SNAP-FOOD STAMP BENEFITS

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health. You apply for benefits by completing an application form. Benefits are provided on the Link Card - an electronic card that is accepted at most grocery stores.
INCOME LIMITS AND BENEFIT AMOUNTS:
A household might be eligible to receive SNAP benefits if their monthly gross income does not exceed the gross income limits shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross Monthly Income Limit</td>
<td>$1,174</td>
<td>$1,579</td>
<td>$1,984</td>
<td>$2,389</td>
<td>$2,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Monthly Income Limit (For those Age 60 or older OR Disabled)</td>
<td>$1,733</td>
<td>$2,333</td>
<td>$2,933</td>
<td>$3,533</td>
<td>$4,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Benefit</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$367</td>
<td>$526</td>
<td>$668</td>
<td>$793</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Depending on income, this amount could be less.

INTERNET RESOURCE:
Eligibility Calculator: [http://www.dhs.state.il.us/applications/ChildCareEligCalc/eligcalc.asp](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/applications/ChildCareEligCalc/eligcalc.asp)

PAPER RESOURCE:
Mainstream Benefit Referral Worksheet – Use this worksheet to calculate your client’s income, assets and household size to gauge eligibility. You can also screen for Emergency/Expedited Food stamp eligibility.
# Mainstream Benefits Referral Worksheet

**Name of Client:**

To determine the programs to which a particular person should be referred:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1: Determine the person’s monthly income for the most recent month.</th>
<th>$ ____________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 2: Look at the HHS Poverty Guidelines. Determine into which percentage category the person’s income (Line 1a) falls.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Step 3: Determine the type(s) of household;  
  • single adult without children,  
  • aged, blind or disabled,  
  • adult with children in the home (includes pregnant woman)  
  • veteran | |
| Step 4: Look at both patchwork quilt charts. Look down the left column to identify the ‘category’ into which the person falls. Move to the right under the appropriate income bracket as determined in Step 1. | |
| Step 5: Identify the health programs for which the person may qualify. | |
| Step 6: Identify the non health programs for which the person may qualify. | |
| Step 6a: If possibly eligible for Food Stamps, assess potential eligibility for Emergency Food Stamps (below) | |
| Step 7: Complete appropriate application(s) for identified programs. | |
| Step 8: Submit completed application(s) to appropriate office. | |

## Screening tool for Emergency Food Stamps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. How much does the person have in cash, checking, savings or any other liquid assets?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How much income from employment, SSA, SSI, Child support, contributions, or other sources has been received/or is expected to be received during the month?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Total of person’s income and liquid assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How much is the current rent/mortgage payment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Is the person billed for utilities separately from rent/mortgage? Circle one YES NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pick the ONE amount that is most appropriate  
- If YES and billed for heat or air conditioning enter $259, or  
- If YES and billed for at least 2 utilities without heat or air conditioning enter $155, or  
- If YES and billed for 1 utility without heat or air conditioning enter $32  
- If NO but the person has a phone (cell or land line) enter $27  
- If NO and none of the above applies enter $0 |
| 6. Total of rent and utility amount | $ ____________ |
| 7. Subtract line 3 from line 6. | $ ____________ |

If line 3 is less than line 6 the person may be eligible for emergency (expedited Food Stamps). An interview is to be held within 2 days of an application being left at the IDHS office.
While medical programs are administered through the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the public may apply for medical assistance at their Illinois Department of Human Services Local Office (Family Community Resource Center).
All Kids Premiums and Out-of-Pocket Costs Vary by Monthly Income and Family Size

To find out how much All Kids may cost you, follow these 4 simple steps:
1) Find your family size in the column “Family Size.” Be sure to count yourself.
2) Look only at your family size row. Read across that row to the box where your family’s total monthly gross income falls.
3) The box will be in the column of the All Kids plan that matches your income.
4) Read down that column to the cost box at the bottom. The cost box shows the Monthly Premium per child, along with the maximum Monthly Premium for your family, and the Maximum Co-Payments per child, per year.

