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Social Security: With You Through Life's Journey...



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Definition of Disability - Adult

The Social Security Act defines disability as:

- a person who cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least one year or result in death; or
- the person's medical condition must prevent him or her from doing substantial gainful employment (\$1350/month non-blind, \$2260/month blind)— work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work.



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Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

What is it?

SSDI is a social insurance program under which workers earn coverage for benefits, by working and paying Social Security taxes on their earnings.

Who is it for?

Disabled people younger than 65 who can't work because they have a medical condition that's expected to last at least one year or result in death and have earned a certain number of work credits.



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Requirements for Getting SSI

To be eligible for SSI, you must:

- have limited income and few resources;
- be age 65 or older;
- be totally or partially blind; or
- have a medical condition that keeps you from working and is expected to last at least one year or result in death.

Note: There are different rules for children.



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SSI for Children

Who is considered a “child” for SSI?

A disabled person who is neither married nor head of a household and:

- is under age 18; or
- is under age 22 and is a student regularly attending school.



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SSI Requirements for Children

- If under 18, the child has a physical or mental impairment (or combination) that results in marked or severe limitation in functioning.
- The child must be either blind or disabled. If the child is blind, he or she must meet the same definition of “blind” as applies for adults.
- Condition must be expected to last at least 12 months or result in death.



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Deeming

What is it?

The process of determining how much of a parent(s) income and resources will count is called deeming.

When does it apply?

If the parent(s) has income and/or resources that we must consider and:

- the child is under 18; and
- lives at home with his or her natural, or adoptive parents(s); or
- lives away at school, but comes home on some weekends, holidays, or school vacations and is subject to parental control.



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SSI Determination for Children Turning 18

- We make a new disability determination using the adult rules.
- We no longer count the income and resources of parent(s) for eligibility.
- If the child continues to live with parent(s) but does not pay for food or shelter, a lower SSI payment may apply.
- An SSI application can be made as early as the day of the 18th birthday.



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When should I apply for disability benefits?

- Apply as soon as you become disabled.
- Processing an application for disability benefits can take three to five months.
- We may be able to process your application faster if you help us by getting any other information we need.



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How do I apply for disability benefits?



Online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability



Call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment at your local office



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How to Apply for SSI (Under Age 18)

- Schedule an appointment with Social Security. Call 1-800-722-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday or contact your local Social Security office;
- and
- Complete the online Child Disability Report at www.socialsecurity.gov/childdisabilityreport.



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What Happens Next?

- Your application will be forwarded to the state Disability Determination Services (DDS) agency.
- The DDS will contact medical providers to obtain medical records.
- The DDS may ask for additional information about how your condition(s) affect daily activities.



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Disability Determination Services Office - State

- This state agency completes the initial disability determination decision for us.
- Doctors and disability specialists in the state agency ask your doctors for information about your condition(s). They'll consider all the facts in your case.
- They'll use the medical evidence from your doctors, hospitals, clinics, or institutions where you've been treated.



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We'll tell you our decision...

- When the state agency makes a determination on your case, we'll send a letter to you.
- If approved, the letter will show the amount of your benefit, when your payments start, and your reporting responsibilities.
- If not approved, the letter will explain why and tell you how to appeal the determination if you don't agree with it.



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Representative Payee

- More than eight million people, who get monthly Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, need help managing their money.
- Social Security's Representative Payment Program appoints a relative, friend, or other interested party to serve as the 'representative payee' who receives and manages the Social Security or SSI benefits for anyone who cannot manage or direct the management of his or her benefits themselves.
- We thoroughly investigate those who apply to be representative payees to protect the interests of Social Security beneficiaries, because a representative payee receives the beneficiary's payments and is given the authority to use them on the beneficiary's behalf.



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Medicare and Medicaid

Medicare – federal health insurance program for people 65 or older and people who have been getting disability benefits for 24 consecutive months.

Medicaid – state health program for people with low incomes and limited resources.

- In most states, children who get SSI qualify for Medicaid.
- In many states, Medicaid comes automatically with SSI eligibility.



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Working While Receiving Benefits


- Social Security has special rules called *work incentives* that allow you to test your ability to work and still receive monthly Social Security and SSI benefits. You can also get help with education, rehabilitation, and training you may need to work.
- If you do take a job or become self-employed, tell us about it right away. We need to know when you start or stop work and if there are any changes in your job duties, hours of work, or rate of pay.
- Individuals receiving Social Security disability benefits and their representative payees must report their wages. Wages can be reported using their personal *my* Social Security account online.



