

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Congressional Update



Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Eligibility for Certain People from Afghanistan

The SSI program provides monthly benefits to adults and children who are blind or disabled and have low income and resources. The program also provides monthly benefits to people who are age 65 or older and have low income and resources. SSI eligibility often provides automatic eligibility for other Federal and State programs, such as Medical Assistance (Medicaid).

Non-Special Immigrant Parolees

Section 2502 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 allows certain citizens or nationals of Afghanistan (or individuals with no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan) who are paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022 to be eligible for SSI benefits. It also allows the parolee's spouse, children, and parents or legal guardians (if the parolee is an unaccompanied child) to be eligible for SSI if they are paroled after September 30, 2022.

To be eligible for SSI benefits, these people would also need to meet the other requirements of the program, such as being at least age 65 or disabled or blind, and having countable income and resources below certain limits.

This temporary period of eligibility ends the later of March 31, 2023 or when the person's parole period ends.

Special Immigrants

Afghan nationals who were admitted to the U.S. as a special immigrant (because they either served as a translator or interpreter for the U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan or worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government in Afghanistan) are also eligible for SSI benefits for up to seven years from the date they entered as a special immigrant or adjusted to special immigrant status.

Apply for SSI

Any of your constituents can apply for SSI by calling our toll-free number at **800-772-1213**. Our phone lines are open between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Our staff can provide more information about SSI and schedule an appointment to take an application over the telephone. We have also introduced an online tool that allows your constituents to tell us they want to file for SSI. Using this tool documents intent to file an application and establishes a protective filing date, which determines when payments can begin if an application is approved. The tool is available at <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/start.html>.

Interpreter services are available for individuals who do not speak English. People requiring assistance in a language other than Spanish should stay silent during the English voice prompts and wait until a representative answers. The representative will contact an interpreter to assist. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our TTY/TDD number at **1-800-325-0778**. To learn more about SSI go to www.ssa.gov/ssi.

OUR REENTRY PLANS

We are excited to announce that on April 7 we resumed in-person service for people without an appointment in our field offices.

As our offices resume walk-in service, we ask that your constituents who are able to do so continue to do business with us online or by phone or schedule an appointment whenever possible. This will enable us to more readily serve people who cannot use these options. People who come to our offices without an appointment may experience long lines for service.

We are committed to helping as many of your constituents as possible, as safely as possible. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/gethelp/.

Want more information from Social Security?

Check our other [publications](#)

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

SSA.gov/news/newsletter

SOCIAL SECURITY

MATTERS BLOG

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PRESS RELEASES

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Securing today
and tomorrow



CASEWORK CORNER

We publish a biannual Congressional Inquiries Guide for congressional use only. We send caseworkers in district offices a copy upon entering Congress. You can request a copy at ssa.gov/legislation/connguide.html

Your local Regional Communications Director can assist you with everything from casework to connecting advocates for People Facing Barriers with SSA. To find your RCD, visit www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html



2022 FACT SHEET

Find our updated fact sheet reflecting changes for 2022 at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10003.pdf

Same-Sex Survivors Benefits

We would like to call your attention to important information that may affect same-sex couples. SSA has entered agreements to end litigation in the *Ely v. Saul and Thornton v. Commissioner of Social Security* class actions. Both *Ely* and *Thornton* are nationwide classes involving same-sex couples prevented or delayed from marrying by unconstitutional State laws. Under these agreements, more same-sex partners may qualify for Social Security survivors benefits. These may include your constituents who would have been married at the time of their partners' death if state laws had not prevented them from doing so or whose marriage was less than our 9-month requirement because state laws prevented them from marrying sooner. These also may include those of your constituents who had previously applied for survivors benefits but were denied for these reasons.

More information about the *Ely and Thornton* agreements is available at our same-sex couples webpage at www.ssa.gov/people/same-sex-couples/. We sent notices about these agreements to your constituents whom we could identify had been in same-sex relationships but were denied benefits based on issues of marriage duration or lack of a marriage. If you have questions about either agreement, please contact the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at (202) 358-6030.

We encourage all your constituents who may be affected by these agreements to reach out to us for more information and to apply for benefits. Your constituents can reach us by phone Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 1-800-772-1213. Your constituents may also visit their local field office for assistance. Our office locator is available at secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp.

An Introduction to the Office of the Chief Actuary

The Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT) at SSA develops estimates of the future financial status of the Social Security Trust Funds presented in the Annual Reports of the Board of Trustees. OCACT also develops projections for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, published in the SSI Annual Report. The office also prepares analyses showing the estimated effects of proposals with financial effects on the Social Security trust fund and changes to SSI. For these actuarial publications and more information, visit the OCACT homepage at www.ssa.gov/oact/.

Language Access Services at SSA

We are committed to ensuring that your constituents have access to our programs and services, regardless of their English language proficiency. SSA provides an interpreter free of charge to any person who requests language assistance or whom we believe could benefit from an interpreter. Your constituents can call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 and wait until a representative answers. The telephone representative will contact an interpreter to assist the individual.

Individuals may also access our Multilanguage Gateway at www.ssa.gov/site/languages/en, which includes detailed instructions in several languages to help people access our free interpreter services. This site includes links to publications about Social Security programs in languages other than English. If any of your constituents experience difficulty receiving services due to a language barrier issue, please contact your Regional Communications Director (RCD). RCD information can be found at www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html.

Replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S Forms

Each January, we mail out a Social Security 1099 (SSA-1099) or 1042S Benefit Statement (SSA-1042S) to your constituents who receive Social Security benefits. This form tells beneficiaries how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on their tax returns. If any of your constituents need a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, they can instantly download a printable copy by logging into or creating a free *my Social Security* account and selecting "Replacement Documents". The replacement form is typically available for the previous tax year after February 1. If your constituents are unable to use *my Social Security* they should contact our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 for assistance. They may also contact their local field office for assistance. Our office locator is available at secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp.

