

# Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Adults.

## What is SSI?

- SSI is a program through the government's Social Security Administration (SSA) that gives monthly cash assistance to help pay for your (if care for yourself) or your child's (if you have to care for your child) needs like clothing, food and shelter, and medical needs.
- People in Texas who are approved for SSI will also get Medicaid.
- To learn more, you can read this guide: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>
  - It will give you details about the program like benefits, who is eligible, and how to apply.
- Navigate Life Texas has helpful information. Visit their website at: <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/ssi-benefits-for-children-with-disabilities>

## Who can get SSI?

- If your child is getting SSI before 18 years old, the SSA must review their medical condition when they turn 18 to see if they qualify as an adult.
- The rules to qualify for SSI as an adult are different than the rules for children.
  - Before age 18, benefits are based on the family income and assets.
  - After 18, benefits may be based only on the income on the applicant.
  - The SSA uses different medical and non-medical rules, which include a focus on the ability to work, when they decide if an adult can get SSI.

## How to get SSI?

- Call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment.
  - If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, call the TTY number at 1-800-325-0778.
  - If your illness makes it hard for you to go in-person to the Social Security Administration Office, you can ask for an interview on the phone.
- To find your local Social Security Administration office, visit <https://www.ssa.gov/locator/>.
- To apply online, visit <https://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/>

## What do I need to know?

- Fill-out the needed forms.
- When you apply for SSI, make sure to list every healthcare provider that has seen the applicant like, Doctors, Nurse Practitioners (NP's), Physician Assistants (PA's), and Physical, Occupational or Speech Therapists. List them even if they only saw the applicant 1 time.
  - SSA will mail letters to these health care providers and request medical records and more information about the applicant.

- If the appointment is over the phone:
  - Be ready and by your phone 1 hour before and after the appointment time the SSA gives you.
  - Write down the name of your SSA case worker, their phone number & fax number.

## What if SSI is denied?

- If the applicant gets a denial for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you can appeal (a request to review a decision or a grievance) by phone, online or by taking the denial letter in person to any Social Security Administration Office.
- It is important to act quickly once a denial is received.
- Read the denial letter and appeal instructions, as they will include a timeline for making an appeal.
- There are groups that may be able to help with denials of SSI. Here are a couple groups which may be a good start:
  - Disability Rights Texas: <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/en/home/>
  - Texas Parent-to-Parent: <https://www.txp2p.org/services/services-for-parents-pathway-to-adulthood>