

What will I need to apply?

- Valid Social Security numbers
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of any doctors, therapists, and hospitals that have treated the child
- Names of any medications the child is taking
- Dates of any medical tests that the child has undergone
- Names of any schools the child has attended in the past 12 months
- Names of any teachers or specialists who have provided the child special education services (i.e. special education teachers, speech therapists, care coordinators, etc.)
- Records such as Individualized Family Service Plans or Individualized Education Programs
- Names of any special organizations that have helped care for the child
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of any employers
- Proof of current income for the child and family members living in the household.
- Proof of resources for the child and parents living in the household

Useful Numbers:

To Get Help With Applying for SSI:

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
924 Bethel Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oahu: 536-4302
Neighbor Islands: 1-800-499-4302
www.legalaidhawaii.org
Hotline Hours:
9-11:30 am & 1-3:30 pm

Social Security
1-800-772-1213
www.ssa.gov

To Get Medical Or School Services:

Kalhi-Palama Health Center
www.kphc.org

Learning Disabilities of Hawaii
www.ldahawaii.org

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII



KIDS' SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

A GENERAL GUIDE TO
SOCIAL SECURITY
DISABILITY BENEFITS
FOR CHILDREN.



What is Supplemental Security Income?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a benefit Social Security administers to aged, blind, or disabled people with little or no income. Children are also eligible for benefits.

How can I get SSI for my child?

In order to get SSI, the child has to fall within Social Security's income guidelines and definition of disability.

What is considered a disability?

Social Security will consider a child disabled if he or she has a physical or mental condition that very seriously limits his or her daily activities. This condition must have lasted for a year, will be expected to last for at least a year, or may result in the child's death.

How does Social Security decide if a child is disabled?

Social Security looks at a number of different factors. They will consider a condition disabling if it prevents the child from:

- Acquiring and using information
- Attending and completing tasks
- Interacting and relating to others
- Moving about and manipulating objects
- Caring for oneself
- Being physically healthy due to ongoing illnesses, frequent attacks, or side effects from treatments or medications.

Social Security will look at the child's medical and school records to make a decision. Children who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or who receive other special education services through school are often good candidates for SSI.

How do I know if I am financially eligible?

Social Security uses many guidelines to determine an applicant's financial eligibility. In general, they will count the income and assets of the parents in addition to that of the child. In some circumstances, they will count the income and assets of the child alone. Children who themselves have low to moderate incomes or are living in a low to moderate income household are usually financially eligible.

Who should apply?

Children who fall under Social Security's definition of disability and financial requirements.

Helpful Hints & Tools:

- **Consultative Exam (CE):** If you think your child qualifies but do not have enough supporting records, Social Security may send your child to a CE with one of their doctors. You can also ask for a CE if you think there is insufficient evidence by requesting for one in the "Remarks" section of the Disability Report.
- You can see if you qualify for any Social Security benefits by using the Benefits Eligibility Screening tool at <http://best.ssa.gov>.
- You can see a list of qualifying impairments by going to Social Security's Listing of Impairments, <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm>.
- Apply for SSI by calling Social Security (1-800-772-1213) or by completing a Child Disability Report at <http://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/>.
- If your child has a life-threatening condition, you can ask Social Security to speed up the decision. You will need to provide a doctor's note.