



# **Social Security Administration**


## **Faith-Based and Community Group Outreach Toolkit**

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## New Website: Information for Faith-Based and Community Groups

[▲ Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates ▲](#)

 Social Security

[SEARCH](#) [MENU](#) [LANGUAGES](#) [SIGN IN/UP](#)

Information for Faith-Based and Community Groups



### Additional Information

- [my Social Security online account](#)
- [Understanding The Benefits](#)
- [Benefits For Children With Disabilities](#)
- [Disability Benefits For Wounded Warriors](#)
- [How Social Security Can Help You When A Family Member Dies](#)
- [Medicare](#)
- [New Or Replacement Social Security Number And Card](#)

### ***How can you help?***

You can tell your members, and others you help through your good works, that financial help may be available, and how they can get help from Social Security. We prepared a toolkit to help you. Our toolkit contains pre-written social media posts and newsletter articles you can use. The toolkit highlights the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which provides monthly cash payments to people with limited income and resources. Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$794 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,191 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement.

Our toolkit also explains that SSI provides eligibility for Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), and other benefits, and explains how to apply for SSI and Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. A person who worked long enough may also qualify to receive Social Security disability or retirement benefits as well as SSI.

- [Toolkit Link](#)

We encourage you to subscribe to our blog and social media channels, and to let your members know the benefits of engaging with us online. More than 400,000 people follow our blog and many others follow us on social media. Both are great ways to learn about new services and our programs that benefit everyone.

- [Our blog](#)
- English Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Youtube](#)
- Spanish Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

### ***Would you like to do more?***

Your group can help inform your members about the programs and services we offer and how they can get the help they need. We invite you to visit our [People Helping Others](#) page to learn more, including how to help your members apply for benefits.

If you would like someone from Social Security to participate in a forum with your members, we would like to talk with you. We invite you to visit our [Ask for a Speaker](#) page.

On behalf of everyone at Social Security, thank you for raising awareness amongst those who need help more than ever.

## Dear Partner Letter

Dear Partner,

The COVID-19 pandemic has required the Social Security Administration to limit in-person services to protect our customers and employees. Among the most vulnerable populations affected are our nation's elderly citizens, children, and people experiencing homelessness, a disability, mental illness, or limited English proficiency. I am writing to invite you to help us spread the word to faith-based organizations, community groups, congregants, and members who need assistance.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides critical financial support to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children who are blind or have a disability may also get SSI. Without SSI, many vulnerable people would not have money to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$794 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,191 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement.

People who have worked long enough may also qualify to receive Social Security disability or retirement benefits as well as SSI. You and your members can learn more about the SSI program in our publications, [Supplemental Security Income](#) and [A Guide to Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) for Groups and Organizations](#).

We have put together a partner toolkit for you to share with your members. In this toolkit, we provide you with:

- An email message to share with your members and congregants.
- Articles you can post on your blog.
- Social media posts.
- Images for your social media.
- A list of Social Security's Regional Communications Directors so you can request a speaker to share more information with your group.

We invite you to please visit our website, [Information for Faith-Based and Community Groups](#), to learn how you can help and get the toolkit. If you know someone who may qualify for SSI, please encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI Benefits page](#) today. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you and your members can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

Thank you for your support to reach our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Buckner  
Associate Commissioner  
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications  
Social Security Administration

## Email Blast

### Subject Line: Social Security is Here to Help You Through These Difficult Times

During these difficult times, Social Security is still providing help to people in need. Many of the nation's elderly citizens, children, and people experiencing homelessness, a disability, mental illness, or limited English proficiency, need help. We're asking for your support to get the word out to anyone who may need our assistance.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides critical financial support to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children with disabilities or who are blind may also get SSI. Without SSI, many vulnerable people would not have money to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$794 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,191 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement. People who have worked long enough may also qualify to receive Social Security disability or retirement benefits as well as SSI.

If you know someone who may qualify for SSI, please encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI Benefits page](#) today. Our webpage [Understanding SSI and Other Government Programs](#) also has information about programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Please remember to share this information with anyone who may need it.

