

SSI Kids Toolkit

Dear Colleague,

The COVID-19 pandemic has required the Social Security Administration to limit in-person services to protect our customers and employees. Among the most affected are children with disabilities and their families. I am writing to invite you to help us spread the word to parents, guardians, and caregivers as well as educators, community leaders, health care and other service providers, about potential financial assistance for children with disabilities.

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.
- Images for use in social media.

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

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

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Buckner
Associate Commissioner
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications
Social Security Administration



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Sample e-Mail 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 and/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 of up to \$794 in 2021 and possibly an additional state supplement. In addition, 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 to help children and youth with disabilities live at home 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.

Social Security continues to collaborate with organizations on a national and local level 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 the [Disability Benefits- Apply for a Child \(Under Age 18\)](#) webpage to learn more and apply.



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Sample Article 1

How to Apply for Benefits for Children with Disabilities

By Darlynda Bogle, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Communications

During these difficult times, we want to ensure that all families are aware of our program for children with disabilities. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to children with physical and/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 very 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.

TO START THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. FILL OUT the online [Child Disability Report](#). At the end of the report, we will ask you to sign a form that gives the child's doctor(s) permission to give us information about his/her disability. We need this information so that we can make a decision on the child's claim.
2. A Social Security representative will contact you by phone to:
 - Review the completed Child Disability Report;
 - Discuss whether the income and resources of the parents and the child are within the allowed limits; and
 - Start the SSI application process.



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If approved, the child could be eligible for a monthly payment of up to \$794 in 2021 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.

If you are a parent or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of a child you think may be eligible, visit our [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 Darlynda Bogle, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Communications



Social Security’s Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to children with mental and/or physical disabilities whose families have little or no income and resources. A child must meet all of the following medical requirements to be considered disabled:

- 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 very seriously limit the child’s 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. Children with a condition(s) not on this list can still qualify for SSI.



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A child must also meet other eligibility requirements. Since Social Security only pays SSI to disabled people with low income and limited resources, a child, who is not blind, must not be working or earning more than \$1,310 a month in 2021. A child who is blind must not be working or earning more than \$2,190. 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 our publication, [*Benefits for Children with Disabilities*](#). Earnings amounts usually change every year.

If you are a parent or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of someone you think may be eligible, visit our [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 are disabled or 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/2ZNxKG1>
- 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>
- Check out this blog post about #SocialSecurity benefits for children with disabilities: <https://bit.ly/3pQqmnX>
- #DYK children who are disabled from birth up to age 18 may qualify for SSI if they meet certain requirements from @SocialSecurity? 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/2ZNxKG1>
- Read our #blog post about @SocialSecurity benefits for children with #disabilities: <https://bit.ly/3qYptLC> #SSI



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Blog Articles You Can Share on Your Communication Channels

- [Social Security Benefits for Children with Disabilities](#)

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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