

Additional Social Security Information

Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI)

Children may receive RSDI benefits based on a parent's Social Security account because the parent is deceased, retired, or disabled. If a child is eligible under this program, the benefits go with them no matter where or with whom they live. The amount the child receives is based on the qualified parent's earnings and is not affected by the type of placement or income. Children must be under the age of 18 to receive this benefit. The exception to this is when a child is 18 years of age and is in high school full-time.

The RSDI program may also pay benefits to individuals who have a disability that began before age 22. To qualify, the individual has to have an eligible parent who is deceased, retired, or disabled, and they have to be found disabled based on their own impairment by meeting the disability rules for adults. These benefits may continue as long as the Social Security Administration (SSA) determines the individual remains disabled.

Indicators that a Child May Qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

A child who meets one (1) or more of the following indicators may qualify for the SSI program:

1. Child has recently (within the last six [6] months) received or is receiving psychiatric hospital services due to a diagnosed mental impairment other than substance abuse;
2. Child was recently discharged from or is currently in a residential facility due to diagnosed mental impairment other than substance abuse;
3. Child receives special education services to address severe learning problems;
4. Child receives intensive outpatient counseling and/or therapy;
5. Child has moderate to severe intellectual disability (intelligence quotient [IQ] of 70 or less);
6. Child has severe developmental delays (functioning at less than half of his or her chronological age);
7. Child receives intensive medical services and/or treatment for a physical illness; and/or an infant (less than one [1] year old) who was born at a very low birth weight (1200 grams [2.64 lbs.] or less).