

Use SSI to Get Ready for Your Future!

Transition Skills, Tips & Tools
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



Supplemental Security Income (SSI) helps to pay for your food, clothing and housing needs. It also helps you keep your medical benefits.

1. **Applying for SSI** involves many steps. If you are interested, you can get more information by calling **(800) 772-1213**.
2. **Apply or reapply for SSI when you become an adult** (around age 18).
 - You can use the Adult Disability Starter Kit at www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm. It includes a fact sheet on “What You Should Know Before You Apply For Social Security Disability Benefits,” a checklist, a worksheet and a link to an online application.
3. **Your eligibility is checked on a regular basis** based on your income and resources.
4. **SSI can help you get one step closer to working:**
 - It can help you get money every month for your food, clothing and housing needs.
 - Less than half of the money you earn from work is counted against your SSI check.
 - When you work, you can keep your Healthcare and Family Services’ healthcare coverage.
 - Using a **Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS)** will let you set aside money to help you achieve a work goal and become independent.
 - You can deduct your work-related costs from your earnings.
5. **Work incentives** are a great way to join the workforce. You will likely make more money than you receive on SSI.
6. **You can learn more** at the SSI Work Site at www.socialsecurity.gov/work/index.html or by calling **(800) 772-1213**.

7. If you already get SSI and want to learn more about work incentives, call your **Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program**.

If you live in the below counties, contact: **Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) - (800) 852-5110**.

Alexander	Bond	Calhoun	Champaign	Christian	Clark
Clay	Clinton	Coles	Crawford	Cumberland	DeWitt
Douglas	DuPage	Edgar	Edwards	Effingham	Fayette
Ford	Franklin	Gallatin	Greene	Grundy	Hamilton
Hardin	Iroquois	Jackson	Jasper	Jefferson	Jersey
Johnson	Kane	Kankakee	Kendall	Lake	Lawrence
Livingston	Logan	Macon	Macoupin	Madison	Marion
Massac	McHenry	McLean	Monroe	Montgomery	Moultrie
Perry	Piatt	Pike	Pope	Pulaski	Randolph
Richland	Saline	Sangamon	Shelby	St. Clair	Union
Vermilion	Wabash	Washington	Wayne	White	Will
Williamson					

If you live in the below counties, contact: **Disability Works Iowa - (800) 779-2502**.

Adams	Boone	Brown	Bureau	Caroll	Cass
DeKalb	Fulton	Hancock	Henderson	Henry	JoDaviess
Knox	LaSalle	Lee	Marshall	Mason	McDonough
Menard	Mercer	Morgan	Ogle	Peoria	Putnam
Rock Island	Schuyler	Scott	Stark	Stephenson	Tazewell
Warren	Whiteside	Winnebago	Woodford		

If you live in **Cook County**, contact: **Volunteers of America - (312) 896-3220**.

8. **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 **(800) 537-2632** (Voice) or **(800) 610-2779** (TTY).
9. SSI provides minimum basic financial help to persons with disabilities (regardless of age) with very limited income and resources. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) supports individuals who are disabled and have a qualifying work history, either through their own employment or a family member (spouse/parent). Learn more about SSI versus SSDI at www.ncoa.org/article/ssi-vs-ssdi-what-are-these-benefits-how-they-differ.

We're here to help.

To learn more about the Division of Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at: dsc.uic.edu