**INCOME BOX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>All Kids Assist</th>
<th>All Kids Share</th>
<th>All Kids Premium Level 1</th>
<th>All Kids Premium Level 2</th>
<th>All Kids Premium Level 3</th>
<th>All Kids Premium Level 4</th>
<th>All Kids Premium Level 5-7</th>
<th>All Kids Premium Level 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Up to $1,200 per month</td>
<td>$1,201 - 1,354 per month</td>
<td>$1,355 - 1,805 per month</td>
<td>$1,806 - 2,708 per month</td>
<td>$2,709 - 3,610 per month</td>
<td>$3,611 - 4,513 per month</td>
<td>$4,514 - 7,220 per month</td>
<td>$7,221 or more per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Up to $1,615 per month</td>
<td>$1,616 - 1,821 per month</td>
<td>$1,822 - 2,428 per month</td>
<td>$2,429 - 3,643 per month</td>
<td>$3,644 - 4,857 per month</td>
<td>$4,858 - 6,071 per month</td>
<td>$6,072 - 9,713 per month</td>
<td>$9,714 or more per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Up to $2,029 per month</td>
<td>$2,030 - 2,289 per month</td>
<td>$2,290 - 3,052 per month</td>
<td>$3,053 - 4,578 per month</td>
<td>$4,579 - 6,103 per month</td>
<td>$6,104 - 7,629 per month</td>
<td>$7,630 - 12,207 per month</td>
<td>$12,208 or more per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Up to $2,444 per month</td>
<td>$2,445 - 2,756 per month</td>
<td>$2,757 - 3,675 per month</td>
<td>$3,676 - 5,513 per month</td>
<td>$5,514 - 7,350 per month</td>
<td>$7,351 - 9,188 per month</td>
<td>$9,189 - 14,700 per month</td>
<td>$14,701 or more per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Up to $2,858 per month</td>
<td>$2,859 - 3,224 per month</td>
<td>$3,225 - 4,298 per month</td>
<td>$4,299 - 6,448 per month</td>
<td>$6,449 - 8,597 per month</td>
<td>$8,598 - 10,746 per month</td>
<td>$10,747 - 17,193 per month</td>
<td>$17,194 or more per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COST BOX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Premium per child</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>1 child: $15</th>
<th>2 children: $25</th>
<th>Ea. add'l child: $5</th>
<th>$40 per child</th>
<th>$70 per child</th>
<th>$100 per child</th>
<th>$150 - 250 per child</th>
<th>$300 per child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max Monthly Premium</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$40 for 5 or more children</td>
<td>$80 for 2 or more children</td>
<td>$140 for 2 or more children</td>
<td>$200 for 2 or more children</td>
<td>No Cap</td>
<td>No Cap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Co-Payments per Year</td>
<td>No co-payments</td>
<td>$100 per family for all services</td>
<td>$100 per family for all services</td>
<td>$500 per child for hospital services</td>
<td>$750 per child for hospital services</td>
<td>$1,000 per child for hospital services</td>
<td>$5,000 per child for hospital services</td>
<td>No Max</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Income levels for 2010.

www.AllKids.com
1-866-ALL-KIDS (1-866-255-5437) | (TTY: 1-877-204-1012)

HFS 3711AK (R-6-10)
ILLINOIS RESOURCES:

The Illinois Healthcare Portal is the one-stop source for your healthcare needs. The Healthcare Portal can help families sign-up for affordable health insurance programs, prescription drug programs, and help women find free breast and cervical cancer screenings. Visit http://health.illinois.gov/

**FamilyCare:** Health insurance for parents and certain caretaker relatives living with children 18 or younger in Illinois. Call 1-866-All-Kids (1-866-255-5437) (TTY: 1-877-204-1012) or visit www.familycareillinois.com

**All Kids:** Health insurance coverage for Illinois children 18 or younger, regardless of family income. Call 1-866-All-Kids (1-866-255-5437) (TTY: 1-877-204-1012) or visit www.allkids.com

**Illinois Warrior Assistance Program:** Assistance for Illinois Veterans as they transition back to their lives after serving our country. Call 1-866-554-IWAP (1-866-554-4927) or visit www.illinoiswarrior.com

**Veterans Care:** Health insurance for uninsured Illinois veterans who have the least access to reliable healthcare. Call 1-877-4VETSRX (1-877-483-8779) (TTY: 1-877-204-1012) or visit www.illinoisveteranscare.com

**Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program:** Provides free mammograms, breast exams, pelvic exams and Pap tests, and treatment to all uninsured Illinois women ages 35-64, regardless of income. Call 1-888-522-1282 (TTY: 1-800-547-0466) or visit www.cancerscreening.illinois.gov

**Illinois Healthy Women:** covers family planning/birth control for Illinois women ages 19-44. Call 1-800-226-0768 or visit www.illinoishealthywomen.com

**Illinois Cares Rx:** offers Illinois's low-income seniors and persons with disabilities prescription drug assistance to avoid high out-of-pocket expenses and gaps in coverage created by the Medicare Part D program. Call 1-800-252-8966 or visit www.illinoiscaresrx.com

