

WHAT IS SSI AND HOW TO APPLY

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and few resources.

SSI is for people who are:

- 65 or older,
- as well as for those of any age, including children, who are blind or who have disabilities.

To get SSI, you must meet one of these requirements:

- Be age 65 or older.
- Be totally or partially blind.
- Have a medical condition that keeps you from working and is expected to last at least one year or result in death.
 - For children, a medical condition or a combination of conditions that result in “marked and severe functional limitations” which very seriously limit the child’s activities for at least one year or result in death.

To apply for SSI, you must:

- complete an Application for SSI
- complete additional forms if you are applying for SSI because you are blind or disabled, regardless of age

WHAT APPLICATIONS AND FORMS ARE NEEDED TO APPLY FOR SSI

If you are helping someone apply for SSI, you will need to complete:

- Application for SSI – Online at www.ssa.gov if you also are applying for Social Security benefits, or
- Application for SSI – Abbreviated or Deferred (SSA-8001-BK) available by calling your local Social Security office, or
- Application for SSI – Full Application (SSA-8000-BK) available by calling your local Social Security office.

If applying for SSI benefits for an adult who is blind or disabled, you also will need:

- Adult Disability Report – SSA-3368-BK
- Work History Report – SSA-3369-BK
- Adult Function Report – SSA-3373-BK
- Function Report Adult – Third Party Form – SSA-3380-BK, and,
- Authorization to Disclose Information to the Social Security Administration – SSA-827

If applying for SSI benefits for a child who is blind or disabled:

- Disability Report – Child – SSA-3820-BK,
- Questionnaire for Children Claiming SSI Benefits – SSA-3881-BK,
- Age appropriate Function Report:
 - Child Birth to 1st Birthday – SSA-3375-BK, or
 - Child Age 1 – 3rd Birthday – SSA-3376-BK, or
 - Child Age 3 to 6th Birthday – SSA-3377-BK, or
 - Child Age 6 to 12th Birthday – SSA-3378-BK, or
 - Child Age 12 to 18th Birthday – SSA-3379-BK, and
- Authorization to Disclose Information to the Social Security Administration – SSA-827

If applying for disability benefits, and the adult or child has Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), a medical professional also should complete:

- Medical Report on Adult with Allegation of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection – SSA-4814, or
- Medical Report on Child with Allegation of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection – SSA-4815

Some required forms may be completed online at www.ssa.gov/forms/, and most are published online as a .pdf.

PRESUMPTIVE DISABILITY AND BLINDNESS, AND COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCES

PRESUMPTIVE DISABILITY OR BLINDNESS PAYMENTS

If your claim is for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for disability or blindness, we may make presumptive disability (PD) or presumptive blindness (PB) payments for up to 6 months while you are waiting for the [Disability Determination Services \(DDS\)](#) to make a final decision.

Our decision to grant PD or PB payments is based on:

- the severity of your condition,
- the evidence available at the time, and
- the high likelihood that your claim will be ultimately approved.

The applicant must meet all other factors of eligibility for SSI; PD or PB is not based on your financial need.

If we are not able to make a PD or PB determination, sometimes the DDS will make a PD or PB determination based on one of the medical conditions listed above, or on the basis of another severe condition, if a final approval seems likely.

For more information about PD or PB, please visit www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-expedite-ussi.htm

COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCES

Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. These conditions primarily include certain cancers, adult brain disorders, and a number of rare disorders that affect children. The CAL initiative helps us reduce waiting time to reach a disability determination for individuals with the most serious disabilities.

The Compassionate Allowances program identifies claims where the applicant's disease or condition clearly meets Social Security's statutory standard for disability. By incorporating cutting-edge technology, the agency can easily identify potential Compassionate Allowances to quickly make decisions. Social Security Administration (SSA) uses the same rules to evaluate CAL conditions when evaluating both Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs.

For more information about CAL, please visit www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/index.htm.

For a list of current CAL Conditions, visit www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm.

MORE INFORMATION, AND HOW TO CONTACT THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

For more information, please review:

- SSI Spotlights – www.ssa.gov/ssi/links-to-spotlights.htm
- Supplemental Security Income (05-11000, ICN 480200) www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11000.pdf
- You May be Able to Get Supplemental Security Income (05-11069, ICN 480390) www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11069.pdf
- Understanding Supplemental Security Income (17-008, ICN 443175) www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-17-008.pdf
- Benefits for Children With Disabilities (05-10026, ICN 455360) www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf
- What You Need to Know About Supplemental Security Income When You Turn 18 (05-11005, ICN 480260) www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf
- What you Need to Know When You Get Supplemental Security Income (05-11011, ICN 480265) www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11011.pdf

For more information about SSI, you may:

- call the Social Security Administration at 1 (800) 772-1213 or 1 (800) 325-0778 TTY
- visit www.ssa.gov/ssi
- contact your local Social Security office, using our Field Office Locator at www.ssa.gov/locator

If you are helping someone who has a critical case or is in dire need, and you have not been able to contact his or her local Social Security office, you or your staff may contact the Regional Communications Director (RCD) for assistance. The list of RCDs is available online at www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html.