



What is SSI?

SSI, or Supplemental Security Income, is a federal program that provides monthly cash payments to people in need. SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as for blind or disabled people of any age, including children.

To qualify you also must have little or no income and few resources. This means that the value of the things you own must be less than \$2,000 if you are single or less than \$3,000 if you are married. The value of your home does not count. Usually, the value of your car does not count. And the value of certain other resources, such as a burial plot, may not count either.

To get SSI, you also must apply for any other cash benefits you may be able to get.

You must live in the United States or Northern Mariana Islands to get SSI. If you are not a U.S. citizen, but you are a resident, you still may be able to get SSI. For more information, ask for a copy of *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) For Noncitizens* (Publication No. 05-11051).

The District of Columbia adds money to the federal payment for individuals living in Adult Foster Care Homes and for individuals living in Medicaid facilities. Persons in these living arrangements receive a single payment at the beginning of each month that includes both the federal SSI payment and the supplement from the District of Columbia.

Medical assistance

If you get SSI, you usually can get medical assistance (Medicaid) automatically. If you have questions about Medicaid, contact your local department of human services.

Food stamps

If you get SSI, you may be able to get food stamps. Food stamps can be used to help buy more food without spending more money. However, Social Security does not decide if you can get food stamps. If you live in a household where everyone is applying for or getting SSI, you can apply for food stamps at a Social Security office. If not, you must apply at your local department of human services.

Other social services

Other services you may be able to get through your local department of human services include:

- Information, referral and follow-up services;
- Exploration of service needs; and
- Liaison with service providers.

For more information, contact your local department of human services.

