

Making Work Incentives Work for You

An Overview of Social Security Benefits
Planning

Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI)

»» Definition

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

- ▶ SSDI provides benefits to disabled or blind persons who are “insured” by workers’ contributions to the Social Security trust fund. These contributions are based on your earnings (or those of your spouse or parents) as required by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA). Title II of the Social Security Act authorizes SSDI benefits. Your dependents may also be eligible for benefits from your earnings record.

<https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/overview-disability.htm>.

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Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

»» Definition

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- ▶ The SSI program makes cash assistance payments to aged, blind, and disabled persons (including children) who have limited income and resources. The Federal Government funds SSI from general tax revenues. Many states pay a supplemental benefit to persons in addition to their Federal benefits. Some of these states have made arrangements with us to combine their supplemental payment with our Federal SSI payment into one monthly check to you. Other states manage their own programs and make their payments separately. Title XVI of the Social Security Act authorizes SSI benefits.

<https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/overview-disability.htm>

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When You Receive Both SSDI and SSI

SSDI and SSI

- ▶ We use the term “concurrent” to describe persons who are eligible for disability benefits under both the SSDI and SSI programs.

<https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/overview-disability.htm>

SSA 2017 Red Book



Social Security and Supplemental Security (SSI) Income

»» What's the difference?

See Handout

What is a Work Incentive?

- ▶ Special rules make it possible for people with disabilities receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to work and still receive monthly payments and Medicare or Medicaid. Social Security calls these rules "work incentives."

<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/workincentives.htm>

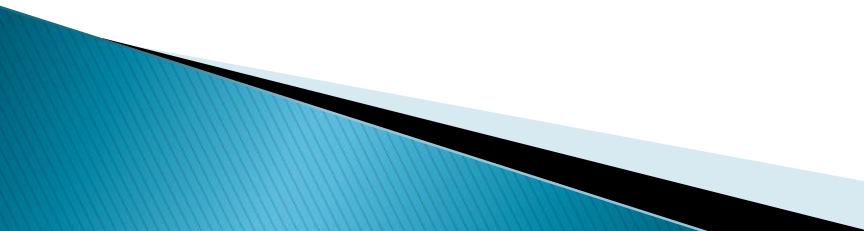
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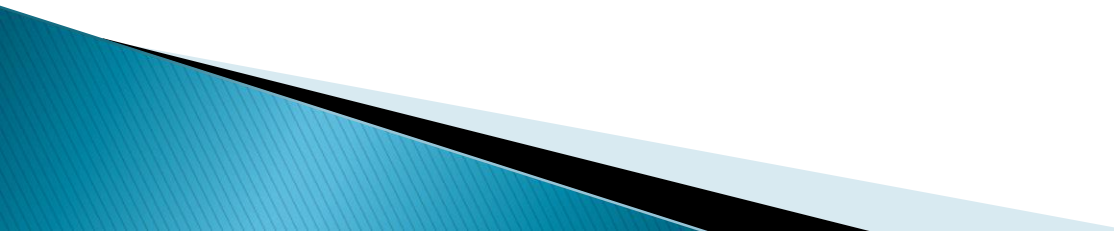
Work Incentives

» SSDI and SSI

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

- ▶ Trial Work Period (TWP)
 - ▶ Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
 - ▶ Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
 - ▶ Blind Work Expense (BWE)
 - ▶ Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
 - ▶ Extended Medicare (EPMC)
 - ▶ Ticket to Work
 - ▶ Unsuccessful Work Attempt (UWA)
 - ▶ Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS)
 - ▶ Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)
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Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- ▶ Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS)
 - ▶ 1619 (a)
 - ▶ 1619 (b)
 - ▶ Earned Income Exclusion (EIE)
 - ▶ Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
 - ▶ Property Essential to Self Support (PESS)
 - ▶ Blind Work Expense (BWE)
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Medicaid

Medicaid Related to SSI Eligibility

Receipt of SSI

An SSI cash payment of even \$1.00 will mean that an individual is categorically eligible for Medicaid. Apply through Access Nebraska to activate the Medicaid.

1619(b) Status (work incentive)

Loss of SSI due to Work

Continued Medicaid eligibility for working individuals whose earned income is too high to qualify for SSI cash payments, but not high enough to offset the loss of Medicaid. In Nebraska you can earn up to \$38,326 (or even higher) and keep Medicaid as long as all other SSI eligibility criteria are met.

Special Medicaid Beneficiary (aka "DAC")

Loss of SSI Due to Change in Title II Benefit

Ex. – Cost of living adjustment (COLA) eliminates the SSI eligibility

Ex. – Entitlement or increase in Childhood Disability Payment (CDB)

Resource Limit= \$2000

Other Medicaid Options

100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

- Individuals with disabilities with COUNTABLE income below the FPL can qualify for Medicaid.

2017

100% FPL = \$1005

Over 100% FPL

Spend-down

- Purchase qualifying private health insurance policies.
- Other disregards may also be available.

Share of Cost

(Medically Needy)

- Individual is responsible for a specified amount each month before Medicaid becomes effective.

MIWD

Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities

- Work Incentive Program for individuals whose income is over FPL due to work.
- Must be earning at a certain amount (TWP level earnings)
- Up to 200% FPL
- Up to 250% FPL with premium

Resource Limit = \$2,000

What is a Benefits Summary and Analysis?