**Illinois Rx Buying Club:** helps anyone save an average of 24% on hundreds prescription drugs. Call 1-866-215-3462 or visit www.illinoisRxBuyingClub.com

**Health Benefits for Workers with Disabilities:** Working individuals with a disability pay a low monthly premium and receive full medical benefits. Call 1-800-226-0768 (TTY: 1-866-675-8440) or visit www.hbwdidillinois.com
SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security Benefits

INTERNET RESOURCE:

Eligibility Internet Screening:
http://connections.govbenefits.gov/ssa_en.portal
Contact Social Security

Visit our website

Our website, www.socialsecurity.gov, is a valuable resource for information about all of Social Security’s programs. At our website you also can:

• Apply for certain kinds of benefits;
• Get the address of your local Social Security office;
• Request a Social Security Statement or a replacement Medicare card; and
• Find copies of our publications.

Call our toll-free number

In addition to using our website, you also can call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. We treat all calls confidentially. We can answer specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We can provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

We also want to make sure you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some telephone calls.
Disability benefits

Disability is something most people do not like to think about. But the chances that you will become disabled probably are greater than you realize. Studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a 3-in-10 chance of becoming disabled before reaching retirement age.

This booklet provides basic information on Social Security disability benefits and is not intended to answer all questions. For specific information about your situation, you should talk with a Social Security representative.

We pay disability benefits through two programs: the Social Security disability insurance program and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. This booklet is about the Social Security disability program. For information about the SSI disability program for adults, see Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (Publication No. 05-11000). For information about disability programs for children, refer to Benefits For Children With Disabilities (Publication No. 05-10026). Our publications are available online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Who can get Social Security disability benefits?

Social Security pays benefits to people who cannot work because they have a medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or result in death. Federal law requires this very strict definition of disability. While some programs give money to people with partial disability or short-term disability, Social Security does not.

Certain family members of disabled workers also can receive money from Social Security. This is explained on page 13.
How do I meet the earnings requirement for disability benefits?

In general, to get disability benefits, you must meet two different earnings tests:
1. A “recent work” test based on your age at the time you became disabled; and
2. A “duration of work” test to show that you worked long enough under Social Security.

Certain blind workers have to meet only the “duration of work” test.

The table on page 6 shows the rules for how much work you need for the “recent work” test based on your age when your disability began. The rules in this table are based on the calendar quarter in which you turned or will turn a certain age.

The calendar quarters are:
- First Quarter: January 1 through March 31
- Second Quarter: April 1 through June 30
- Third Quarter: July 1 through September 30
- Fourth Quarter: October 1 through December 31

Rules for work needed for the “recent work test”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you become disabled...</th>
<th>Then you generally need:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In or before the quarter you turn age 24</td>
<td>1.5 years of work during the three-year period ending with the quarter your disability began.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the quarter after you turn age 24 but before the quarter you turn age 31</td>
<td>Work during half the time for the period beginning with the quarter after you turned 21 and ending with the quarter you became disabled. Example: If you become disabled in the quarter you turned age 27, then you would need three years of work out of the six-year period ending with the quarter you became disabled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the quarter you turn age 31 or later</td>
<td>Work during five years out of the 10-year period ending with the quarter your disability began.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table shows examples of how much work you need to meet the “duration of work test” if you become disabled at various selected ages. For the “duration of work” test, your work does not have to fall within a certain period of time.

**NOTE:** This table does not cover all situations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of work needed for the “duration of work” test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If you become disabled...</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before age 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do I apply for disability benefits?

There are two ways that you can apply for disability benefits. You can:
1. Apply online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov); or
2. Call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, to make an appointment to file a disability claim at your local Social Security office or to set up an appointment for someone to take your claim over the telephone. The disability claims interview lasts about one hour. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. If you schedule an appointment, we will send you a Disability Starter Kit to help you get ready for your disability claims interview. The Disability Starter Kit also is available online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

When should I apply and what information do I need?

You should apply for disability benefits as soon as you become disabled. **It can take a long time to process an application for disability benefits (three to five months).** To apply for disability benefits, you will need to complete an application for Social Security Benefits and the Disability Report. You can complete the Disability Report online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityreport](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityreport). You also can print the Disability Report, complete it and return it to your local Social Security office. We may be able to process your application faster if you help us by getting any other information we need.

