



Social Security Administration

Faith-Based and Community Groups Outreach Toolkit

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New Website: Information for Faith-Based and Community Groups

How can you help?

You can tell your members, and others you help through your good works, that financial help may be available, and how they can get help from Social Security. We prepared a toolkit to help you. Our toolkit contains pre-written social media posts and newsletter articles you can use. The toolkit highlights the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which provides monthly cash payments to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled (including children). Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$914 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,371 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement. A person who worked long enough may also qualify to receive Social Security disability insurance (SSDI) or retirement benefits as well as SSI.

Our toolkit also explains that receiving SSI also provides eligibility for Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), and other benefits, and explains how to apply for SSI and SSDI benefits.

- [Toolkit Link](#)

We encourage you to subscribe to our blog and social media channels, and to let your members know the benefits of engaging with us online. More than 800,000 people follow our blog and more than 700,000 follow us on social media. Both are great ways to learn about new services and our programs that benefit everyone.

- [Our blog](#)
- English Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter), [YouTube](#)
- Spanish Social Media: [Facebook](#), [X](#)

Would you like to do more?

Your group can help inform your members about the programs and services we offer and how they can get the help they need. We invite you to visit our [People Helping Others](#) page to learn more, including how to help your members apply for benefits. If you would like someone from Social Security to participate in a forum with your members, we would like to talk with you. We invite you to visit our [Ask for a Speaker](#) webpage.

On behalf of everyone at Social Security, thank you for raising awareness amongst those who need help more than ever.

Dear Partner Letter

Dear Partner,

The Social Security Administration is committed to providing economic security to millions of people. Among the populations who need it most are our nation's older citizens, children with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness, a disability, mental illness, or limited English proficiency. I am writing to invite you to help us spread the word to faith-based organizations, community groups, congregants, and members who need assistance.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides critical financial support to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children who are blind or have a disability may also get SSI. Without SSI, many vulnerable people would not have money to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$914 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,371 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement.

People who have worked long enough may also qualify to receive Social Security disability or retirement benefits as well as SSI. You and your members can learn more about the SSI program in our publications, [Supplemental Security Income](#) and [A Guide to Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) for Groups and Organizations](#).

We have put together a partner toolkit for you to share with your members. In this toolkit, we provide you with:

- An email message to share with your members and congregants.
- Articles you can post on your blog.
- Social media posts.
- A list of Social Security's Regional Communications Directors so you can request a speaker to share more information with your group.

We invite you to please visit our website, [Information for Faith-Based and Community Groups](#), to learn how you can help and to get the toolkit. If you know someone who may be eligible for SSI, please encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI webpage](#) today. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you and your members can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

Thank you for your support to reach our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bystry
Deputy Associate Commissioner
Office of Strategic and Digital Communications
Social Security Administration

Email Blast

Subject Line: Social Security is Here to Help You During Difficult Times

During difficult times, Social Security is here to provide help to people in need. Many of the nation's older citizens, children, and people experiencing homelessness, a disability, mental illness, or limited English proficiency, need help. We're asking for your support to get the word out to anyone who may need our assistance.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides critical financial support to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children with disabilities or who are blind may also get SSI. Without SSI, many vulnerable people would not have money to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$914 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,371 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement. People who have worked long enough may also qualify to receive Social Security disability or retirement benefits in addition to SSI.

If you know someone who may be eligible for SSI, please encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI webpage](#) today. Our webpage [Understanding SSI and Other Government Programs](#) also has information about programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Please remember to share this information with anyone who may need it.

We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

Thank you for your help in raising awareness about this critical program.

Article #1: How Social Security Helps People In Need—And What You Can Do To Help

The agency has expanded its outreach to people in critical need of financial help who may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Social Security is here to provide economic security for many people facing barriers including our veterans, older individuals, and people facing homelessness, with limited English proficiency, recently released from incarceration or with mental illness.

SSI can help pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine. Now, more than ever, helping our most vulnerable citizens is critical—and you can play a major role in our efforts.