We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

Thank you for your help in raising awareness about this critical program.

## Article #1: How Social Security Helps the Most Vulnerable—And What You Can Do To Help

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impose hardships, especially on our country's most vulnerable citizens. Since the middle of last year, we've seen reduced application filings for the Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Many of these individuals, including those people with low-income, limited English proficiency, facing homelessness, or with mental illness, rely on face-to-face meetings to get the help they need.

In times like these, millions of Americans turn to faith-based and other community organizations to overcome life's hardships. Now, more than ever, helping our most vulnerable citizens is critical—and you can play a major role in our efforts.

Faith-based and community organizations and Social Security share a common mission—a commitment to serving the most vulnerable among us. Together, we can protect and lift people up in times of great need.

Over the past year, we have worked closely with national and local advocacy groups to improve service to vulnerable populations. We have also engaged Federal, State, and local agencies, and private industry, to raise public awareness of how to access our services during the COVID-19 pandemic for:

- Aged individuals.
- Children with disabilities.
- People with limited English proficiency.
- People diagnosed with mental illness.
- People experiencing homelessness.
- Our veterans.
- Individuals recently released from incarceration.

Please visit our webpage [Information for Faith-Based and Community Groups](#) for more information on our services. If you know someone who may qualify for SSI, encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI Benefits page](#) today. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

With the continued help of partners like you, we can ensure that people who need it most know about and apply for our programs. Please share with your group and help us spread the word on social media.

## Article #2: How Social Security Serves You During the Pandemic

Social Security touches the lives of nearly every American by providing critical services and benefits. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen a reduction in the number of people filing for the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. We know you may be struggling at this time—and we want to help you get monthly benefits for which you may be eligible.

SSI is a federal program that provides critical financial support to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children with disabilities or those who are blind may also get SSI. Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$794 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,191 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement. Without SSI, many vulnerable people would not have money to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. People who have worked long enough may also qualify to receive SSDI or Social Security retirement benefits as well as SSI.

If you know someone who may qualify for SSI, encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI Benefits page](#) today. Our webpage [Understanding SSI and Other Government Programs](#) also has information about programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

Social Security is working closely with [local community and faith-based groups](#) to help people apply for SSI and submit their applications. People who applied for Social Security benefits or SSDI can check the status of their application with their personal “my Social Security” account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount/application-status.html](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/application-status.html).

We are here to help you and your loved ones secure today and tomorrow. Thank you for doing your part to help people in need by sharing this information and helping people apply for benefits.



## Article #3: You May Qualify for Supplemental Security Income from Social Security

We pay monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments to adults and children with disabilities who have low income and few resources, and people who are age 65 or older without disabilities who meet the financial limits. People who have worked long enough may also qualify to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or retirement benefits as well as SSI.

Income is money you receive, such as wages, Social Security benefits, and pensions. Income also includes things like food and shelter. The amount of income you can receive each month and still get SSI depends partly on where you live.

Resources are things you own, including real estate (not counting the home you live in), bank accounts, cash, stocks, and bonds, which we count in deciding if you qualify for SSI. You may be able to get SSI if your resources are worth \$2,000 or less. A couple may be able to get SSI if they have resources worth \$3,000 or less. If you own property that you are trying to sell, you may be able to get SSI while trying to sell it.

We will not count economic impact payments, also known as coronavirus stimulus payments, as income for SSI. These payments will also not count as resources for 12 months. You can learn more about qualifying for SSI by reading our publication [Supplemental Security Income](#).

If you're an adult with a disability intending to file for both SSI and SSDI, you can apply online today for both benefits at the same time if you:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 65.
- Have never been married.
- Are a U.S. citizen residing in one of the 50 states, District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Haven't applied for or received SSI benefits in the past.

We're here for you. You can find more information on our [website](#).

## Article #4: Social Security Benefits for Children with Disabilities

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides financial assistance to children with qualifying disabilities and their families. For this program, a child must meet all the following requirements to be considered disabled and medically eligible:

- The child must have a medical condition, or a combination of conditions, that result in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must very seriously limit the child's activities; and
- The child's condition(s) must have been disabling, or be expected to be disabling, for at least 12 months, or the condition(s) must be expected to result in death.