The information we need includes:
- Your Social Security number;
- Your birth or baptismal certificate;
- Names, addresses and phone numbers of the doctors, caseworkers, hospitals and clinics that took care of you and dates of your visits;
- Names and dosage of all the medicine you take;
- Medical records from your doctors, therapists, hospitals, clinics and caseworkers that you already have in your possession;
- Laboratory and test results;
- A summary of where you worked and the kind of work you did; and
- A copy of your most recent W-2 Form (Wage and Tax Statement) or, if you are self-employed, your federal tax return for the past year.

In addition to the basic application for disability benefits, there are other forms you will need to fill out. One form collects information about your medical condition and how it affects your ability to work. Other forms give doctors, hospitals and other health care professionals who have treated you permission to send us information about your medical condition.

Do not delay applying for benefits if you cannot get all of this information together quickly. We will help you get it.

Who decides if I am disabled?

We will review your application to make sure you meet some basic requirements for disability benefits. We will check whether you worked enough years to qualify. Also, we will evaluate any current work activities. If you meet these requirements, we will send your application to the Disability Determination Services office in your state.

This state agency completes the disability decision for us. Doctors and disability specialists in the state agency ask your doctors for information about your condition. They will consider all the facts in your case. They will use the medical evidence from your doctors and hospitals, clinics or institutions where you have been treated and all other information. They will ask your doctors:
- What your medical condition is;
- When your medical condition began;
• How your medical condition limits your activities;
• What the medical tests have shown; and
• What treatment you have received.
They also will ask the doctors for information about your ability to do work-related activities, such as walking, sitting, lifting, carrying and remembering instructions. Your doctors are not asked to decide if you are disabled.

The state agency staff may need more medical information before they can decide if you are disabled. If more information is not available from your current medical sources, the state agency may ask you to go for a special examination. We prefer to ask your own doctor, but sometimes the exam may have to be done by someone else. Social Security will pay for the exam and for some of the related travel costs.

**How we make the decision**

We use a five-step process to decide if you are disabled.

1. **Are you working?**
   If you are working and your earnings average more than a certain amount each month, we generally will not consider you disabled. The amount changes each year. For the current figure, see the annual Update (Publication No. 05-10003).
   If you are not working, or your monthly earnings average the current amount or less, the state agency then looks at your medical condition.

2. **Is your medical condition “severe”?**
   For the state agency to decide that you are disabled, your medical condition must significantly limit your ability to do basic work activities—such as walking, sitting and remembering—for at least one year. If your medical condition is not that severe, the state agency will not consider you disabled. If your condition is that severe, the state agency goes on to step three.

3. **Is your medical condition on the List of Impairments?**
   The state agency has a List of Impairments that describes medical conditions that are considered so severe that they automatically mean that you are disabled as defined by law. If your condition (or combination of medical conditions) is not on this list, the state agency looks to see if your condition is as severe as a condition that is on the list. If the severity of your medical condition meets or equals that of a listed impairment, the state agency will decide that you are disabled. If it does not, the state agency goes on to step four.

4. **Can you do the work you did before?**
   At this step, the state agency decides if your medical condition prevents you from being able to do the work you did before. If it does not, the state agency will decide that you are not disabled. If it does, the state agency goes on to step five.

5. **Can you do any other type of work?**
   If you cannot do the work you did in the past, the state agency looks to see if you would be able to do other work. It evaluates your medical condition, your age, education, past work experience and any skills you may have that could be used to do other work. If you cannot do other work, the state agency will decide that you are disabled. If you can do other work, the state agency will decide that you are not disabled.

**Special rules for blind people**

There are a number of other special rules for people who are blind. For more information, ask for If You Are Blind Or Have Low Vision—How We Can Help (Publication No. 05-10052).

**We will tell you our decision**

When the state agency reaches a decision on your case, we will send you a letter. If your application is approved, the letter will show the amount of your benefit and
when your payments start. If your application is not approved, the letter will explain why and tell you how to appeal the decision if you do not agree with it.

What if I disagree?
If you disagree with a decision made on your claim, you can appeal it. The steps you can take are explained in The Appeals Process [Publication No. 05-10041], which is available from Social Security.

You have the right to be represented by an attorney or other qualified person of your choice when you do business with Social Security. More information is in Your Right To Representation [Publication No. 05-10075], which is also available from Social Security.

How we will contact you
Generally, we use the mail or call you on the phone when we want to contact you about your benefits, but sometimes a Social Security representative may come to your home. Our representative will show you identification before talking about your benefits. It is a good idea to call the Social Security office to ask if someone was sent to see you.

