twice the monthly federal benefit rate of \$674) multiplied by 12.

c. Based on data from 2010.

d. The threshold is the sum of the base amount and the state per capita Medicaid expenditure.