



## SSI

### Supplemental Security Income from the SSA

This program is administrated by the Social Security Administration and it pays monthly benefits to adults and children with disabilities who have limited income and resources. SSI beneficiaries also can get medical assistance (Medicaid).

Your child under age 18 may qualify if he or she meets Social Security's definition of disability for children, and the family income and resources fall within the eligibility limits. The amount of the SSI payment is different from one state to another because some states add to the SSI payment. Your local Social Security office can tell you more about your state's total SSI payment.

To contact the Social Security Office, call 800-772-1213 or visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10026.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10026.pdf) to get a copy of the booklet, *Benefits For Children With Disabilities*. See excerpts below...

*Your child must meet all of the following requirements to be considered disabled and therefore eligible for SSI:*

The child must not be working or earning more than \$900 a month . (This earnings amount changes every year.) If he or she is working and earning that much money, we will find that your child is not disabled.

The child must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination of conditions, that result in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must very seriously limit your child's activities.

The child's condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least 12 months; or must be expected to result in death.

If your child's condition(s) results in "marked and severe functional limitations" for at least 12 continuous months, we will find that your child has a disability. But if the child's condition(s) does not result in those limitations, or does not last for at least 12 months, we will find that your child does not have a disability.

It can take three to five months for the state agency to decide whether your child has a disability. However, SSA can consider certain medical conditions so severe that they expect it to result in a determined disability. In these cases, they make SSI payments right away and for up to six months while the state agency decides if your child has a disability.

*Following are some of those conditions:*

- HIV infection
- Total blindness
- Total deafness
- Cerebral palsy
- Down syndrome
- Muscular dystrophy
- Severe mental retardation (child age 7 or older)
- Birth weight below 2 lbs. 10 oz.

If the state agency determines that your child's disability is not severe enough for SSI, you will not have to pay back the SSI payments that your child received.



You now can  
fill out the  
application  
online @  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)



**Appeal if you are  
denied the first  
time. There are  
specific SSI  
Attorneys willing to  
help.**

Searching for  
Doctors or  
Service  
Providers who  
accept  
Medicaid?

Go to:

[https://  
www.colorado.gov/hcpfl](https://www.colorado.gov/hcpfl)  
find-doctor



□ □ □  
12567 W Cedar Dr  
Ste210  
Lakewood CO 80228  
Local: 303-733-3000  
Fax 3033766372  
[www.familyvoicesco.org](http://www.familyvoicesco.org)

*These programs are confusing and this is a lot of information to keep track of on an ongoing basis...*

Contact  
Family Voices Colorado  
and ask about our  
**FILE System**  
for families  
**303-733-3000**

Searching for Resources?

**“The Colorado Resource Directory”**

[www.coloradresource.com/directory.net](http://www.coloradresource.com/directory.net)

*This is an online search engine with thousands of resources primarily geared toward families or professionals who have or work with children or adults who have special health care needs.*

[www.familyvoicesco.org](http://www.familyvoicesco.org)

## Things to Think About

Applying for SSI and Medicaid:

- Most private or commercial insurance plans don't have benefits that pay for health services beyond the immediate recovery stage. Private plans are not designed to provide long-term care services.
- Medicaid and SSI benefits are designed for individuals including children with chronic conditions expecting to last more than 12 months.
- Families who are over income for Medicaid should explore applying for one of the Medicaid Waivers. A denial of SSI is necessary to obtain certain Medicaid Waivers.
- Even if you don't need services right now, **apply now**. The process is lengthy and Medicaid Waivers have waiting lists.



## Where to Access Help

**Healthy Communities Outreach:** formerly Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), is a voluntary health care program within Medicaid for children from birth up to 21. EPSDT is designed to detect and treat health problems early in children. They also offer case management services to help families navigate Medicaid and the community systems.

### **Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP):**

[www.hcpcolorado.org](http://www.hcpcolorado.org) HCP offers support for families with children/youth with special needs and focuses on care coordination, developing improved systems of care, and providing specialty clinics throughout the state of Colorado. HCP services are available to children and youth with special needs, regardless of insurance status or family income.

### **Ombudsman** (Medicaid): 877-435-7123 email: [help123@maximus.com](mailto:help123@maximus.com)

Ombudsman Staff help solve problems with your health care issues (both physical and mental health). They also help with health care rights and with grievances and appeals.

**Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI):** 303-866-2031 HIBI pays the health insurance premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and/or co-pays for Medicaid clients who now have access to a private health insurance plan, when it would be cost-effective for the state to do so.

**For more information on Colorado's 12 Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waivers go to...**

<http://www.colorado.gov>

and search for  
**“waivers”**