If you are blind or have low vision, you can choose to receive notices from us in one of five ways. Your choices are:
- A standard print notice by first-class mail; or
- A standard print notice by certified mail; or
- A standard print notice by first-class mail and a follow-up telephone call to read and explain the information in the notice; or
- A standard print notice and a Braille notice by first-class mail; or
- A standard print notice and a Microsoft Word file on a compact disc by first-class mail.

Other formats also may be available. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/notices or call us toll-free at 1-877-708-1776. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number at 1-800-325-0778.

What happens when my claim is approved?
When do my benefits start?
If your application is approved, your first Social Security disability benefits will be paid for the sixth full month after the date your disability began.

Here is an example: If the state agency decides your disability began on January 15, your first disability benefit will be paid for the month of July. Social Security benefits are paid in the month following the month for which they are due, so you will receive your July benefit in August.

You also will receive What You Need To Know When You Get Disability Benefits [Publication No. 05-10153], which gives you important information about your benefits and tells you what changes you must report to us.

How much will my benefits be?
The amount of your monthly disability benefit is based on your average lifetime earnings. The Social Security Statement that you receive each year displays your lifetime earnings and provides an estimate of your disability benefit. It also includes estimates of retirement and survivors benefits that you or your family may be eligible to receive in the future. If you do not have your Social Security Statement and would like an estimate of your disability benefit, you can request one from our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.
Can my family get benefits?

Certain members of your family may qualify for benefits based on your work. They include:

- Your spouse, if he or she is 62 or older;
- Your spouse, at any age if he or she is caring for a child of yours who is younger than age 16 or disabled;
- Your unmarried child, including an adopted child, or, in some cases, a stepchild or grandchild. The child must be younger than age 18 or younger than 19 if in elementary or secondary school full time; and
- Your unmarried child, age 18 or older, if he or she has a disability that started before age 22. (The child’s disability also must meet the definition of disability for adults.)

NOTE: In some situations, a divorced spouse may qualify for benefits based on your earnings if he or she was married to you for at least 10 years, is not currently married and is at least age 62. The money paid to a divorced spouse does not reduce your benefit or any benefits due to your current spouse or children.

How do other payments affect my benefits?

If you are getting other government benefits, the amount of your Social Security disability benefits may be affected. For more information, you should see the following:

- How Workers’ Compensation And Other Disability Payments May Affect Your Benefits (Publication No. 05-10018);
- Windfall Elimination Provision (Publication No. 05-10045); and
- Government Pension Offset (Publication No. 05-10007).

You can get these publications from our website, or you can contact us to request them.

What do I need to tell Social Security?

If you have an outstanding warrant for your arrest

You must tell us if you have an outstanding arrest warrant for any of the following felony offenses:

- Flight to avoid prosecution or confinement;
- Escape from custody; and
- Flight-escape.

You cannot receive regular disability benefits, or any underpayments you may be due for any month in which there is an outstanding arrest warrant for any of these felony offenses.

If you are convicted of a crime

Tell Social Security right away if you are convicted of a crime. Regular disability benefits or any underpayments that may be due are not paid for the months a person is confined for a crime, but any family members who are eligible for benefits based on that person’s work may continue to receive benefits.

Monthly benefits or any underpayments that may be due usually are not paid to someone who commits a crime and is confined to an institution by court order and at public expense. This applies if the person has been found:

- Not guilty by reason of insanity or similar factors (such as mental disease, mental defect or mental incompetence); or
- Incompetent to stand trial.

If you violate a condition of parole or probation

You must tell us if you are violating a condition of your probation or parole imposed under federal or state law. You cannot receive regular disability benefits or any underpayment that may be due for any month in which you violate a condition of your probation or parole.
When do I get Medicare?

You will get Medicare coverage automatically after you have received disability benefits for two years.

Can I go back to work?

After you start receiving disability benefits, you may want to try working again. There are special rules that help you keep your cash benefits and Medicare while you test your ability to work. We call these rules “work incentives” or “employment support” programs.

For more information about helping you return to work, ask for Working While Disabled—How We Can Help (Publication No. 05-10095). A guide to all our employment supports can be found in our Red Book, A Summary Guide to Employment Support for Individuals with Disabilities Under the Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income Programs (Publication No. 64-030). Also visit our website, www.socialsecurity.gov/work.

