

How to Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

For children

What is SSI?

SSI is a disability program managed by the Social Security Administration. Your child must meet certain medical and financial standards to qualify.

- The disability does not have to be permanent.
- Your child must have a physical or mental condition(s) that very seriously limits his activities.
- The condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or result in death.

How is it helpful?

Children who qualify for SSI receive federal Medicaid and may receive monthly cash aid.

- The cash amount is determined by family income.
- Your child can qualify for SSI even if he has private insurance.
- SSI Medicaid and cash aid can transfer from state to state. Please call your local office if you move.

How do I apply?

Call **800-772-1213** to start your application or apply online at [socialsecurity.gov/childdisabilityreport](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/childdisabilityreport).

Be prepared to provide your child's Social Security number and medical diagnosis, as well as your yearly family income. Keep copies of the files you provide.

- You will set up an interview.
- Plan for it to take several hours.
- It may take place on the phone or at your local Social Security office.
- Be prepared to provide requested files.

What should I expect next?

After your interview, your child's medical records will be reviewed to see if his condition qualifies as a disability.

- It can take three to five months for a decision to be made. It is OK to call and check on your application. You can call Social Security or your Social Security case worker.
- You will receive Social Security's decision by mail.
- If approved, the letter will state when benefits will start.
- If denied, the letter will describe how to appeal the decision and how much time you have to appeal it.

Children's Social Workstaff are available to answer questions regarding these programs. However, allocation of resources are determined by entities not affiliated with Children's.