

## **SSI For Infants Information for Parents**

- I. **What is SSI?** SSI Stand for Supplemental Security Income. It is a monthly payment from the Social Security Administration for infants, children and adults who must meet the eligibility criteria.
- II. **Is my baby eligible for SSI?**
- A. **Presumptive Eligibility:** This means that if there is the assertion of one of the below listed conditions, the Social Security Field Office staff can make a temporary finding of disability prior to completing the evaluation by the Disability Evaluation Division of the State Department of Social Services.
1. AIDS/HIV, with opportunistic disease.
  2. Down Syndrome verified by chromosome analysis.
  3. Multiple body dysfunction due to any hereditary, congenital, or acquired condition causing: severe persistent motor dysfunction, Mental retardation, growth impairment, speech or hearing or visual impairment, cardiovascular impairment, malnutrition, hypothyroidism, seizures, or other similar impairment.
  4. Catastrophic congenital abnormality or disease expected to cause early death or prevent growth or development past the level of two years. Trisomy D, E, 18, anencephaly, etc.
- B. **Special needs infants:** Some example of the many developmental problems that might make an infant eligible for SSI are listed below:
1. A need for major organ transplant.
  2. Daily need for a life sustaining device.
  3. Prematurity (born at 37 weeks for less) and birth weight under 1200 grams.
  4. Prematurity, weight between 1200 and 2000 grams and small for gestational age of 4 weeks\*.
  5. Major congenital organ dysfunction (e.g. heart disease), which if not corrected by surgery, would result in death within the first year of life\*.
  6. Tracheostomy in the child under three.  
(\* means that the eligibility is for the first year of life and must be reevaluated when the child is one year) These are just examples.

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- C. **Citizenship:** The child must be a citizen of the United States (US), a lawfully admitted permanent resident or a non-citizen given permission by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to remain in the US.
- D. **Income and Resources:**
1. Parental resources and income are not considered to be available to the child if the child is in the hospital for 30 days or more, and are not counted until the child has been home for more than 30 days.
  2. Family income must fall within the dollar limits established by regulations. Social Security Administration takes into consideration the source of the income the number of children and adults depending on the income and if other family members have disabilities or are blind.
  3. Parents resources in excess of \$3,000 for two a two parent family or \$2,000 for a one parent family are considered as being available to the child. The child's resources cannot be more than \$2,000. The home, furnishings, one car and property needed for work are not counted as resources.
  4. If you have excess resources or income, you can still apply for Medi-Cal at the County Department of Social Services or Welfare Department.
- III. **How do I Begin?** If you think your baby may be eligible for SSI, call the Social Security Administration at: (800) 772-1213, immediately, and tell them that you wish to apply for SSI for your child.