



Qualifying for Benefit Continuation After You Turn 18

The Age-18 Redetermination is especially important to youth with disabilities and their families.

We review the status of all Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients on a regular basis. We refer to this process as a redetermination. This process happens about every three years.

The age-18 redetermination is when we start using adult criteria to decide if you still have a disability. Our adult criteria is very different from our standards for child disability benefits. The adult criteria looks into your ability to earn money, instead of your ability to complete tasks of daily living.



If we determine you do not have a disability at your age-18 redetermination, you may still qualify for benefits by taking part in an educational or vocational program.

SSI Continued Payments (Section 301 Payments)

If you are no longer medically eligible for benefits after the age-18 redetermination, your SSI payments usually stop. However, if you are participating in an approved program of special education, vocational rehabilitation (VR), or similar services, your benefits may continue.

You may qualify for SSI continued payments under Section 301 when you meet the following criteria:

- You participate in an appropriate VR program or similar services that began before the month of your disability stopped under our rules.
- We review your program and decide that if you continue in the program, you are not likely to resume disability benefits.

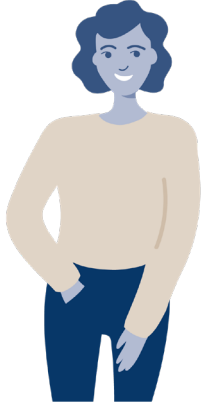
Some examples of appropriate VR programs include:

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) for a youth who is age 18 through 21.
- A VR agency using an individualized plan for employment.
- Support services using an individualized written employment plan.
- A written service plan with a school under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- An approved Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS).

Under Section 301, your benefits may continue until:

- You complete the program.
- You stop participating in the program.
- We determine that even if you continue in the program, you are likely to resume disability benefits.

What can you learn from Maya about your options?



Maya receives SSI and, due to a learning disability, she has an IEP with her school. During an IEP planning meeting at school, Maya's mother asked:

“Will Maya always be able to receive SSI?”

The teacher explained the age-18 redetermination process. She also stated if Social Security finds

Maya no longer medically eligible after her age-18 redetermination, normally her SSI cash payments would stop; however, she may be eligible to continue receiving benefits as long as she continues to participate in an IEP and is age 18 through 21. Maya's teacher explained that during her age-18 disability review, it is important to inform Social Security that she has an IEP.

The teacher also stressed how important it is to report all of Maya's earnings to Social Security. While our work incentives encourage people receiving SSI to try working, the amount and types of income that Maya earns will affect her monthly cash benefits.

Additional Information

You can find additional information and resources to make a successful transition to adulthood in the publication called *What you Need to Know about Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18* (Publication No. 05-11005) online at www.ssa.gov/pubs in English and Spanish.

Youth Toolkit 2021

You can find additional information and resources to make a successful transition to adulthood at www.ssa.gov/youth/



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Publication No. 64-118 | April 2021
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Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense