

# APPLYING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME AT AGE 18

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program is a needs-based benefits program designed to help aged, blind or disabled people who have little or no income, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. SSI provides monthly payments to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter.

A person with an intellectual or developmental disability may apply for SSI if they also meet the income and resource criteria. If the person is unable to apply themselves, the parent may apply on their behalf.

## WHY IS AGE 18 IMPORTANT?

When parental deeming stops at age 18, determining eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is dependent only on the person/child's income and resources. NOTE: Child support is considered the child's income.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Social Security determines eligibility for SSI in an interview with you and your child, if your child is able, to gather information about their disability, income (if any) and resources. Social Security collects medical information about an intellectual or developmental disability from your child's medical providers with your consent.

## WHAT FACTORS DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY?

A person is eligible for the maximum Federal Benefit SSI payment of \$841/month (in 2022) after consideration of income and the person's contribution to household expenses, including rent, food, and utilities. Family members may charge their child/SSI recipient for rent, food, and utilities once they turn 18. Changes in personal situations such as income, address, and living arrangements must be reported to Social Security in a timely fashion.

## WHAT HAPPENS ONCE APPROVED FOR SSI?

Once SSI is approved, which can take up to 6 months, the person/your child receives a monthly payment via direct deposit. Expect to receive a lump sum payment from the date of the original call. Note that once approved for SSI, Medicaid will not need to be recertified annually as in the past.

**For more information, contact your Care Manager.**