

SSI Eligibility Guidance

Purpose

This information will clarify what Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is for the purpose of determining eligibility.

Guidance

For eligibility purposes, only SSI (as defined below) qualifies for categorical eligibility. You must have a conversation with the parent when SSI is marked on the application to confirm the correct form of Social Security is counted. Generally, the eligible SSI is for a disability coupled with minimum resources.

Supplemental Security Income Definition

- SSI is a program that provides benefits (monthly check)
- SSI is run through the Social Security Administration (SSA)
- If a family receives this type of benefit, they receive 900 selection points.

To qualify you must be low income and be over age 65; or blind; or disabled.

Generally resources are less than \$2000

- for married adult – if spouse is working, part of the income is counted
- for child – part of parents' income is counted
- must be US citizen and live in US (in some cases can be a non-citizen)
- able to get Medicaid, food stamps

What about the “other” Social Security?

- Social Security also pays benefits monthly and is run by the SSA. However this type of Social Security does not count toward categorical eligibility. Social Security pays benefits for those unable to work due to disability. (E.g. parent was working and paid into Social Security and now can not work due to disability). SSA also pays to family members who are related to the retired individual, deceased individual, or disabled individual (e.g. child receives a monthly check as a result of a parent's death or disability).
- If a parent receives this type of benefit, you compute the income as in every other case and use the income points based on the total household income.

How to Help the Parent

If a parent needs proof of SSI benefits, you and the parent can go to the SSA website. Go to “what you can do online”, then to “request proof of income benefits” and complete the questionnaire. The parent will get the results in 10 days or less.

Resources

www.socialsecurity.gov

Social Security Information Line – 1-800-772-1213