



Do You Need Help Paying for Your Child's Special Needs?

1. Supplemental Security Income (SSI), helps children with special needs to get benefits:

- Monthly payments that are based on the family income.
- Eligibility depends upon financial needs and functional abilities.
- Often qualifies children for Medicaid.

2. Some important things to remember about SSI:

- Your child's eligibility will be evaluated on a regular basis. If your child's needs or your income changes, then your payments may stop.
- The check you receive is to be used for your child's medical expenses and other special care needs.
- It is not a good idea to plan on using your child's SSI check to pay for your home, food, or other family expenses. You may end up not being able to pay for these essentials if your child's SSI stops.

3. Your child may be eligible for other Social Security benefits.

- Social Security could provide a variety of benefits to family members when a primary wage earner in the family becomes disabled or dies. The primary wage earner who becomes disabled, according to Social Security's rules, and has paid FICA taxes for the required length of time is eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).
- A worker's dependents, such as spouse and children (known as dependent or survivor benefits) or for adult children (disabled prior to age 22 with a parent that is deceased, disabled, or retired) who qualify for Childhood Disability Beneficiary (CDB), formerly referred to as a Disabled Adult Child (DAC), may also be eligible. To learn more, go to: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/disability/> or call toll-free 1-800-772-1213.

4. Applying for SSI involves many steps. If you are interested to begin the application process, you can get more information by calling 1-800-772-1213 or online at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.html>.

5. If you have already applied for benefits in the past and were denied, don't give up! In fact, most people are initially denied when they apply on their own. You can still reapply or appeal the denial with the help of a qualified social security disability advocate or attorney. You can contact Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security, Equip for Equality, Inc. at 1-800-537-2632 (Voice)/ 1-800-610-2779 (TTY).

We're here to help. To learn more about UIC-Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at:

dsc.uic.edu or like us on  facebook.com/dsc.uic.edu