

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

Social Security Administration (SSA)

PURPOSE

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The purpose of the SSI program is to assure a minimum level of income to persons who are elderly or have a disability and have limited income and resources. Specific eligibility criteria must be met.

Individuals under 65 must meet the SSA's definition of "disabled" or "blind". There is no disability waiting period for SSI. People may be eligible for SSI even if they have never worked, and they may also receive social security payments IF they are eligible for both.

CONTACT

Social Security
Administration
(800) 772-1213

Social Security publications and information are available at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pgm/ssi.htm>

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

- See both "Eligibility" and "Pieces of the Puzzle."

ELIGIBILITY

- Persons who have limited income and resources;
- aged 65 or older;
- children or adults that are blind or have a disability; and
- be a U.S. citizen or national.

AT SERVICES & DEVICES PROVIDED/COVERED

- No AT services or devices are provided or covered. However, SSI recipients are usually able to get Medicaid and thus access AT as DME through SoonerCare.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Schedule an appointment with a Social Security representative by calling (800) 772-1213 or contact the local Social Security office. They will assist with the application process. Be prepared to provide information by completing the online disability report or take the following information to the scheduled appointment:
 - the medical problem(s) that prevents the individual from working and the date the individual stopped working;
 - names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the doctors; hospitals and clinics visited for medical treatment. (Individuals making applications will be asked to sign forms, which authorize these sources to release your medical records);
 - information on medical tests including the times and places;
 - jobs for the last 15 years, including the physical and mental demands of each job;
 - education; and
 - current daily activities.
- Application is forwarded to the Disability Determination Section (DDS) in Oklahoma City. Under an agreement with SSA, DDS follows federal regulations to process and make decisions on disability claims.
- An adjudicator who is trained in the SSA Disability Program will be responsible for compiling the case by obtaining medical records. If the medical information obtained is incomplete or not current, DDS may authorize and pay for an examination by the applicant's doctor.

APPEALS PROCESS FOR ALL SSA PROGRAMS

1. Whenever SSA makes a decision that affects eligibility or benefits, a letter is sent explaining the decision.
2. If you disagree you may appeal the decision, and SSA will help you complete the paperwork. There are four levels of appeal. If you disagree with the decision at one level, you may appeal to the next level.
3. You have 60 days from the time you receive the decision to file an appeal to the next level.