

DMCPS/MAXIMUS
SSI Advocacy Program

**Supplemental Security Income
Benefits**

What most case managers need to know:

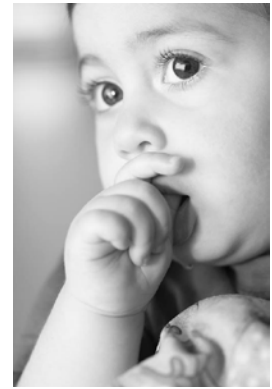
Supplemental Security Income, better known as SSI, is a program administered by the Social Security Administration. It provides cash assistance for children with limited income and resources who have physical, mental and emotional impairment or a combination of impairments, which significantly limits the child's ability to function in an age-appropriate manner.

The Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services receives SSI payments, which are placed into trust accounts and used to offset the cost of care of the child. If the child is reunified, the payments go to the parent. Also, as children age out of the system, they may continue to be eligible as adults for SSI.

At times the trust may accumulate funds that can be used to meet other special needs of the child. The following are examples of special services that may be covered:

- > Personal needs assistance
- > Special Medical Equipment
- > Housing Modifications
- > Therapy or rehabilitation services
- > Educational needs
- > Transportation

**Children
Who May
Be eligible
For SSI:**



- Currently receiving or have received psychiatric care;
- Are, or have been, in residential care facilities and/or specialized foster care;
- Currently receive special education services;
- Receive regular counseling/therapy;
- Received or receive services for developmental delays;
- Have severe learning, emotional, and/or behavioral problems;
- Are mentally disabled;
- Receive intensive medical services or treatment;
- Were born premature with very low birth weights;
- Display inappropriate social, personal, communicative and motor skills.

Some foster children who have qualifying SSI disabilities are not receiving the benefits and have never been referred for SSI.

If you think a child on your caseload may qualify, please contact Sarah Maley.

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List of SSI Eligible Disabilities

A child might be eligible if he/she has been diagnosed with the following diagnosis and/or meet the criteria mentioned below:

- ADHD
- Anxiety Disorder
- Asthma
- Autistic Disorders
- Behavioral Disorder
- Cardiovascular System Disorders
- Cerebral Palsy
- Developmental Disorders
- Diabetes
- Down Syndrome
- Eating Disorder
- Emotional Disorder
- Enrolled in Special Education
- Failure to thrive
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Growth Impairments
- Hearing/Visual Impairments
- History of sexual abuse and/or sexually inappropriate behavior
- HIV+/ AIDS
- Hypoglycemia
- Low IQ scores - 70 and under
- Mental Disorder
- Mental Retardation
- Mood Disorder
- Motor Dysfunction
- Multiple Body Dysfunction
- Neoplastic Diseases
- Paranoia
- Personality Disorders
- Premature Birth Low Birth Weight
- Problems with concentration, persistence and pace
- Psychiatric Hospitalizations
- Schizophrenia
- Seizures
- Social isolation
- Suicidal Ideation, Depression and/or Psychosis
- Therapy- Occupational, Physical, Speech

What information is necessary to prove a child is disabled?

As you know, any claim is not complete without proper documentation. In order to prove a disability, SSI requires current medical, therapeutic, and educational information. When submitting a referral, in order to prove a referral, it is recommended that you have the following records available. If you do not have recent records, please request them at the point of referral.

- Current Court/Disposition Order
- Current Individualized Education Plan from the child's school
- Most current report card
- Speech/Language Evaluations
- Therapy Progress reports - occupational, physical, speech
- Counseling Notes
- Mental Health Assessments - Psychological or Psychiatric Evaluations
- List of Medications
- Medical and Hospitalizations Records

SSA Benefits & Social Security Cards

In addition to SSI claims, advocates can also apply for SSA benefits and Social Security cards for children in care of the DMCP. SSA is a benefit for children whose parents are deceased or permanently disabled but who had previously worked enough time to earn SSA benefits for their children. Just like SSI claims, documentation is needed to file an SSA claim.

SSA Claims Require:

- Birth Certificate of Child
- Death Certificate of Parent
- Current Court/Dispositional Order

Social Security Cards Require:

Please contact Jerusa Johnson