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## SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI), cont. . .

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### PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- Whether you can get SSI and the amount of the payments depends on what you own and how much income you have.
- Not all income and resources are counted in determining eligibility for SSI. Generally, the first \$20 a month of unearned income and the first \$65 a month in earnings are not counted. Also not counted are wages used to pay for items or services needed to work because of a disability. Income above these levels usually reduces the amount of the basic SSI payment by \$1 for every \$2 earned. The maximum monthly payment in 2013 is \$710. This amount usually increases annually.
- A person may be able to get SSI with items worth up to \$2,000, a home and the land it on are not counted. Personal effects or household goods, automobiles, and life insurance policies may not count, depending on their value. Some items of blind or disabled persons may not count if they will be used to help the person work or earn extra income. The income and resources of the parents of an eligible child under the age of 18 are considered in determining the eligibility and payment for the child.
- The process to determine disability is based on answering the five following questions.
  1. Do you have earned income? The amount of income you can receive each month and still get SSI depends partly on where you live. Call SSI to find out the income limits Oklahoma.
  2. Is your condition "severe?" Your impairments must interfere with basic work-related activities for your claim to be considered.
  3. Is your condition found in the list of disabling impairments? SSA maintains a list of impairments for each of the major body systems that are so severe they automatically mean you are disabled. If your condition is not on the list, SSA will have to decide if it is of equal severity to an impairment on the list.
  4. Can you do the work you did previously? If your condition is severe, but not at the same or equal severity as an impairment on the list, then SSA must determine if it interferes with your ability to do the work you did in the last 15 years. If it does not, your claim will be denied. If it does, your claim will be considered further.
  5. Can you do any other type of work? If you cannot do the work you did in the last 15 years, SSA will look to see if you can do any other type of work. If you cannot do any other kind of work, your claim will be approved.
- If you are blind, the Social Security Administration has a publication in large print, braille, and on cassette entitled "If You Are Blind, What Social Security and SSI Will Do For You." To obtain an accessible format call (800) 772-1213.
- The primary access to the funding of assistive technology is through the SSI program's link to the Medicaid program. SSI recipients should make a separate application for Medicaid services with their county DHS office.