



## INFORMATION AND FACTS ABOUT

# SSI

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

### What is SSI?

**SSI**, or Supplemental Security Income, is a Federal income supplement program designed to help persons who are aged, blind, or have other disabilities, who have little or no income. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

### Who is Eligible to Get SSI?

SSI is approved by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to those individuals that are:

- **65 or older**
- **Disabled, or**
- **Blind**

### What Do I Need to Do to Apply for SSI?

You can begin the process to apply for SSI benefits by calling the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (or TTY 1-800-325-0778 if you are deaf or hard of hearing) to make an appointment.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, SSA will take your telecommunications relay services (TRS) assisted calls at 1-800-772-1213. During your appointment, an SSA representative will help you apply for benefits. Appointments to apply for benefits can be done via telephone or in person at your local Social Security office.

### When Should I Apply for SSI?

If you believe you are eligible for SSI, you should apply as soon as possible so that you do not lose benefits. The SSA cannot pay benefits for time periods earlier than your application effective date. If you call them to make an appointment to apply and you file an application within 60 days of the call, SSA will use the date of your call as your application filing date. If you do not keep this appointment and you do not

contact SSA to reschedule the appointment, they will try to contact you. If they do not get in touch with you to reschedule the appointment, they will send you a letter.

The letter will state that if you file an application within 60 days from the date of the letter, SSA will use the date of your original contact with SSA as your SSI application date.

### What Kind of Assistance Does SSI Provide?

The amount of your SSI payment depends on your income, resources and where you live. Most people who are eligible for SSI are eligible to receive Food Stamps and Medicaid. You can receive Interim Disability Assistance (IDA) during the SSI application process. For more Information about IDA, call 202.698.6661.



**For more information about SSI, please call the  
Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)**