

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children and Teens.

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 child's needs like clothing, food and shelter, and medical needs.
- Children 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?

- Children younger than age 18 can get SSI if they meet Social Security's rules for disability for children.
- Their income (how much money your child makes) and resources must be within the limits for them to be eligible.
 - The SSA will look at the income (how much money your family makes) & resources of family members living in your child's household.
 - These rules are in place if your child lives at home. Also, these rules are in place if your child is away at school but returns home from time-to-time and is under your care.

How do I get SSI for my child?

- To apply, 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 child's 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, go to <https://www.ssa.gov/locator/>.

What do I need to know?

- To get ready for your SSI application, read the SSI Disability Starter Kit by going to https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_child_eng.htm.
- Fill out the needed forms.
- Gather the school & medical forms mentioned in the Starter Kit.
- If your appointment is over the phone:

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- 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 my child is denied SSI?

- If you get a denial for your child of Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you can appeal (a request to review a decision or a grievance) by phone, online or by taking your denial letter in-person to any Social Security Administration Office.
- 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>