Benefits Summary and Analysis

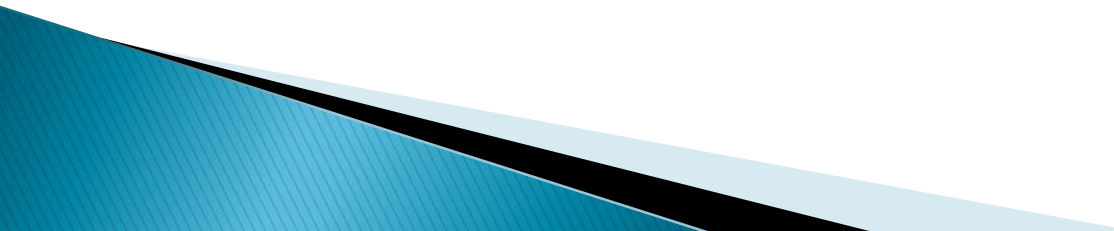
- ▶ The BS&A is a written report that summarizes the beneficiary's current benefit status, answers specific questions posed by the beneficiary, and documents case-specific information about the past, current, and future use of work incentives that support a beneficiary's work and earnings goal.

<https://vcu-ntdc.org/resources/ntcmanual.cfm>

2017 CWIC Manual



What is the purpose of the Benefits Summary and Analysis?

- ▶ Offers verified written documentation of current benefits status.
 - ▶ Explains how achieving a specific employment and earnings goal will affect benefits.
 - ▶ Describes applicable work incentives.
 - ▶ Provides basis of common understanding for beneficiary, parents, VR, other involved parties.
 - ▶ Documents information and advice given.
 - ▶ Provides a clear “snapshot” of the person’s benefits at a point in time.
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Who is recommended to get a
benefits summary and analysis?

- ▶ Anyone who is receiving SSI or a Title II benefit such as SSDI benefit who is interested in how specific employment and earnings goals will affect their benefits

How to obtain a Benefits Summary and Analysis?

Contact:

- ▶ A Certified Work Incentives Counselor (CWIC)
- ▶ A Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor (CPWIC)
 - If you have questions not answered here, call the Ticket to Work Helpline toll-free at **1-866-968-7842** (TTY **1-866-833-2967**). The Ticket to Work program helps you, free of charge, to get vocational rehabilitation, training, job referrals, and other employment support services.

[Your Ticket to Work – Social Security](https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10061.pdf)

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10061.pdf>





Fact Sheet

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI): What's the difference?

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There is often confusion about Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because you apply for both programs with the Social Security Administration. **But, the programs are different.** The Social Security benefit programs are “entitlement” programs. This means that workers, employers and the self-employed pay for the benefits with their Social Security taxes. The taxes that are collected are put into special trust funds. You qualify for these benefits based on your work history (or your spouse or parent). The amount of the benefit is based on these earnings.

SSI is a needs-based program for people with limited income and resources. Resources are assets or things that you own. The program is paid for by general tax revenues -- not from the Social Security trust funds. The benefit amount is based on Federal and State laws which take into account where you live, who lives with you and what income you receive.

Look at the chart below to help you understand the difference between the two programs.

Social Security

- Benefits based on earnings
- Financed by employer and wage contributions
- No income limit
- No resource limit
- Must have enough work credits
- Medicare
- Benefit Types:
 - Retirement (age 62 & older)
 - Survivor
 - Disability (includes blindness)
- Provides benefits to eligible family members
- Benefit amount based on average lifetime earnings
- Other income does NOT affect benefits
(Except wages may affect benefits under full retirement age or disability benefits)
- Where you live or who lives with you does NOT affect benefits

SSI

- Benefits based on need
- Financed by General Revenues
- Limited income
- Limited resources
- No work credits are required
- Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California)
- Benefit Types:
 - Aged (age 65 and older)
 - Disability (any age, includes children)
 - Blindness (any age, includes children)
- No family benefits
- Benefit amount based on Federal and State laws
- Other income MAY affect benefits – report any income you receive
- Where you live or who lives with you MAY affect benefits – report all changes

Social Security and SSI: What's the difference? – continued

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Social Security

Question:

Mary, a Native American elder, is 67-years old and receives retirement benefits. She retired from her job after working 30 years. She receives \$600 per month. Her daughter and grandson move into her home. Does Mary have to report this to Social Security?

Answer:

No. Mary does not have to report a change in her living arrangements. Social Security benefits are not affected if someone moves into or out of your home or if you move into or out of someone's home.

Question:

Mary just received her quarterly per capita distribution from her tribe's Revenue Sharing Trust Fund. Does she need to report this to Social Security?

Answer:

No. Mary does not need to report her per capita distribution. Mary only needs to report her wages if she returns to work. SOMETIMES earnings from work affect Social Security benefits. A representative will tell you if your earnings will affect your check.

SSI

Question:

John and Lilly, Native American elders, are both 68-years old. They have been receiving SSI benefits for 2 years. Last week, John and Lilly moved in with their son. They both have direct deposit. Do they have to report to Social Security that they now live with their son?

Answer:

Yes. If you receive SSI payments you must report changes in your living arrangements right away. The report must be made to Social Security and not your tribal social worker.

Question:

John just received his quarterly per capita distribution from his tribe's Revenue Sharing Trust Fund. Does he need to report this to Social Security?

Answer:

Yes. John is required to report ALL income he receives from ANY source. Social Security representatives will determine if the income will affect his SSI payments. Since per capita distributions vary by tribe, there are different rules for each type of distribution. When in doubt, report the income to Social Security.

Some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits. Anytime you receive SSI you must report changes in your living arrangements and income. **Social Security representatives are your best source for information.** If you have any questions about your benefits, or you are not sure if you receive Social Security or SSI, please call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. You may also call or visit your local Social Security office. To find out the address of your local office you may call our toll-free number or visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.