

How do I get SSI disability benefits for my child?

What is SSI?

[Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) is a program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that provides a modest monthly income to children and adults with serious disabilities as well as older adults (age 65 and older).



How do I apply for SSI for my child?

Schedule a phone intake with your local social security office.

- **Call the Social Security Administration Call Center** at 800-772-1213 and ask to apply for SSI for your child. The call center representative should:
 - Ask for the caretaker and child's social security numbers as well as the date that the child was found to be disabled.
 - Schedule a phone intake with your local social security office.
- **If wait times are too long**, try calling your local Social Security Office.
 - Enter your zip code in the SSA office locator to find your local office. secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp
 - Call your local office using the following direct numbers.
 - Center City: 1500 JFK Blvd, Suite 2000A, 866-613-3969
 - South: 3336 S Broad St, 877-575-5191
 - Nicetown: 2929 N Broad St, 877-319-0727
 - Northeast: 9300 Ashton Rd, Unit 4, 866-331-7840
 - Aramingo: 3400 Aramingo Ave, 855-248-0233
 - University City: 4240 Market St, 877-445-9977
 - Germantown: 701 E Cheltenham Ave, 866-495-0255



How can I prepare for the phone intake?

- **Collect financial information.** Gather information about all your household income (like wages, cash benefits, pensions, food & shelter provided by others) and resources (bank accounts, retirement/investment accounts, property). SSI has income and resource limits.
- **Collect disability information.** Write down the names, addresses, and dates of recent appointments for all doctors, specialists, hospitals, therapists, schools and early intervention programs that may have records of your child's disability.

How can I help Social Security make a decision?

- **Ask Social Security what records they need** and ask how you can send them documentation that you would like included with your child's application.
- **Provide a written Function Report** (SSA Form 3376 for children age birth to 3 or SSA Form 3377 for children age 3 to 6) and detail what things are hard for your child to do and what kind of help your child gets for activities of daily living.
- **Tell SSA if your address or phone number changes.** Look out for mail from SSA and respond quickly to avoid missing any deadlines.

What can I do if my child is denied?

- **File an appeal** right away for reconsideration and possible hearing.
- **Seek legal help** by contacting an attorney for representation. Community Legal Services (CLS) may be able to provide free representation. For more information, visit clsphila.org/services/ssi-social-security or call 215-981-3700.

