

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in California

2016



What is SSI?

SSI, or Supplemental Security Income, is a federal program that provides monthly cash payments to people in need. SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as blind or disabled people of any age, including children.

To qualify for SSI, you must also have little or no income and few resources. The value of the things you own must be less than \$2,000 if you're single or less than \$3,000 for married couples living together. We don't count the value of your home if you live in it, and, usually, we don't count the value of your car. We may not count the value of certain other resources either, such as a burial plot.

To get SSI, you must also apply for any other government benefits for which you may be eligible. You must live in the United States or the Northern Mariana Islands to get SSI. If you're not a U.S. citizen, but you lawfully reside in the United States, you may still be able to get SSI. For more information, read *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Noncitizens* (Publication No. 05-11051).

The state of California adds money to the federal payment. The single payment you get at the beginning of each month includes both the federal SSI payment and your supplement from California.

Medical assistance

If you get SSI, you can usually get medical assistance (Medi-Cal) automatically. A separate Medi-Cal application isn't necessary. If you have questions about Medi-Cal, contact your local county health or human services office.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

People who get SSI in California cannot get SNAP benefits, formerly known as food stamps, because the state adds money to the federal SSI payment instead.

However, you may be able to get SNAP benefits:

- While you're waiting for a decision on your SSI application;
- If your application for SSI is denied; or
- If you move to another state.

For more information, contact your local county health or human services office.

Other social services

Other services you may be able to get through your local county health or human services office include:

- A special allowance for assistance dogs for people who are blind or who have a disability;
- Certain domestic and personal care services provided to eligible people who are elderly, blind, or who can't perform the services themselves, and who can't safely remain in their own homes unless such services are provided; and
- Protective services.

For more information, contact your local county health or human services office.

Monthly SSI payment amounts

The table below lists the combined federal and state payment amounts. Not all SSI recipients get the maximum amount. Your payment may be lower if you have other income.

Category	2016 total monthly payment		
	<i>Aged</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Blind</i>
<i>Single people</i>			
Independent living status	\$889.40	\$889.40	\$ 944.40
Non-medical out-of-home care	\$1,145.00	\$1,145.00	\$1,145.00
Independent living status, no cooking facilities	\$973.40	\$973.40	N/A
Living in the household of someone else	\$648.50	\$648.50	\$ 703.50
Disabled minor child		\$ 796.40	
Disabled minor child in the household of another		\$ 555.50	
<i>Aged or disabled couples</i>			
Independent living status	\$1,496.20		
Non-medical out-of-home care	\$2,290.00		
Independent living status, no cooking facilities	\$1,664.20		
Living in the household of someone else	\$1,134.67		
<i>Blind couples</i>			
Independent living status			\$ 1,643.20
Living in the household of someone else			\$ 1,281.67
<i>Blind person with an aged or disabled spouse</i>			
Independent living status			\$ 1,587.20
Living in the household of someone else			\$ 1,225.67

Contacting Social Security

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov anytime to apply for benefits, open a **my Social Security** account, find publications, and get answers to frequently asked questions. Or, call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** (for the deaf or hard of hearing, call our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**). We can answer case-specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, you'll have a shorter wait time if you call after Tuesday. We treat all calls confidentially. We also want to make sure you receive accurate and courteous service, so a second Social Security representative monitors some telephone calls. We can provide general information by automated phone service 24 hours a day. And, remember, our website, www.socialsecurity.gov, is available to you anytime and anywhere!