

WHO CAN APPLY

Application may be filed by any aged, blind, or disabled person or by an authorized representative acting on his or her behalf.

The application and related forms ask for a description of the *claimant's* impairment(s), treatment sources, and other information that relates to the alleged disability. (The "*claimant*" is the person who is requesting disability benefits.)

APPEALS PROCESS

All appeals must be filed within 60 days of receipt of denial. Claimant should call the Social Security office for assistance with the appeal, if needed.

- A. **Mailing period presumption:** SSA considers notice to have been received within five days after it is dated but this presumption can be overcome by **proof** that the notice was received after 5 days.
- B. **Filing period:** Appeals must be filed in writing within 60 days of the date on the notice plus a five-day mailing period.
- C. **Appeals Steps:**
- initial determination
 - reconsideration
 - hearing by an administrative law judge
 - review by the Appeals Council
 - federal court review

CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS

SSA periodically reviews one's disability or blindness to decide if s/he is still disabled or blind. When a determination is made that the individual is no longer disabled or blind, the benefits will be terminated.

This review is called a Continuing Disability Review (CDR). The law requires that a CDR is performed approximately every three years, unless it has been determined that the person has a condition that is not expected to improve.

Social Security Toll-Free Number
1-800-772-1213

Hearing Impaired
TTY Number
1-800-325-0778

Social Security's Internet Website
www.ssa.gov

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Information has been provided by Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation
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What You Need To Know About Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corp.
Administrative Office
111 East Front Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-545-2950
800-498-1804

State Initiatives Office
414 South State Street, 3rd Floor
Jackson, MS 39201
601-948-6752
800-498-1804

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

WHAT IS SSI?

SSI stands for **Supplemental Security Income**.

SSI is a program run by Social Security and pays monthly checks to:

- the elderly
- the blind
- people with disabilities who don't own much
- people who don't have much income.

If you get SSI, you usually get food stamps and Medicaid, too. Medicaid helps pay doctor and hospital bills.

WHAT DOES "INCOME" INCLUDE?

Income includes:

- money you earn from work
- money you receive from other sources
- free food, clothing, or shelter

NOTE: SSA does not count all kinds of income for SSI, but most income that is counted reduces the SSI benefit amount.

WHAT ARE "RESOURCES"?

Resources are things you own such as:

- cash
- bank accounts
- land
- vehicles
- personal property
- life insurance.

NOTE: SSA does not count all kinds of resources for SSI.

SOMEONE WHO GIVES AWAY RESOURCES

If you give away a resource, you may not qualify for SSI for up to 36 months.

If you sell a resource for less than what it is worth, you may not qualify for SSI for up to 36 months.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SSI BENEFITS?

Anyone who is:

- aged (age 65 or older);
- blind; or
- disabled.

And, who:

- does not have much income
- does not own much
- is a U.S. citizen
- is not absent from the country for more than 30 days, continuously

WHAT DOES "AGED" MEAN?

"Aged" means age 65 or older.

WHAT DOES "DISABLED" MEAN FOR A CHILD?

An individual under age 18 is "disabled" if he or she has a medically determinable physical or mental impairment, which:

- interferes with child's functional ability
- can be expected to result in death
- has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least not less than 12 months.

If the individual is age 18 or older, the adult definition of disability explained below applies.

WHAT DOES "DISABLED" MEAN FOR AN ADULT?

An individual age 18 and older is "disabled" if he or she has a medically determinable physical or mental impairment, which:

- results in the inability to engage in any *substantial gainful activity*; and
- can be expected to result in death; or
- has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

BENEFIT PAYMENT LEVEL

The maximum Federal benefit changes yearly.

PAYMENT DATE

1st or the 3rd day of the month.

SSI APPLICATION PROCESS

Social Security representatives in the field offices usually obtain applications for disability benefits:

- in person;
- by telephone;
- by mail, or,
- by filing online.

The application and related forms ask for a description of the *claimant's* impairment(s), treatment sources, and other information that relates to the alleged disability. (The "*claimant*" is the person who is requesting disability benefits.)

The field office is responsible for verifying **non-medical eligibility requirements**, which may include:

- age;
- employment;
- marital status, or,
- Social Security coverage information.

The field office then sends the case to a Disability Determination Services (DDS) for evaluation of disability. The DDSs, which are fully funded by the Federal Government, are State agencies responsible for developing medical evidence and rendering the initial determination on whether or not a claimant is disabled or blind under the law.

APPLICANTS' RIGHTS

Applicants have the rights to:

- Apply for SSI benefits regardless of whether or not SSA believes claimant will be found eligible.
- Have SSA assist in application procedure in obtaining proof of eligibility.
- Be informed of all SSA-administered benefits claimant might be eligible for and of claimant's rights and obligations.
- Appoint a representative who may be present during all dealings with SSA.
- Be notified, directly and/or through the representative, of decisions made by SSA which affect benefit payment.