



Qualifying for Benefit Continuation After You Turn 18

The Age-18 Redetermination is especially important to youth with disabilities and their families.

We review the status of all Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients on a regular basis. We call this process a redetermination.

The age-18 redetermination is when we use adult criteria to decide if you still have a disability. The adult requirements are different from our requirements for a child. The adult criteria are based on your ability to earn money instead of your ability to complete daily tasks.



If we decide you do not have a disability after your age-18 redetermination, you may still be eligible for SSI if you participate in an educational or vocational program.

SSI Continued Payments (Section 301 Payments)

If you are no longer medically eligible for disability after the age-18 redetermination, your SSI payments usually stop. However, if you are participating in an approved special education, vocational rehabilitation (VR), or similar program or service, your benefits may continue.

You may qualify for continued SSI payments under Section 301 if:

- You participate in an appropriate VR program, or similar services that started before the month your disability ended under our rules.
- We review your participation in the program and decide that if you continue in the program, you are not likely to need disability benefits again.

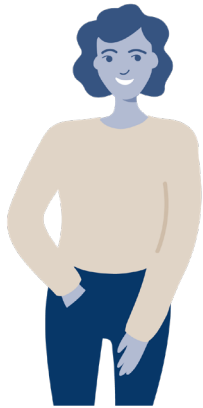
• Appropriate VR programs include:

- An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for a youth 18-21.
- A VR agency using an individualized plan for employment.
- Support services using an individualized written employment plan.
- A written service plan with a school under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- An approved Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS).

Under Section 301, your benefits may continue until:

- You complete the program.
- You stop participating in the program.
- We decide that even if you continue in the program, you are likely to need disability benefits again.

What can you learn from Maya about your options?



Maya receives SSI and has an IEP at school due to a learning disability. During an IEP planning meeting, Maya's parent asked:

“Will Maya always receive SSI?”

The teacher explained the age-18 redetermination process and what could happen if we find Maya is no longer medically eligible. Normally her SSI payments would stop in that case. However, if Maya

is 18-21 years old, she may be eligible to continue receiving SSI while participating in an approved IEP. Maya's teacher also explained that it's important to tell us about the IEP during the age-18 redetermination process.

The teacher also stressed how important it is to report all of Maya's earnings to us. While there are work incentives to encourage people receiving SSI to try working, the amount and types of income that Maya earns will affect her monthly cash payments.

Additional Information

For additional information, read *What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18* (Publication No. 05-11005) online at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf.

Youth Toolkit 2026

You can find additional information and resources to make a successful transition to adulthood at www.ssa.gov/youth/



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