

- Social Security - A Brief Overview of Benefits for People with Developmental Disabilities

Applying for Social Security benefits can be a big task.

Many families do not have the time or energy to fill out the necessary paperwork, complete the online application, and go into the local Social Security office. But the end results can be well worth the effort.

Possible Social Security Administration (SSA) Benefits

- SSI (Supplemental Security Income) – based on individual having low income and low resources
- SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) – based on individual's work history and "paying into the system"
- SSDAC (Social Security Disabled Adult Child) – based on a parent being retired, disabled or deceased

Why apply?

- Financial assistance with basic living allowance (food and shelter)
- Can help an individual move toward independence
- Medical – Medicare and/or Medicaid
 - Having Medicaid can make you eligible for Medicaid Personal Care with the State, providing in home care to help with personal care tasks, providing in home care in most living situations
 - Medicaid can reimburse premiums/co-pays paid through private insurance
 - Medicaid can pay for Medicare premiums
 - Medicare can help with hospital bills, doctor's visits, and prescription drug costs
- SSA work incentives can be available to support employment goals and expenses

When to Apply

- Before age 18, SSI will look at parent's income and resources, but may qualify if low income
- Age 18 and over, SSI will look at the individual with their own income and resources (Can apply anytime within the month the individual turns 18)
- For SSDI and SSDAC, apply anytime if parents are collecting SSA retirement or disability benefits, or are deceased; or if you have a work history

How to Apply

- Go to www.socialsecurity.gov, click on "Apply For Benefits" on left side of home page
- Click on benefit you want to apply for
- Walk through steps 1, 2, and 3
- If you do not have access to the Internet, call 1-800-772-1213 to set an appointment at the local Social Security office near you
- If you are denied, appeal within 60 days

SSA Work Incentives

- For working students under age 22, you may be able to obtain a full SSI check
- Can provide assistance with work and disability related expenses
- Save money toward work goals
- Help obtain medical and cash benefits while working

Assistance is Available

Contact your local Benefits Planner to help you navigate the SSA system and understand how working will affect your Social Security and medical benefits.

King County Developmental Disabilities – Scott Leonard (206) 263-9049
Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities – Melinda Bocci (425) 388-7259

**Don't let Social Security benefits be a barrier to employment!
Learn about your benefits. Knowledge is powerful!**