The Ticket to Work Program

Under this program, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability beneficiaries can get help with training and other services they need to go to work at no cost to them. Most beneficiaries will receive a “ticket” that they can take to a provider of their choice who can offer the kind of services they need. To learn more about this program, ask for Your Ticket To Work (Publication No. 05-10061).
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Visit our website

Our website, www.socialsecurity.gov, is a valuable resource for information about all of Social Security’s programs. At our website you also can:

- Apply for certain kind of benefits;
- Get the address of your local Social Security office;
- Request a Social Security Statement, a replacement Medicare card; and
- Find copies of our publications.

Call our 1-800 number

In addition to using our website, you also can call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. We can answer specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We can provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

We treat all calls confidentially. We also want to make sure you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some telephone calls.
What's Inside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is SSI?</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules for getting SSI</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to apply for SSI</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You may be able to get other help</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You may be able to get Social Security</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

This booklet explains what Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is, who can get it and how to apply. It provides basic information and is not intended to answer all questions. For specific information about your situation, you should talk with a Social Security representative.

The SSI program makes payments to people with low income who are age 65 or older or are blind or have a disability.

The Social Security Administration manages the SSI program. Even though Social Security manages the program, SSI is not paid for by Social Security taxes. SSI is paid for by U.S. Treasury general funds, not the Social Security trust funds.

### What is SSI?

SSI makes monthly payments to people who have low income and few resources and are:
- Age 65 or older;
- Blind; or
- Disabled.

If you are applying for SSI, you also should ask for *What You Need To Know When You Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI)* (Publication No. 05-11011).

Disabled or blind children also can receive SSI. You can get more information in *Benefits For Children With Disabilities* (Publication No. 05-10026).

The basic SSI amount is the same nationwide. However, many states add money to the basic benefit. You can call us to find out the amounts for your state.
Rules for getting SSI

Your income and resources

Whether you can get SSI depends on your income and resources (the things you own).

Income

Income is money you receive such as wages, Social Security benefits and pensions. Income also includes such things as food and shelter. The amount of income you can receive each month and still get SSI depends partly on where you live. You can call us to find out the income limits in your state.

Social Security does not count all of your income when we decide whether you qualify for SSI. For example, we do not count:

- The first $20 a month of most income you receive;
- The first $65 a month you earn from working and half the amount over $65;
- Food stamps;
- Shelter you get from private nonprofit organizations; and
- Most home energy assistance.

If you are married, we also include part of your spouse’s income and resources when deciding whether you qualify for SSI. If you are younger than age 18, we include part of your parents’ income and resources. And, if you are a sponsored noncitizen, we may include your sponsor’s income and resources.

If you are a student, some of the wages or scholarships you receive may not count.

If you are disabled but work, Social Security does not count wages you use to pay for items or services that help you to work. For example, if you need a wheelchair, the wages you use to pay for the wheelchair do not count as income when we decide whether you qualify for SSI.

Also, Social Security does not count any wages a blind person uses for work expenses. For example, if a blind person uses wages to pay for transportation to and from work, the wages used to pay the transportation cost are not counted as income.

If you are disabled or blind, some of the income you use [or save] for training or to buy things you need to work may not count.

Resources (things you own)

Resources that we count in deciding whether you qualify for SSI include real estate, bank accounts, cash, stocks and bonds.

You may be able to get SSI if your resources are worth no more than $2,000. A couple may be able to get SSI if they have resources worth no more than $3,000. If you own property that you are trying to sell, you may be able to get SSI while trying to sell it.

Social Security does not count everything you own in deciding whether you have too many resources to qualify for SSI. For example, we do not count:

- The home you live in and the land it is on;
- Life insurance policies with a face value of $1,500 or less;
- Your car [usually];
- Burial plots for you and members of your immediate family; and
- Up to $1,500 in burial funds for you and up to $1,500 in burial funds for your spouse.
Other rules you must meet

To get SSI, you must live in the U.S. or the Northern Mariana Islands and be a U.S. citizen or national. In some cases, noncitizen residents can qualify for SSI. For more information, ask for *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) For Noncitizens* [Publication No. 05-11051].

If you are eligible for Social Security or other benefits, you should apply for them. You can get SSI and other benefits if you are eligible for both.

If you live in certain types of institutions, you may get SSI.

- If you live in a city or county rest home, halfway house or other public institution, you usually cannot get SSI. But there are some exceptions.
- If you live in a publicly operated community residence that serves no more than 16 people, you may get SSI.
- If you live in a public institution mainly to attend approved educational or job training to help you get a job, you may get SSI.
- If you live in a public emergency shelter for the homeless, you may get SSI.
- If you live in a public or private institution and Medicaid is paying more than half the cost of your care, you may get a small SSI benefit.

