

Your Child's Application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

A step-by-step guide to submitting an SSI application on behalf of your child.

[Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) is a monthly financial benefit from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind or disabled. Blind or disabled children, as well as adults, can get SSI.

Eligibility for disability is determined by a team that includes a disability examiner and a medical or psychological consultant at a state agency known as the Disability Determination Service (DDS). The team will review medical and financial documents, and determine eligibility based on the documents provided or request more documents be provided.

Learn more about [Supplemental Security Income](#) for adults and children in this PAVE article. Here's a step-by-step checklist to help you get started:

- ☐ **[Determine Eligibility:](#)** Complete the SSA's Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST) to determine if your child's condition qualifies for SSI benefits.
- ☐ **[Gather Required Documents:](#)** Review the list of required documents and gather these items to submit with your application.
- ☐ **[Complete the Application:](#)** Apply online, call (1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778) to make an appointment, or complete the application by phone.

SSI will call you within 3 – 5 business days to get more information about your child and family. You will then be sent to the application to a Disability Determination Services (DDS) office.

SSI takes between 3 to 6 months to review an application. After their review, your child will get a letter in the mail with the decision. If your child is approved, SSI will check the financial documents you provided within your application. Then, your child will get another letter in the mail that says how much money they'll receive every month.

In order to receive SSI, the applicant must have limited income and resources. If the applicant has too much income, their application will be denied, and they will be ineligible for SSI payments. A child does not earn income so part of their parent's income will be attributed to the child. Different [sources of income](#) are treated differently and some have greater exclusions than others. When an adult applies on behalf of a child, the parent or guardian's income is considered "deemed" income to the child. SSA will prorate the adult's income among the family members to determine the amount applicable to the child.

Family to Family Health Information Center (F2FHIC), a program of PAVE, provides technical assistance, information, and training to families of children, youth, and adults with special healthcare needs. [The F2F website](#) contains invaluable information and resources to help family members, self-advocates, and professionals navigate complex health systems and public benefits, including SSI. After reviewing F2F's article about [how to apply for SSI](#), if you have questions and would like to speak with an F2F team member, please submit a [Support Request](#).

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