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**From:** DCF BWF Work Programs Help Desk  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 3:15 PM  
**To:** DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency CARES Coordinators; DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency Directors  
**Cc:** DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 REGIONAL STAFF  
**Subject:** SSA Outreach to Vulnerable Populations  
**Attachments:** SSAFactSheet-SocialSecurityDisabilityInsurance.pdf; SSAFactSheet-SupplementalSecurityIncome.pdf

For Our TANF Partners:

The Social Security Administration (SSA) would like your help in connecting vulnerable populations of people to their services. Vulnerable communities are often considered to be low income, possess limited English proficiency, have a mental illness, or are facing homelessness. SSA has launched a national campaign to raise awareness of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit programs in order to reach vulnerable populations who may have suffered increased hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. SSA's campaign includes a new webpage, [People Helping Others](#), to aid those helping someone obtain SSI/SSDI as well as a new [outreach website](#) which contains informational materials and resources accessible to all SSA partner groups.

While the needs and situations of Wisconsin Works participants vary widely, all our families are considered vulnerable. Per section 7.4.3 of the W-2 Manual, W-2 agencies are responsible for identifying participants who have a reasonable chance of obtaining SSI/SSDI, as well as assisting them in the application and appeal process.

For SSI/SSDI eligibility requirements, as well as program and application information, please see the attached fact sheets.

Families with disabled children may also be eligible for SSI benefits if the child has a physical or mental condition which severely limits their activities, or a condition(s) that has lasted, or is expected to last, beyond one year or result in death. For more information on SSI for children please see SSA's redesigned webpage: [www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html).

This email will be posted to the BWF Work Programs Help Desk Home Page located here: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/partners/toolbox/helpdesk> .

If you have any questions regarding policies, please contact the W-2 Policy Mailbox at [DCFw2PolicyQuestions@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFw2PolicyQuestions@wisconsin.gov) or the Help Desk at [BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov](mailto:BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov) as appropriate.



## Fact Sheet: Social Security Disability Insurance

Social Security pays benefits to people who can't work because they have a medical condition that's expected to last at least one year or result in death. Certain members of your family may be eligible for benefits based on your work history. They include:

- Your spouse, if he or she is age 62 or older;
- Your spouse at any age, if he or she is caring for a child of yours who is younger than age 16 or who is disabled;
- Your unmarried child, including an adopted child, or, in some cases, a stepchild or grandchild. The child must be younger than age 18 (or younger than 19 if still in high school);
- Your unmarried child, age 18 or older, if he or she has a disability that started before age 22. The child's disability must also meet the definition of disability for adults.

### How much can you get?

- Not everyone gets the same amount. The amount you get will depend on how long you worked and your earnings over that time.
- Create a "my Social Security" account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to see estimates of how much you and certain family members could receive, if eligible.

### How do you qualify for SSDI?

- The SSDI program pays monthly benefits to a disabled person, and certain family members, if the disabled person is "insured," meaning that person worked long enough—and recently enough—and paid Social Security taxes on those earnings.
- Most people will need to have worked 10 years—earning at least 40 credits of coverage—to be eligible. For more information about earnings requirements, visit our [Disability Benefits](#) web page or read [Disability Benefits](#) (Publication No. 05-10029).
- Create a "my Social Security" account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to see if you have worked enough to be covered for SSDI.

### How Do You Apply for SSDI?

- You can apply conveniently and securely online, at our [Disability Benefits](#) web page.
- Our web page tells you how to prepare for filing an application and explains the SSDI application process.
- If you cannot apply online, you can call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or your local Social Security office.

### Did You Know?

- You can check the status of your application for benefits online? Create or sign in to your "my Social Security" account to check the status. Visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).



## Fact Sheet: Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

### What is SSI?

- SSI is a Federal program that provides financial support to people who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled, with limited income and resources. Children who are blind or have a disability may also get SSI.
- For an adult, the medical condition must prevent you from working and be expected to last at least one year or result in death.
- There are different rules for children. For more information, read [Benefits for Children With Disabilities](#) (Publication No. 05-10026).

### How much can you get?

- The basic monthly SSI payment for 2021 is the same nationwide: \$794 for one person; \$1,191 for a couple.
- Not everyone gets the same amount. You may get more if you live in a state that adds money to the federal SSI payment. You may receive less if you or your family has other income. Where and with whom you live also affects the amount of your SSI payment.

### How do you qualify for SSI?

- General tax revenues, not Social Security taxes, fund SSI. You do not need to have worked or paid Social Security taxes to qualify for SSI.
- Your income and the things you own affect eligibility for SSI.
- Your income includes the money you earn, any Social Security benefits, or pensions, and the value of items you get from someone else, such as food and shelter.
- You may be able to get SSI if your resources (the things you own) are worth no more than \$2,000 for a person or \$3,000 for a married couple living together. We don't count everything you own when we decide if you can get SSI. For example, we don't count a house you own if you live in it, and we usually don't count your car. We do count cash, bank accounts, stocks, and bonds.
- You must live in the United States or Northern Mariana Islands to get SSI. If you're not a U.S. citizen, but you are lawfully residing in the United States, you still may be able to get SSI. For more information, read [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) for Non-Citizens](#) (Publication No. 05-11051).

### How Do You Apply for SSI?

- Visit our [SSI Benefits](#) web page to learn if you can begin the application process online.
- Once you complete the online process, a Social Security representative will contact you if we need additional information.
- If you cannot apply online, you can call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or your local Social Security office.



## Fact Sheet: Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

### Did You Know?

- If you get SSI, you usually can get benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, too. SNAP helps pay for food and Medicaid helps pay doctor and hospital bills.
- People who have worked may also qualify to receive Social Security [disability](#) or [retirement](#) benefits in addition to SSI.

### Other Resources

- You can learn more about the SSI program in our publications, [Supplemental Security Income, You May Be Able to Get Supplemental Security Income](#), [A Guide to Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) for Groups and Organizations](#).
- You can also help someone you care about apply for benefits and access SSA services by visiting our [People Helping Others](#) page.