A child must also meet other eligibility requirements. Since we only pay SSI to disabled people with low income and limited resources, a child, who is not blind, must not be working or earning more than \$1,310 a month in 2021. A child who is blind must not be working or earning more than \$2,190 a month. This earnings amount usually changes every year. In addition, if the parents of the child or children have more resources than are allowed, then the child or children will not qualify for SSI. You can read more about children's benefits by reading [Benefits for Children with Disabilities](#).

If you know a child who may qualify for SSI, encourage their parents or caregivers to apply by visiting our [SSI Benefits page](#) today. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

Thank you for helping a family member, friend, or neighbor in need.

## Article #5: Social Security: Gateway to Financial Support for the Most Vulnerable

Social Security helps secure today and tomorrow for millions of Americans. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a dramatic reduction in the number of people applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). We want to help our most vulnerable citizens get monthly benefits for which they may be eligible.

SSI is a federal program that provides cash assistance to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. A person who qualifies may receive up to \$794 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,191 a month. Some states also provide a supplemental payment.

More financial help may be available to a person receiving SSI because SSI often serves as a gateway to other federal aid programs. When you get SSI, you may also get Medicaid, which helps pay doctor and hospital bills. Your local social services or medical assistance office can give you information about Medicaid.

Eligibility for SSI and Medicaid are both based on factors like income and resources. Financial eligibility for SSI is determined using standard national criteria, whereas Medicaid is administered by the States.

Another federal aid program is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Visit [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap) to find out how to apply. For more information about SNAP, please read *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Facts* ([Publication No. 05-10101](#)). For more information about other nutrition assistance programs that may be available to you, read *Nutrition Assistance Programs* ([Publication No. 05-10100](#)).

If you qualify for SSI, we encourage you to apply by visiting our [SSI Benefits page](#) today. Our [People Helping Others](#) webpage is a great resource if you know someone who may qualify for benefits, or to get other assistance from Social Security. Please share with your friends and family—and help us spread the word on social media and in your community.

## Social Media Posts

Do you know anyone with a #disability or #blindness with limited income and resources? They may qualify for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/3b8OBJU>

Do you know anyone with a #disability or #blindness with limited income and resources? Encourage them to apply for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program today. <https://bit.ly/3kKPuM3>

Know anyone with a #disability or #blindness with limited income and resources? They may qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3r9eor2>

Have a child with a #disability or #blindness with limited income and resources? They may qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Apply today: <https://bit.ly/3kFw8aZ>

@SocialSecurity helps families secure today and tomorrow by providing financial benefits, including #SSI. Find out how to apply today: <https://bit.ly/3b73fS8>

Read # SocialSecurity's publication on Supplemental Security Income here: <https://bit.ly/3q9WdAb>

DYK the #SSI program makes monthly payments to people with disabilities who have low income and few resources? Find out more: <https://bit.ly/3q5mMXr>

If you know someone who may qualify for SSI, encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI Benefits page](#) today. Check it out: <https://bit.ly/2MFMKTH>

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impose hardships on our most vulnerable citizens. If you know anyone with a #disability or #blindness with limited income and resources, encourage them to apply for #SSI: <https://bit.ly/3kC8v3j>

Are you helping someone apply for Social Security benefits or SSI? Read this webpage for people helping others today: <https://bit.ly/3b7cWji>

## Social Security's Social Media Handles

Please be sure to tag us and we will try to retweet and share your posts.

[Facebook \(English\)](#)

[Facebook \(Spanish\)](#)

[Twitter \(English\)](#)

[Twitter \(Spanish\)](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

## Publications

- *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11000.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11000.pdf)
- *You May Be Able To Get Supplemental Security Income*: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11069.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11069.pdf)
- *A Guide to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Groups and Organizations*: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11015.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11015.pdf)
- *Benefits for Children with Disabilities*: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf)

## Images







## Regional Communications Directors – Request a Speaker

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