

## SSI Kids Toolkit

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to invite you to help us spread the word about potential financial assistance for children with disabilities. We want to inform parents, guardians, and caregivers as well as educators, community leaders, and health care and other service providers.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program helps children with qualifying disabilities by providing critical financial assistance. Children with disabling medical conditions—whose families meet certain income and resource limits—can receive SSI from birth until age 18. You and your clients can learn more about the SSI program in our publication, [\*Benefits for Children with Disabilities\*](#).

We have put together a partner toolkit for you to share with your clients. In this toolkit, we are providing you with:

- An email message to share with your clients.
- Articles you can post on your blog.
- Social media posts.

Are you interested in submitting a guest blog post on this topic or collaborating with us to raise awareness about the SSI program? Please email us at [oea.net.post@ssa.gov](mailto:oea.net.post@ssa.gov).

We look forward to working together to help America's children in need.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bystry  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications  
Social Security Administration



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## Sample email to clients

### **Subject line: Social Security's Program that Helps Children with Disabilities**

Did you know that Social Security has a program that helps children with disabilities? The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program helps children with physical or mental disabilities who have limited income and resources. To qualify for SSI, a child must meet financial limits and [certain medical requirements](#).

If approved, a child could be eligible for a monthly payment and possibly an additional state supplement. Also, in most states, a child who receives SSI is automatically eligible for Medicaid, a federal government health insurance program for people with limited income. In addition to basic health care and medications, Medicaid covers a wide range of home and community-based services. These services help children and youth with disabilities live with their families. School systems in many states participate in Medicaid to help provide services included in children's individualized education plans like physical, occupational, and speech therapy. For more information about SSI payments, see our [Fact Sheet: Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#).

Social Security continues to collaborate with organizations on national and local levels to increase outreach and ensure all qualifying families are aware of this program for children with disabilities.

If you think your child or someone you know could be eligible for SSI, visit Social Security's [Disability Benefits- Apply for a Child \(Under Age 18\)](#) webpage to learn more and apply.



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## [Sample Article I](#)

### **How to Apply for Benefits for Children With Disabilities**

**By Jeffrey Buckner, Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Communications, Social Security Administration**

We want to ensure that all families are aware of Social Security’s program for children with disabilities. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to children with physical or mental disabilities whose families meet certain income and resource limits. If an unmarried child under age 18 is living at home, Social Security may consider some of the parents’ income as the child’s income. We make allowances for the parents, and for their other children living in the home, when we consider the parents’ income. To qualify for SSI, a child must meet financial limits and the following medical requirements:

- 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 seriously limit the child’s day-to-day activities.
- The child’s disabling condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, for at least 12 months, or result in death.

#### **How to Apply:**

To begin the SSI application process, you can tell us you [want to apply for SSI](#) or help someone else to do so. This process takes about 5-10 minutes. After you complete the online process, a Social Security representative schedules an appointment to help you apply for SSI. We will send the appointment date and time by mail (and email, if provided) within 7-14 business days to the person interested in applying. In some cases, a Social Security representative may call to schedule the appointment.

You can apply by phone. Call us to make an appointment to file an application at 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call us at TTY 1-800-325-0778.

You can also begin the application process online.



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Applying online for SSI requires 2 steps. You will need to complete the online Child Disability Report AND, with the help of a Social Security representative, complete an Application for SSI.

TIP: Before completing the Child Disability Report, visit the [Child Disability Starter Kit](#) webpage to get answers to commonly asked questions about applying for SSI. The kit also includes a worksheet that will help you gather the information you need.

If approved, the child could be eligible for a monthly payment and possibly an additional state supplement. In most states, a child who receives SSI is automatically eligible for Medicaid, a federal government health insurance program for people with limited income. For more information about SSI payments, see our [Fact Sheet: Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#).

If you are a parent or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of a child you think may be eligible, visit Social Security's [Disability Benefits- Apply for a Child \(Under Age 18\)](#) webpage to learn more and apply.

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## Sample Article 2

### **Social Security Benefits for Children with Disabilities**

**By Jeffrey Buckner, Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Communications**

Social Security’s Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to children with mental or physical disabilities whose families have little income and little resources. A child must meet all the following medical requirements to be considered as having a disability:

- 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 seriously limit the child’s day-to-day activities.
- 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.

Compassionate Allowances is a list of conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security’s standard for disability benefits. Thousands of children receive benefits because they have a condition on this list at [www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm). Children with a condition(s) not on this list may still qualify for SSI.

A child must also meet other eligibility requirements. Since Social Security only pays SSI to people with disabilities who have low income and limited resources, there are limits to how much a child who is working can earn. Some older teenagers may have part-time jobs or be involved in work programs, which Social Security will count for financial eligibility.

In addition, if an unmarried child under age 18 is living at home, Social Security may consider some of the parents’ income as the child’s income. We make allowances for the parents, and for their other children living in the home, when we consider the parents’ income. You can read more about children’s benefits in the publication, [\*Benefits for Children with Disabilities\*](#). Earnings limits usually change every year.



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If you are a parent or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of someone you think may be eligible, visit Social Security's [Disability Benefits- Apply for a Child \(Under Age 18\)](#) web page to learn more and apply. We encourage you to apply if you think your child may be eligible.

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## Sample Social Media Posts

- Did you know children younger than age 18 who have a disability or are blind and have limited income and resources may qualify for SSI if they meet certain requirements? Here's how to apply: <https://bit.ly/3aRmCP0> #SocialSecurity #SSI
- Learn how to apply for benefits for children with disabilities: <https://bit.ly/3qPHfAB> #SocialSecurity #SSI
- Read #SocialSecurity's publication on benefits for children with disabilities: <https://bit.ly/3bIJqzs>
- #SocialSecurity helps families secure today and tomorrow by providing financial benefits, including #SSI for kids with a disability. Find out how: <https://bit.ly/2ZNxKGI>
- Are you a parent or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of a child with a #disability? Learn how the #SSI program can help: <https://bit.ly/3dJKMfZ>
- #DYK children who have a disability from birth up to age 18 may qualify for SSI from @SocialSecurity if they meet certain requirements. Here's how to apply: <https://bit.ly/2ZS0z4s> #SocialSecurity #SSI
- Follow these steps from @SocialSecurity to apply for benefits for children with disabilities: <https://bit.ly/2MpGuPH> #SocialSecurity #SSI
- Learn more about @SocialSecurity's benefits for children with disabilities: <https://bit.ly/2P1AD3Z> #SSI #kids
- @SocialSecurity helps families secure today and tomorrow by providing financial benefits, including #SSI for kids with a disability. Find out how: <https://bit.ly/2ZNxKGI>



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## **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](#)



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