

2020



Securing today  
and tomorrow

# You May Be Able to Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

[SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.SocialSecurity.gov)



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## What is SSI?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and few resources. SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as for those of any age, including children, who are blind or who have disabilities.

To get SSI, you must meet one of these requirements:

- Be age 65 or older.
- Be totally or partially blind.
- Have a medical condition that keeps you from working and is expected to last at least one year or result in death.

There are different rules for children. For more information, read *Benefits for Children With Disabilities* (Publication No. 05-10026).

## How much can you get?

The basic monthly SSI payment for 2020 is the same nationwide. It is:

- \$783 for one person.
- \$1,175 for a couple.

Not everyone gets the same amount. You may get more if you live in a state that adds money to the federal SSI payment. You may receive less if you or your family has other income. Where and with whom you live also makes a difference in the amount of your SSI payment.

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# How do you qualify for SSI?

## **Your income**

Your income includes the money you earn, your Social Security benefits, your pensions and the value of items you get from someone else, such as food and shelter.

Where you live affects the amount of income you can have each month and still get SSI. Different states have different rules.

## **Things you own**

You may be able to get SSI if your resources (the things you own) are worth no more than \$2,000 for a person or \$3,000 for a married couple living together. We don't count everything you own when we decide if you can get SSI. For example, we don't count a house you own if you live in it, and we usually don't count your car. We do count cash, bank accounts, stocks and bonds.

## **You must be a U.S. resident**

You must live in the United States or Northern Mariana Islands to get SSI. If you're not a U.S. citizen, but you are lawfully residing in the United States, you still may be able to get SSI. For more information, read *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Non-Citizens* (Publication No. 05-11051).

## Other benefits

To receive SSI, you must also apply for Social Security benefits and any other government benefits for which you may be eligible. If you get SSI, you usually can get benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, too. Medicaid helps pay doctor and hospital bills, and SNAP helps pay for food.

Applications for SNAP benefits are available at any Social Security office. For information about nutrition assistance programs that may be available to you, read *Nutrition Assistance Programs* (Publication No. 05-10100) and *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Facts* (Publication No. 05-10101). Visit [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap) for information on how to apply.

## How do you apply for SSI?

To apply for SSI, you can begin the process and complete a large part of your application by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits). You can also call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** to set up an in-person or telephone appointment with a representative from your local Social Security office.

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You may be eligible to complete your SSI application online if you:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 65.
- Have never been married.
- Aren't blind.
- Are a U.S. citizen residing in one of the 50 states, District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Haven't applied for or received SSI benefits in the past.
- Are applying for Social Security Disability Insurance at the same time as your SSI claim.

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us from anywhere, on any device, is to visit **[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)**. There are several things you can do online: apply for benefits; get useful information; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

When you open a *my* Social Security account, you have more capabilities. You can review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, and print a benefit verification letter. You can also change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, request a replacement Social Security card (if you have no changes and your state participates), and get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

A member of our staff can answer your call from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, if you need to speak to a person. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a high rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.

**Social Security Administration**

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