How to apply for SSI

If you are applying for SSI, you can complete a large part of your application by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). You also can call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 to ask for an appointment with a Social Security representative.

Parents or guardians usually can apply for blind or disabled children under age 18. In some cases, other third parties can apply for children.

You should bring certain items when you apply. Even if you do not have all of the things listed below, apply anyway. The people in the Social Security office can help you get whatever is needed. Please bring:

- Your Social Security card or a record of your Social Security number;
- Your birth certificate or other proof of your age;
- Information about the home where you live, such as your mortgage or your lease and landlord’s name;
- Payroll slips, bank books, insurance policies, burial fund records and other information about your income and the things you own;
- The names, addresses and telephone numbers of doctors, hospitals and clinics that you have been to, if you are applying for SSI because you are disabled or blind;
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen status.

You also should bring your checkbook or other papers that show your bank, credit union or savings and loan account number so we can have your benefits deposited directly into your account. Direct deposit protects benefits from loss, theft and mail delay. The money is always on time and ready to use without making a trip to the bank.
A note for people who are blind or disabled

If you work, there are special rules to help you. You may be able to keep getting SSI payments while you work. As you earn more money, your SSI payments may be reduced or stopped, but you may be able to keep your Medicaid coverage.

You also may be able to set aside some money for a work goal or to go to school. In this case, the money you set aside will not reduce the amount of your SSI.

Blind or disabled people who apply for SSI may get free special services to help them work. These services may include counseling, job training and help in finding work.

You can get more information in Working While Disabled—How We Can Help (Publication No. 05-10095).

Right to appeal

If you disagree with a decision made on your claim, you can appeal it. The steps you can take are explained in Your Right To Question A Decision Made On Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Claim (Publication No. 05-11008).

You have the right to be represented by an attorney or other qualified person of your choice. More information is in Your Right To Representation (Publication No. 05-10075).

You may be able to get other help

If you get SSI, you also may be able to get help from your state or county. For example, you may be able to get Medicaid, food stamps or other social services. Call your local social services department or public welfare office for information about the services available in your community.

Food stamps

If everyone in your home signs up for SSI or gets SSI, Social Security will help you fill out the food stamp application.

If you do not live in a home where everyone signs up for SSI or gets SSI, you must go to your local food stamp office to get food stamps. You can get more information about food stamps by visiting our website or calling us to get Food Stamps And Other Nutrition Programs (Publication No. 05-10100).

Medicaid

When you get SSI, you also may get Medicaid which helps pay doctor and hospital bills. Your local welfare or medical assistance office can give you information about Medicaid.

Help paying for Medicare

If you get Medicare and have low income and few resources, your state may pay your Medicare premiums and, in some cases, other Medicare expenses such as deductibles and coinsurance. Only your state can decide if you qualify. To find out if you do, contact your state or local welfare office or Medicaid agency. You can get more information about these programs from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by calling the Medicare toll-free number, 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call TTY 1-877-486-2048.

You also may be able to get extra help paying for the annual deductibles, monthly premiums and prescription co-payments related to the Medicare prescription drug program (Part D). You may qualify for extra help if you have limited income (tied to the
federal poverty level) and limited resources. These income and resource limits change each year and are not the same as the SSI income and resource limits. You can contact Social Security for the current numbers.

If you have both Medicaid with prescription drug coverage and Medicare, Medicare and SSI, or if your state pays for your Medicare premiums, you automatically will get this extra help and you don’t need to apply.

You may be able to get Social Security

If you have worked and paid into Social Security long enough, you also may be eligible for Social Security benefits while you are receiving SSI. Retirement benefits can be paid to people age 62 or older and their families. Disability benefits go to people with disabilities and their families. Survivors benefits are paid to the families of workers who have died. If you think you may qualify for Social Security benefits, call us to make an appointment to talk with a Social Security representative.
The mission of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is to assist low income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs.
LIHEAP Enrollment Dates:
Seniors & Residents with Disabilities
September 1, 2010
Families with children under 5 years of age and disconnected households
October 1, 2010
General Enrollment
November 1, 2010
Eligible applicants may receive a one-time bill payment toward your gas or propane and electric utility bills. Applicants may receive one grant per household per program year.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)
The LIHEAP is designed to assist income eligible households to pay for winter energy services, in the form of one-time payments to utility companies that are applied directly to the household’s energy bills. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type and geographic location.