Faith-based and community organizations and Social Security share a common mission—a commitment to serving people who need it most. Together, we can protect and lift people up in times of great need.

We have worked closely with national and local advocacy groups to improve service to people facing barriers. We have also engaged federal, state, and local agencies, and private industry, to raise public awareness particularly in areas where we saw the greatest decline in SSI applications.

Please visit our [Information for Faith-Based and Community Groups webpage](#) for more information about our services. If you know someone who may be eligible for SSI, encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI webpage](#) today. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

With the continued help of partners like you, we can ensure that people who need it most know about and can apply for our programs. Please share with your group and help us spread the word on social media.

Article #2: How Social Security Serves You

Social Security touches the lives of nearly every American by providing critical services and benefits. In recent years, we've seen a reduction in the number of people filing for the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. We want to help you get monthly benefits for which you may be eligible.

SSI is a federal program that provides critical financial support to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children with disabilities or who are blind may also get SSI. Did you know that a person could receive SSI payments up to \$914 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,371 a month? Some states provide an additional supplement. Without SSI, many people facing barriers would not have money to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. People who have worked long enough may also be eligible to receive SSDI or Social Security retirement benefits in addition to SSI.

Social Security is working closely with local community and faith-based groups to help people apply for SSI and submit their applications. If you know someone who may be eligible for SSI, encourage them to apply by visiting our [SSI webpage](#) today. Our [Understanding SSI and Other Government Programs](#) webpage also has information about programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

People who applied for Social Security benefits or SSI can check the status of their application with their personal “*my Social Security*” account at www.ssa.gov/apply/check-application-or-appeal-status.

We are here to help you and your loved ones secure today and tomorrow. Thank you for doing your part to help people in need by sharing this information and helping people apply for benefits.

Article #3: You May Be Eligible for Supplemental Security Income from Social Security

Social Security pays monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments to adults and children with disabilities who have low income and few resources. We also make payments to people who are age 65 or older without disabilities who meet the financial limits. People who have worked long enough may also be eligible to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or retirement benefits in addition to SSI.

Income is money you receive, such as wages, Social Security benefits, and pensions. Income also includes things like food and shelter. The amount of income you can receive each month and still get SSI depends partly on where you live.

Resources are things you own, including real estate (not counting the home you live in), bank accounts, cash, stocks, and bonds. We count these resources in deciding if you are eligible for SSI. You may be able to get SSI if your resources are worth \$2,000 or less. A couple may be able to get SSI if they have resources worth \$3,000 or less. If you own property, you may be able to get SSI while trying to sell it. You can learn more about SSI eligibility by reading our publication, [Supplemental Security Income](#).

If you want to apply for SSI, it's best to [start the process online](#). The online process takes about five to ten minutes, and no documentation is required to start. We will need the following basic information about you or the person you're helping:

- The name, date of birth, Social Security number, mailing address, phone number, and email address (optional) of the person who is interested in applying for SSI.
- If helping another person, we need your name, phone number, and email address (optional).

Once you provide this information and answer a few questions, we will schedule an appointment to help you apply for benefits. We will send a confirmation with the appointment date and time by mail and email (if provided). In some cases, we may call you to schedule the appointment. If you're unable to begin the process online, you may schedule an appointment by calling **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**) from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. You may also contact your local Social Security office. You can find the phone number for your local office [on our website](#).

We're here for you.

Article #4: Social Security Benefits for Children with Disabilities

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides financial assistance to children with qualifying disabilities and their families. For this program, a child must meet all the following requirements to be considered disabled and medically eligible:

- The child must have a medical condition, or a combination of conditions, that result in “marked and severe functional limitations.” This means that the condition(s) must very seriously limit the child’s activities; and
- The child’s condition(s) must have been disabling, or be expected to be disabling, for at least 12 months, or the condition(s) must be expected to result in death.

