

# Social Security Benefits – How to Apply for SSI

New Mexico

## What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a program that provides cash benefits to adults and children who have disabilities, and who have financial need because of limited income and resources. People over the age of 65 who do not have a disability, but who have limited income and resources may also be able to receive SSI.

People who qualify for SSI receive a monthly check from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to help pay for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing. SSI is different than Social Security retirement benefits and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

## Who is eligible?

Adults and children with disabilities, as defined by the SSA, and who have limited income and resources may be eligible for SSI. People over the age of 65 who do not have a disability, and who have limited income and resources, may also qualify for SSI.

## How to apply for SSI

**To apply as an adult**, who is age 18 or over, call the Social Security Administration or schedule an appointment at a local Social Security office.

**To apply for a child** under the age of 18, call the Social Security Administration or schedule an appointment at a local Social Security office. The person applying for SSI for the child will need to complete an SSI application and a Child Disability Report. The Child Disability Report can be completed online, but the SSI application must be done by phone or in person.

## Documents that may be needed for the application

The Social Security representative who takes the SSI application, over the phone or in person, will ask for certain documents that show:

- Proof of age
- Citizenship or alien status record
- Proof of income
- Proof of resources
- Proof of living arrangements
- Medical sources if filing for someone with a disability
- Work history
- For a child applicant, other information about how their disability affects daily activities

The representative will explain what documents are needed, and a follow-up appointment will be scheduled for the applicant to bring the documents to the Social Security office.

## Remember:

- Make and keep a copy of the application and all submitted documents.
- For more information, visit a local Social Security office or visit their website.
- For a list of Social Security offices around New Mexico and when they are open, visit the Information Network website under Informational Tip Sheets.



**Social Security Administration**  
1-800-772-1213

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**  
[www.ssa.gov/ssi](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi)

**Child Disability Report**  
[secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i3820/main.html](http://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i3820/main.html)

**To find a local Social Security office, visit**  
[secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp](http://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp)

**Parents Reaching Out (PRO)** *For help filling out an SSI application*  
505-247-0192  
1-800-524-5176

**Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC)**  
*For help understanding eligibility and the application process*  
505-266-5022  
1-800-260-5022

## Questions?

Call the CDD Information Network

**1-800-552-8195**

or visit our website at  
[www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet](http://www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet)

Informational Tip Sheets:  
[www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet/tip-sheets.html](http://www.cdd.unm.edu/infonet/tip-sheets.html)