INCOME GUIDELINES (EFFECTIVE JULY 6, 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>*Gross Income for 30 Days Prior to Application Date 150% of Federal Poverty Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$ 1,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$ 1,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$ 2,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>$ 3,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$ 3,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$ 4,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$ 4,626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each additional family member add $467.50

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period to the application date.
- Current copy of heat and electric bills (if you pay for your home energy directly)
  - Bill must show rates and meter readings
  - The date of the utility bill must be issued within the last 30 days.
- Proof of Social Security Numbers of all household members
- If a member of your household receives TANF, you must bring their Medical Eligibility Card
- Applicants that have their utilities included in the rent must bring proof of rental agreement stating monthly rental amount, that utilities are included, and landlord contact information. (Rent costs must be greater than 30% of household gross income for 30 days prior to application).

For More Information Contact:
CEDA Energy Hotline
(800) 571-CEDA (2332)
The Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) makes it possible for families who qualify to receive financial assistance in paying for childcare. Parents must be engaged in a qualifying activity such as work and/or school to be eligible. Parents must also meet income and family size guidelines that have been set according to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

**Eligibility Calculator:**

http://www.dhs.state.il.us/applications/ChildCareEligCalc/eligcalc.asp
FAMILY RESOURCES

"With the assistance of Illinois Action for Children... my family became more self sufficient."

— Darnice

Paying for Child Care

The Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) makes it possible for families who qualify to receive financial assistance in paying for child care. Parents must be engaged in a qualifying activity such as work and/or school to be eligible. Parents must also meet income and family size guidelines that have been set according to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Getting Started:

1. Determine your gross monthly income based on all sources of income.
2. Use the chart or the Eligibility Calculator in the sidebar on the right to determine if you may be eligible to apply.
3. Identify your child care provider. (see the Finding Child Care page)
4. Download and print the Child Care Application and all other required documents. (see the CCAP Forms page)
5. Read all documents in their entirety prior to completing and submitting your application.
6. Make sure that you and your provider sign the application.
7. Submit your completed application via mail, fax, drop box, or walk-in.
8. Allow ten business days from the day of receipt for your application to be reviewed.

Eligibility Calculator

- Use the Eligibility Calculator to see if you are eligible for child care assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Monthly Income</th>
<th>Annual Income</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$6,169</td>
<td>$74,028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to expedite processing of your application it is important that you read all documents in detail. It is also important that you submit a complete application that includes the required supporting documentation. If you need assistance in completing the application or other documents please contact our office for help. To download CCAP forms and other information, please see the CCAP Forms page.

*Please note that state authorized databases will be used to clarify information submitted to our offices. These databases include, but are not limited to, TANF, Child Support Enforcement, Wage Verification, birth records, Social Security Administration, employment security, Department of Labor, and Chicago Public Schools.

webmaster [at] actforchildren.org | Privacy | Sitemap
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http://www.actforchildren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Family_PayChildCare
EMERGENCY FUNDS

Homelessness Prevention Funds

Internet Link:
http://www.emergencyfund.org
Eligibility criteria for the Prevention Program

- Chicago residents or those moving to Chicago
- Households in imminent danger of eviction
- Households in imminent danger of foreclosure
- Households in imminent danger of homelessness
- Households that are currently homeless (note: they need to be able to document their ability to afford rent and utilities in the future without this assistance)
- **ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST BE ABLE TO DOCUMENT A TEMPORARY ECONOMIC CRISIS BEYOND ITS CONTROL:**
  - Loss of employment
  - Medical disability or emergency
  - Loss or delay of a public benefit
  - Natural disaster
  - Substantial change in household composition
  - Victimization by criminal activity
  - Illegal action by a landlord
  - Displacement by government or private action
  - Other conditions constituting a hardship comparable to the others on this list.

Types and amounts of assistance

- No more than one instance of assistance (up to $1500 depending on the need) can be given to any one individual or household in a 2 year period (this is a “rolling” 2 years). Exceptions to this can only be approved by state staff.
- Payments can’t exceed 3 months of rent or mortgage arrears
- Payments can’t exceed 2 months of rent or mortgage costs
- Any payments for security deposits must match the client’s lease
- Utility bills can be paid up to the cap of $1500 but the focus is on how much assistance is required to stop the shut-off and help the individual or family get on a payment plan.

The process for referrals

- People who meet the criteria listed above should call “311” and ask for “short-term help” so they can be assessed for assistance.

If money is available and the caller meets the criteria of the program he/she will be referred to one of our partners to complete the application process.

**Need Help?** If you live in Chicago, dial 3-1-1 (or 312-744-5000) and ask for "Short-Term Help" to be screened for the Emergency Fund's financial assistance.