

Expedited Reinstatement (EXR) for Former SSI Beneficiaries

SSI Fact Sheet 2026

What is Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)?

EXR is a work incentive that former Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries can use to have their benefits reinstated. There is no waiting period to reinstate cash and health insurance benefits, once Social Security determines eligibility for EXR.

Can a former SSI beneficiary qualify for EXR?

Former SSI beneficiaries must meet the following conditions to be eligible for EXR:

- The SSI case must have been terminated due to excess earned income (from work) and/or a combination of earned and unearned income (e.g., cash gifts, other public cash benefits) resulting in the SSI payment being reduced to zero for 12 consecutive months
- No longer qualifies for Continued Medicaid Eligibility, also referred to as 1619 (b), which is a work incentive that preserves Medicaid (MassHealth Standard in MA).
- No longer able to work or perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) due to the disability, or because of a disability-related medical condition. In 2026, a beneficiary is performing SGA when monthly gross earnings equal or exceed \$1,690 (disabled) or \$2,830 (statutorily blind).
- EXR must be requested within 5 years (60 months) from the month the case was closed. Exceptions are made to this rule if the beneficiary provides good cause (i.e., not being notified that their case was terminated).

Note: EXR may be requested in the same month the beneficiary stops performing SGA.

What are the benefits of EXR?

- To qualify for EXR, only medical standards must be met, rather than both medical and vocational standards.

- Up to 6 months of temporary cash and health insurance benefits are received while Social Security is making an EXR decision.
- Once the Initial Reinstatement Period (IRP) is considered complete, the beneficiary will be entitled to all SSI work incentives.

To learn more about these incentives, reference the SSI Benefits & Related Work Incentives Fact Sheet at [Work Without Limits Resources page](#).

How does EXR work for former SSI beneficiaries?

If SSI benefits end because of earnings from work, a request can be made to start benefits again. While Social Security makes their determination to reinstate benefits, they will provide provisional (temporary) benefits for up to 6 months. Provisional cash benefits and public health insurance (Medicaid) benefits usually begin the month after requesting EXR. **Note:** The SSI cash benefits received will depend on the beneficiary's current living situation.

What if the EXR request is denied?

If denied, provisional benefits will not be considered an overpayment and will not have to be repaid to Social Security. Social Security's EXR decision can be appealed within 10 business days of receiving official notification.

What if the EXR request is approved?

If approved, SSI cash benefits will be officially reinstated, and the Initial Reinstatement Period (IRP) will begin. The IRP will conclude after receiving 24 cash benefit payments. During IRP, SSI beneficiaries will receive a payment any month they do not have excess income.

For more information about

Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling

1-877-YES-WORK (1-877-937-9675)

WorkWithoutLimits.org