

# Do Children Qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Yes, children can qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI is a federal program that provides financial assistance to disabled individuals, including children, who have limited income and resources. The program is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). To qualify for SSI, a child must meet the following criteria:

**Disability:** The child must have a physical or mental impairment (or a combination of impairments) that causes severe functional limitations and is expected to last for at least 12 continuous months or result in death.

**Income and Resources:** SSI is a needs-based program, so the child must have limited income and resources. Both the child's income and the income of their parents or guardians are considered when determining eligibility. The SSA has specific income and resource limits that must be met.

**Parental Income:** The income of the parents or guardians is considered when determining the child's eligibility. If the child is financially dependent on their parents, the parent's income is considered in the eligibility determination process.

**Application Process:** The child's parent, guardian, or representative can apply for SSI on behalf of the child. The application process typically involves providing detailed

information about the child's medical condition, income, and resources.

It is important to note that the determination of eligibility for SSI is based on individual circumstances, and each case is evaluated on its own merits. If you are considering applying for SSI for a child, it is advisable to contact the Social Security Administration or visit their official website for the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding eligibility criteria and application procedures.

*What are some Social Security Administration (SSA) Programs that aid children?*

The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers several programs that provide financial assistance and support to children in Pennsylvania. Key programs include:

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:** SSI is a needs-based program that provides financial assistance to disabled children with limited income and resources. It helps meet the basic needs of children with disabilities.

**Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB):** CDB is a program that provides benefits to disabled children and adults who became disabled before reaching the age of 22. These benefits are based on the work record of a parent who is retired, disabled, or deceased. Eligible children can receive CDB if their parent receives Social Security retirement or disability benefits and the child meets the definition of disability before attaining age 22, or if the parent has passed away and the child is under 18 years of age.

**Disabled Adult Child (DAC):** Like CDB, DAC provides benefits to disabled individuals who became disabled before the age of 22. DAC benefits are based on the work record of a parent who is retired, disabled, or deceased as well as the disabilities of the individual applying.

**Survivor's Benefits:** Children may be eligible for survivor's benefits if one or both of their parents are deceased, retired, or disabled and had worked long enough to qualify for Social Security benefits. These benefits provide financial support to children who have lost a parent.

**SSI for Disabled Adult Children:** Disabled individuals who became disabled before the age of 22 may also be eligible for SSI as disabled adult children. This program provides financial assistance to those with disabilities and limited income and resources.

It is important to note that eligibility for these programs is determined based on specific criteria, including the child's disability, the work record of parents, and other factors. Families interested in these programs should contact the Social Security Administration or visit their official website for detailed information and assistance in navigating the application process. Local Social Security offices and representatives can provide additional guidance.