A child must also meet other eligibility requirements. Since we only pay SSI to people with disabilities who have low income and limited resources, a child, who is not blind, must not be working or earning more than \$1,470 a month in 2023. A child who is blind must not be working or earning more than \$2,460 a month. These earnings amount usually changes every year. In addition, if the parents of the child or children have more resources than are allowed, then the child or children will not be eligible for SSI. You can read more about children’s benefits by reading [Benefits for Children with Disabilities](#).

If you know a child who may be eligible for SSI, encourage their parents or caregivers to let us know they want to apply by visiting our [SSI webpage](#) today. We will schedule an appointment for a representative to help with the application. We also offer our [People Helping Others](#) resource so you can do even more, like helping someone apply for benefits and get other assistance from Social Security they may not know about.

Thank you for helping a family member, friend, or neighbor in need.

Article #5: Supplemental Security Income: Gateway to Financial Support for the Most Vulnerable

Social Security helps secure today and tomorrow for millions of Americans. Over the past few years, we have seen a significant reduction in the number of people applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). We want to help people who need it most get monthly benefits for which they may be eligible.

SSI is a federal program that provides cash assistance to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. A person who is eligible may receive up to \$914 a month, and a couple could receive up to \$1,371 a month. Some states also provide a supplemental payment.

More financial help may be available to a person receiving SSI because SSI often serves as a gateway to other federal aid programs. When you get SSI, you may also get Medicaid, which helps pay doctor and hospital bills. Your local social services or medical assistance office can give you information about Medicaid. Eligibility for SSI and Medicaid are both based on factors like income and resources. Financial eligibility for SSI is determined using standard national criteria, whereas Medicaid is administered by the States.

Another federal aid program is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Visit www.fns.usda.gov/snap to find out how to apply. For more information about SNAP, please read *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Facts* ([Publication No. 05-10101](#)). For more information about other nutrition assistance programs that may be available to you, read *Nutrition Assistance Programs* ([Publication No. 05-10100](#)).

If you are eligible for SSI, we encourage you to visit our [SSI webpage](#) today and let us know that you would like to apply. We will schedule an appointment with a representative to help with the application. Our [People Helping Others](#) webpage is a great resource if you know someone who may be eligible for benefits, or to get other assistance from Social Security. Please share with your friends and family—and help us spread the word on social media and in your community.

Social Media Posts

Do you know anyone with a #disability or #blindness and with limited income and resources? They may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Learn more here:

<https://bit.ly/3b8OBJU>

Do you know anyone with a #disability or #blindness and with limited income and resources? Encourage them to let us know they want to apply on the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) webpage today. <https://bit.ly/3kKPuM3>

Know anyone with a #disability or #blindness and with limited income and resources? They may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Read more: <https://bit.ly/3r9eor2>

Have a child with a #disability or #blindness and with limited income and resources? They may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Let us know you want to apply:

<https://bit.ly/3kFw8aZ>

@SocialSecurity helps families secure today and tomorrow by providing financial benefits, including #SSI. Find out how to apply today: <https://bit.ly/3b73fS8>

Read Social Security's publication on Supplemental Security Income here:

<https://bit.ly/3q9WdAb>

DYK the #SSI program makes monthly payments to people with disabilities who have low income and few resources? Find out more: <https://bit.ly/3q5mMXr>

If you know someone who may be eligible for SSI, encourage them to visit our SSI page today.

Check it out: <https://bit.ly/2MFMKTH>

Are you helping someone apply for Social Security benefits or SSI? Read this webpage for people helping others today: <https://bit.ly.ws/32e8M>

Social Security's Social Media Handles

Please be sure to tag us and we will try to retweet and share your posts.

[Facebook \(English\)](#)

[Facebook \(Spanish\)](#)

[Twitter \(English\)](#)

[Twitter \(Spanish\)](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[YouTube](#)

Publications

- *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11000.pdf
- *You May Be Able To Get Supplemental Security Income*: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11069.pdf
- *A Guide to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Groups and Organizations*:
www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11015.pdf
- *Benefits for Children with Disabilities*: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf

Regional Communications Directors – Request a Speaker

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