

# Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in California

2017



## What is SSI?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), is a federal program that provides monthly cash payments to people in need. SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as blind or disabled people of any age, including children.

To qualify for SSI, you must also have little or no income and few resources. The value of the things you own must be less than \$2,000 if you're single or less than \$3,000 for married couples living together. We don't count the value of your home if you live in it, and, usually, we don't count the value of your car. We may not count the value of certain other resources either, such as a burial plot.

To get SSI, you must also apply for any other government benefits for which you may be eligible. You must live in the United States or the Northern Mariana Islands to get SSI. If you're not a U.S. citizen, but you lawfully reside in the United States, you may still be able to get SSI. For more information, read *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Noncitizens* (Publication No. 05-11051).

The state of California adds money to the federal payment. The single payment you get at the beginning of each month includes both the federal SSI payment and your supplement from California.

## Medical assistance

If you get SSI, you can usually get medical assistance (Medi-Cal) automatically. A separate Medi-Cal application isn't necessary. If you have questions about Medi-Cal, contact your local county health or human services office.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

People who get SSI in California cannot get SNAP benefits, formerly known as food stamps, because the state adds money to the federal SSI payment instead.

However, you may be able to get SNAP benefits:

- While you're waiting for a decision on your SSI application;
- If your application for SSI is denied;
- If you move to another state; or
- Beginning August 2016, for months in which your SSI payments were interrupted or suspended.

For more information, contact your local county health or human services office.

## Other social services

Individuals who qualify for SSI often are eligible for additional programs and services provided by their local county health or human services office. These other services or benefits may include:

- A special allowance for assistance dogs for people who are blind or who have a disability;
- Certain domestic and personal care services provided to eligible people who are elderly, blind, or who can't perform the services themselves, and who can't safely remain in their own homes unless such services are provided; and
- Protective services.

For more information, contact your local county health or human services office.

## Monthly SSI payment amounts

The table below lists the combined federal and state payment amounts. Not all SSI recipients get the maximum amount. Your payment may be lower if you have other income.

Category	2017 total monthly payment		
	<i>Aged</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Blind</i>
<b>Single people</b>			
Independent living status	\$895.72	\$895.72	\$952.23
Non-medical out-of-home care	\$1,158.37	\$1,158.37	\$1,158.37
Independent living status, no cooking facilities	\$982.04	\$982.04	N/A
Living in the household of someone else	\$654.24	\$654.24	\$710.76
Disabled minor child		\$800.15	
Disabled minor child in the household of another		\$558.67	
<b>Aged or disabled couples</b>			
Independent living status	\$1,510.14		
Non-medical out-of-home care	\$2,316.74		
Independent living status, no cooking facilities	\$1,682.77		
Living in the household of someone else	\$1,147.75		
<b>Blind couples</b>			
Independent living status			\$1,661.19
Living in the household of someone else			\$1,298.80
Non-medical out-of-home care			\$2,316.74
<b>Blind person with an aged or disabled spouse</b>			
Independent living status			\$1,603.65
Living in the household of someone else			\$1,241.26
Non-medical out-of-home care			\$2,316.74
<b>Living in a Medicaid Facility</b>			
Single people	\$51.00	\$51.00	\$51.00
Couple	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$102.00

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). There, you can: apply for benefits; open a **my Social Security** account, which you can use to review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, and get a replacement 1099/1042S; obtain valuable information; find publications; get answers to frequently asked questions; and much more.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

If you need to speak to a person, we can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience higher than usual rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.