

## ③ **FACT SHEET:** What You Should Know Before You Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability Payments for a Child

### How does Social Security decide if a child can get SSI?

Children can get SSI if they meet Social Security's definition of disability for children and if they have little or no income and resources. We also consider the family's household income, resources, and other personal information.

### How does Social Security decide if a child is disabled?

Social Security has a strict definition of disability for children.

- The child must have a physical or mental condition(s) that very seriously limits their activities; **and**
- The condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least 1 year or result in death.

A State agency makes the initial determination on disability. They review the information you give us. They will also ask for information from medical and school sources and other people who know about the child.

If the State agency needs more information, they will contact you to arrange an examination or test for the child that we will pay for.

### Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to learn more about benefits for children with disabilities is to scan this QR code or visit [www.ssa.gov/ssi](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi). If you do not have access to the internet, call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213**.

If you are more comfortable speaking in a language other than English, we provide free interpreter service in more than 200 languages to help you conduct your Social Security business. For service in Spanish when you call the toll-free number, press 7 and wait for a Spanish-speaking representative to help you. For all other languages, stay on the line and remain silent during our English voice automation prompts until a representative answers. The representative will contact an interpreter to help with your call.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call our TTY number at **1-800-325-0778**.

### How can I get ready for the disability interview?

- This Child Disability Starter Kit includes a checklist and a worksheet to help you gather the information you need. **Have this information with you at the time of the interview.**
- If you have access to the internet, you can fill out a Child Disability Report at [www.socialsecurity.gov/childdisabilityreport](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/childdisabilityreport) before your interview. The report usually takes about an hour to complete and collects information about the child's disabling condition and how it affects their ability to function.

### Is SSI a medical assistance program?

SSI is not a medical assistance program. Your State Medicaid agency, local health department, social services office, or hospital can help you find your nearest health care agencies. You can also go to [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov) or call toll free **1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669)** for more information on your state's health insurance program.

