

Benefits for Children with Disabilities from Low-Income Families



Who is eligible for SSI disability payments for children?

If you know a young person with significant disabilities whose family has little or no income or resources, the child may be eligible for monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, if they:

- Have a severe medical, developmental, or psychological impairment.
- Attend a Title I school or participate in free lunch programs.
- Are a recipient of resource assistance programs such as TANF, WIC, or SNAP (as they are commonly known) or live in Section 8 housing.
- Are in a segregated educational setting or special school or have an Individual Education Plan or early intervention plan (Individualized Family Service Plan).



Why are SSI payments important?

In school, students from low-income families often experience behavioral challenges and poor academic outcomes. Medical professionals see firsthand the connection between poverty and health. Funding special education services is a concern for many schools. Social Security can help provide support during these difficult times.



What is the average monthly SSI payment?

A child receiving SSI can get about \$800 each month (as of September 2024). Most SSI recipients are also automatically eligible for Medicaid.

How to apply for SSI?

If you know someone who may be eligible for SSI, you can encourage them to contact us to start the application process. Parents or guardians can begin the SSI application process online at [***Apply for Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) | SSA***](#).

To set up an appointment, a parent or guardian can call us at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY: **1-800-325-0778**) between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter early in the day (before 10 a.m.) or later in the afternoon (after 4 p.m.). The wait is also shorter later in the week (Wednesday to Friday) and later in the month.

The person who calls should have the Social Security number of the child.

If a parent or guardian decides to apply for SSI, we may contact you for school or medical records to support the child's disability claim. Please follow the instructions in those requests and respond as quickly as possible.

If we contact you, it means the parent or guardian has given their consent for you to share information with us to determine the child's eligibility for SSI.



When to apply for SSI payments?

The date they contact us to file an application can affect when the child's SSI will begin. We can usually schedule an appointment in 30 to 60 days.

For more information, visit [***www.ssa.gov/ssi***](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi)

Social Security has additional toolkits that may be helpful. If you have questions or to get more information about the disability process, visit [***www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals***](http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals).

