

SSI Age-18 Redetermination

SSI Fact Sheet 2026

How does SSI work for children under 18?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for a child is based on their disability, as well as their parents' income and assets. To be eligible, a child's disability must significantly limit their activities, and must have lasted or be expected to last at least one year, or is expected to result in death.

What happens when turning 18?

A child who would like to continue receiving SSI as an adult must meet the eligibility requirements under the adult medical standards. Note: Parents' income and assets will not be considered.

What are the steps of the Age-18 Redetermination process?

1. Before the 19th birthday, Social Security should send a letter requesting participation in the Age-18 Redetermination process. If not, contact the local Social Security Field office to initiate this process.
2. Social Security will require an initial eligibility interview to gather information about the disability and how it impacts the ability to work.
3. Medical and school information must be provided to the local Social Security Field office. This information will then be reviewed by the state agency that determines eligibility for SSI.
4. Additional information may be required, including a medical consultation.
5. Social Security will send a decision letter regarding the redetermination.

What are the possible outcomes?

- Can be found eligible for SSI as an adult. If so, cash benefits will continue. The amount may change based on living situation and marital status.

In most states, Medicaid (MassHealth Standard in MA) coverage will be included at no cost.

- Can be denied. If so,
 - Will be entitled to two more cash benefit payments following the date of the decision letter. After that, cash benefits will stop; or
 - If eligible, benefits can continue temporarily under Section 301.

What is Section 301?

Section 301 is a special provision that continues SSI cash benefits for individuals denied under the Age-18 Redetermination, who have a goal for self-support, and who have an active:

- Individual Education Plan (IEP), or
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) with a State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, or
- Individual Work Plan (IWP) with an Employment Network (EN), or
- Receiving other employment support services.

If granted, SSI cash benefits will continue until graduation from the program or the start of work.

Additional Points to Consider:

- Need help managing SSI cash benefits? If so, visit www.ssa.gov/payee/.
- For those with an academic and/or career goal, reference the SSI Benefits & Related Work Incentives Fact Sheet at [Work Without Limits Public Benefits Resources](http://WorkWithoutLimits.org).

For more information about

Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling

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

or visit WorkWithoutLimits.org