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Working While Disabled: How We Can Help

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Welcome To The Work Site



Welcome to the Ticket to Work Program!

The Ticket to Work (Ticket) program is a free and voluntary program that can help Social Security beneficiaries go to work, get a good job that may lead to a career, and become financially independent, all while they keep their Medicare or Medicaid. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits because of a disability and are age 18 through 64 probably already qualify for the program.

Are you a...

Disability Beneficiary, Family Member or Caregiver?

Service Provider or Interested in Becoming One?

[Visit the Choose Work Site](#)
[Visit the Site for Service Providers](#)

The Ticket to Work (Ticket) program is a good fit for people who want to improve their earning potential and are committed to preparing for long-term success in the workplace. The Ticket program offers beneficiaries with disabilities access to meaningful employment with the assistance of Ticket to Work employment service providers called Employment Networks (ENs).

Did You Receive a Call from 1-800-823-0800?

The phone call you received was from Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) program. The Ticket program is a free and voluntary Social Security program that helps people who receive disability benefits return to work for the first time. The call was eligible beneficiaries to Ticket to Work's help line at 1-888-963-7842 or 1-888-833-2867 (TTS) and to <https://thosworkssite.gov/gettyt>. One of Social Security's contractors manages this site and the help line.

Visit <https://thosworkssite.gov/gettyt> to sign up for free information. Or contact one of our representatives through the Ticket to Work help line. Be one of the many people who have connected with us for important information about work as a path to financial independence. *Real Work.*

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates

Update on Our Reentry Plans

Learn about Emergency Assistance for Homeowners and Renters

Social Security SEARCH MENU LANGUAGES SIGN IN/UP

What should I do if I get a call claiming there's a problem with my Social Security number or account?

Online Service

Retirement

Disability

SSI

Medicare

my Social Security

Check out your *Social Security Statement*, change your address & manage your benefits online today.

Social Security Number

Your Social Security number remains your first and continuous link with Social Security.

How to Get Help

Learn how to get help from Social Security.

FAQs

Get answers to frequently asked questions about Social Security.

my Social Security



Create your personal **my Social Security** account today

With your free, personal **my Social Security** account, you can receive personalized estimates of future benefits based on your real earnings, see your latest Statement, and review your earnings history. It even makes it easy to request a replacement Social Security Card or check the status of an application, all from the comfort of your home or office!

[CREATE AN ACCOUNT →](#)

[SIGN IN →](#)

[FINISH SETTING UP YOUR ACCOUNT →](#)



Social Security

Set yourself free. Open a **my Social Security** account today and rest easy knowing that you're in control of your future.

[Sign In or Create an Account](#)

Posted June 10, 2017: An Important Message for **my Social Security** Users: Please read this important notice about changes to your account.

HAVE AN ACTIVATION CODE?

[Finish Setting Up Your Account](#)

socialsecurity.gov/myaccount



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Please Subscribe to our Covid-19 Updates

www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/



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Email and Text Message Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

Subscription Type

Email Address *

[Submit](#) [Cancel](#)



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How to Get Help from Social Security

Social Security is here to help. We want you to know how to get the service you need and to be prepared so we can help you as quickly and safely as possible.



What to Know if You Must Visit an Office:

- **You must have an appointment** to visit an office.
- **Masks are required** for all office visitors and employees, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Visitor capacity is limited** to follow physical distancing requirements. This means **you may need to wait outside**, so plan for cold or bad weather.
- We ask that you **come alone unless you require help with your visit**. If you require help, we can only permit one person to accompany you.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.



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Please visit our Field Office Locator

Social Security Office Locator www.ssa.gov/locator

We are OPEN to receive your calls

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, we suspended face-to-face service to the public in our field offices and hearings offices nationwide until further notice. However, we are still able to provide critical services via phone, fax and online.

Find the Office for this ZIP Code.

ZIP:

[Zip Code Look Up](#)
[Services Outside the United States](#)

Using our online services, you can:



- Apply for most types of benefits
- Estimate your future benefits
- Do so much more

To learn more, visit [What You Can Do Online](#)

National 800 Number

Toll-Free: 1-800-772-1213



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Q&A session



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