



Family Health Care Tips

Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI)

6

Parents Reaching Out provides resources that focus on helping families make informed decisions about the care and education of their children. Keeping your family healthy means knowing how to navigate the health care system and talk with your doctor or other providers. We hope these tip sheets will give you the information you may need to access the best, most cost-effective medical and related services to meet the needs of your family.

What is SSI?

- Income to a person with a disability that is paid by the Social Security Administration. It is a cash assistance program from Social Security based on medical need and income eligibility which includes a Medicaid Card. It is not part of the Medicaid DD Waiver but individuals may be receiving both programs. There are limits on what a person can earn while receiving SSI.

Who is eligible for SSI?

- Children with severe physical or mental impairments, premature infants and low birth weight infants

How do I apply?

- Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. You will need to provide:
 1. the name of your child and full names of his or her parent or guardian
 2. your child's address and telephone number
 3. your child's social security number
- A person from the local Social Security office will then contact the parent or guardian to complete the application process.



What information will the local Social Security office require?

- The names and addresses of the following:
 1. all doctors and therapists who have seen your child
 2. all hospitals where your child has been treated
 3. all teachers, schools, and daycare providers
- Copies of your child's medical records, IEP's or IFSP's, and therapist reports
- Copies of any information that pertains to your child's disability

What happens next?

- The local Social Security office will decide if your income and assets are within the income eligibility guidelines.
- *If you meet income requirements*, SSI will send documents about your child's disability to Disability Determination Services (DDS). They will review them to determine if your child meets a DDS definition of disability.
- If the information received by DDS is insufficient in some way, it may be necessary for your child to be examined. Social Security will pay for this examination.
- If your child is eligible, the parent or guardian will receive a monthly monetary benefit on behalf of the child.
- If your child is determined to be not eligible, you will receive a letter stating the reason the denial of benefits.



What can you do if the child is denied SSI?

- You have 60 days after receiving the denial letter to file an appeal for reconsideration. To file an appeal, call 1-800-772-1213.
- If you are denied a second time you have 60 days to file an appeal for a Request of Hearing. It will take several months to set a hearing date.
- Social Security will send you forms to complete for both appeal processes but you must call to request the forms. Complete the forms for each appeal and return them to SSA.

What should I do if I don't understand the appeal process?

Call Parents Reaching Out. We can help you through the appeal process. We may be able to help you obtain free legal representation for your child at the hearing.

Family Tip

"One of the best things families can do is to learn the 'language' of the system. All the words and acronyms that people use will seem like a whole new language, especially at first. Learning the vocabulary of the system will help you to better advocate for your family member. It will also help you feel more comfortable talking to professionals if you have learned what words to use."

Parent with experience in "navigating the system"

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