

# Section 10:

## Social Security Administration (SSA) Benefits

### Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

**What it is** – Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) is a federal income supplement program funded by payroll taxes for people who were previously employed but are now unable to work due to a significant physical or mental health condition. The Social Security Administration (SSA) will pay disability benefits to the applicant or their family if the applicant previously worked but is no longer able to do so and meets the eligibility requirements. An adult with disabilities since childhood, with an onset prior to the age of 22 may receive SSDI as a “child’s” benefit because it’s paid on a parents Social Security earnings record.

**Eligibility** – The diagnoses must be permanent, present, or expected to last a year or longer, or the diagnoses will result in death. The applicant must not have a partial or short-term disability status, meet the Social Security Administration’s definition of a disability, and be under retirement age. To find out if you are eligible to receive SSDI, utilize the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST) and answer the questions in the BEST Questionnaire. <https://ssabest.benefits.gov>

**Applying for SSDI** – Utilize one of the following options:

- Visit the SSI website <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability>
- Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778, TRS 1-800-772-1213
- Call your local Social Security Office to schedule an appointment by phone or in person; or

**Additional Information** – For a complete list of information needed to apply for SSDI visit <https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/radr/10/ovw001-checklist.pdf>.

### Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

**What it is** – Supplemental Security Income, also known as SSI, is a Federal income supplement program. This program is funded through general tax revenues. To receive SSI Supports, the applicant must be diagnosed with a disability and have little to no income, be 65 years and older, and/or be diagnosed with blindness. The funding received allows an individual to address their basic needs of housing, food, and clothing. For additional SSI eligibility requirements visit <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-eligibility-ussi.htm>. There is no application fee for SSI.

**Eligibility** – To find out if you are eligible to receive SSI, utilize the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST) and answer the questions in the BEST Questionnaire. <https://ssabest.benefits.gov>

**Applying for SSI** – Utilize one of the following options:

- Visit the SSI website <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability>
- Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778, TRS 1-800-772-1213
- Call your local Social Security Office to schedule an appointment by phone or in person; or
- Utilize the link to see how someone can help you apply for SSI <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-help-ussi.htm>

**Additional Information** – For a complete list of information regarding SSI visit <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-understanding-ssi.htm>.

## Supplemental Security Income for Children (SSI for Children)

**What it is** – Similar to regular SSI, SSI for children is a program designed to support minors under the age of 18 diagnosed with a disability with limited household income and resources.

**Eligibility** – The minor must be diagnosed with a disability (physical or mental) that limits their activity. The diagnoses must be permanent, present, or expected to last a year or longer, or the diagnoses will result in death.

**Apply for SSI for Children** – This is a two-step process. The first step will need to be completed prior to the conversation with a member of the Social Security Administration.

- Complete the Child Disability Report <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i3820/main.html>
- After the Child Disability Report is submitted, you will be contacted by phone in 3 to 5 business days from the SSA. On the call, they will review your submitted report, verify the household income and resources, and if approved, move you to the next step help complete the SSI application.

**Additional Information** – For the SSI Child Disability Starter Kit visit [https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability\\_starter\\_kits\\_child\\_eng.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_child_eng.htm).

## Survivor Benefits

**What it is** – Survivor Benefits, is a program designed for social security survivors of eligible workers (i.e., widows, widowers, and dependents) to receive social security benefits on behalf of the deceased. If the deceased was working and paying benefits into Social Security, some of the taxes paid are for survivor benefits. A spouse, children, and parents may be eligible based on the deceased earnings. For additional Survivor Benefits information visit <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/>. There is no application fee for Survivor Benefits.

**Eligibility** – To find out if you are eligible to receive Survivor Benefits, visit one of the following options based on your relationship with the deceased:

- Widows/Widowers or Surviving Divorced Spouse's Benefits <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-10.html>
- Child's Benefits <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-4.html>
- Mother or Father's Benefits <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-5.html>
- Lump-Sum Death Benefit <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-8.html>
- Parent's Benefits <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-7.html>

**Applying for Survivor Benefits** – Utilize one of the following options:

- Visit the SSI website <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/>
- Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778, TRS 1-800-772-1213
- Call your local Social Security Office to schedule an appointment by phone or in person.