



Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income provides cash assistance to low-income persons who are elderly, or persons of any age who are blind or disabled. Last year over 95,000 Wisconsin residents received monthly SSI payments.

ELIGIBILITY

- Am I Eligible?**
- To receive SSI, you must have low income and be age 65 or older, blind, or disabled.
 - * Have little or no income or resources
 - * Be a U.S. citizen or meet the requirement for non-citizens.
 - * Be considered medically disabled.
 - * Be a resident of the 50 states, District of Columbia, or Northern Mariana Islands.
 - * Must file an application
 - * Must file for any and all other benefits for which you are eligible
 - * Must accept vocational rehabilitation services, if referred
 - * If your impairment is other than blindness, when you apply, you must not be working or working less than the SGA level. Once you are on the rolls, your eligibility will continue until you medically recover or no longer meet a disability-related requirement.

What Are SSI Asset Limits? You may be eligible for SSI payment if you have little or no income and if your assets are \$2,000 or less for a single person or \$3,000 or less for a married couple. Certain assets do not count, such as your home or car.

How Does SSI Decide If I Am Disabled? **SOCIAL SECURITY** considers you "disabled" if they determine your condition prevents you from working and is expected to last at least a year or result in death. A child is "disabled" if an adult with the same condition would be found disabled. It can take up to 6 months for Social Security to decide if you are disabled, however some people can begin getting benefits right away.

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BENEFITS

How Much Can I Receive?

THE SIZE of your SSI payment depends on your NET monthly income—the smaller your NET income, the larger the SSI payment. The amount you get also depends on whether your spouse is eligible, and whether you live alone or with someone else. The maximum monthly SSI payment for one person living independently is \$674, and for a couple living independently is \$1,011 if both are eligible. These amounts include both federal and state payments.

Are There Other Services For SSI Recipients?

- **If you received SSI payments, you automatically qualify for Medical Assistance (Medicaid/Title 19). A separate Medicaid application is not necessary. As long as you receive SSI, the state will give you a Medicaid card, called a Forward card, with the information about its use. If you receive SSI payments and also have Medicare, the state will automatically pay your out-of pocket Medicare costs, such as Medicare premiums, deductibles, and copayments.**
- **When you receive SSI, you also may qualify for FoodShare. People who live in a household where everyone is applying for or receiving SSI may apply for food stamps at the Social Security Office.**
- **SSI recipients whose expenses are greater than the SSI-E payment level and live in one of the following licensed or certified facilities:**
 - * Foster home for children
 - * Group home for children
 - * Adult family/foster home
 - * Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) of 20 beds or less
 - * Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC)
- **SSI recipients who live in their own household or another's household who pay their share of household expenses and who need at least 40 hours of primary long term support services each month**

Can My Non-Disabled Children Receive Payments?

IF YOU are a single parent receiving SSI (or a couple who both receive SSI) your non-disabled children may qualify for a Caretaker Supplement payment. If eligible, you can get \$250/month for the first child and \$150/month for each additional child. The program is not part of SSI, so you must apply through your county social services department.

APPLICATION

How Do I Apply?

CONTACT THE Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 and they will direct you to your nearest Social Security Office. More information is available on-line at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ssi>