

# Should I Apply for SSI?

SSI (also called Supplemental Security Income) is a monthly cash payment for people in need.

SSI is for people who are 65 years old or older and people with serious disabilities of any age, including children. SSI is for people without much work history. To qualify for SSI, you must also have little or no income and few resources.

## What are the Benefits of SSI?

The maximum monthly benefit in Pennsylvania in 2019 is \$771 for one person (or \$1,157 for a couple), plus a separate payment from Pennsylvania of \$22.10 (or \$33.30 for a couple). If you get SSI in Pennsylvania, you should be able to get Medicaid automatically, and you should qualify for SNAP (food stamps) as well.

## How Can I Apply for SSI?

- **Telephone:** You can call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., to schedule an appointment.
- **In person:** You can also apply for SSI by going into your local Social Security Office. You can use the Social Security Office Locator to find your office:  
<https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>.
- **Online:** You can apply for SSI online only in some cases. To do this, you:
  - must be between 18 and 65 years old;
  - have never been married;
  - are not blind;
  - are a U.S. citizen living in one of the 50 states, District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands;
  - have not applied for or received SSI benefits in the past; and
  - are applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) at the same time as your SSI claim.

If you need an interpreter, you have the right to request an interpreter at the Social Security office.



**Center City Office:**  
1424 Chestnut St. | Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505 | Telephone: 215-981-3700 [clsphila.org](http://clsphila.org)

**North Philadelphia Law Center:**  
1410 West Erie Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19140-4136 | Telephone: 215-227-2400

# What Should I Do If I Get Turned Down for SSI?

## Appeal IMMEDIATELY If You Get Turned Down – Do Not Wait!

The Social Security Administration (SSA) sometimes makes mistakes in turning people down for SSI. You should appeal right away – even before trying to get a lawyer.

Starting in April 2019, you will have to **appeal two times** to have a hearing with a judge. The first appeal is called Reconsideration. SSA will look at your case again. If you are denied again after this step, don't give up – appeal again for a hearing with a judge.

Each time you appeal, **you have 60 days** to ask SSA to reconsider its denial decision. If you are currently receiving SSI and you get cut off, you must appeal **within 10 days** of the decision so that you can keep getting benefits while the SSA makes a decision in your case.

## How to Get Help

If you have been denied SSI because the SSA said you were not disabled, you can come to Community Legal Services in person:

1410 West Erie Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19140

or

1424 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## Basic Tips

- **Keep seeing your doctors and therapists regularly.** SSA needs proof that you are still disabled. It is very important to see your doctors and therapists regularly to give SSA the information it needs to make its decision.
- **Collect all documents from schools and doctors.** Medical and school records are very important for your SSI case. Put all papers from doctors and school in a safe place and bring them to any meetings about your case.
- **Tell SSA if you move.** SSA will send you letters when it reviews your case. It is very important for them to have your current address so you can respond quickly and avoid missing deadlines.



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