

Questions?

Contact the Social Security
Unit by email at
DCSSocialSecurity@dcs.IN.gov

REMINDERS:

- A referral should be submitted by an FCM as soon as it is suspected that a child may have mental or physical deficits that limit them in their daily or school functioning.
- Biological parents can become the payee of a child's Social Security benefits while the child is home on a THV; the parent will have to appear in person at the local SSA office with identification and proof of placement.
- Placement information in MaGIK must be updated correctly and timely so the SS Unit can communicate this information with SSA
- If a youth's Collaborative Care placement is a service provider, update the child's address on his/her person page in MaGIK, so the SS Unit knows the child's placement location.

2023

Social Security Eligibility *Fact Sheet*



Did You Know?

- ✓ DCS Social Security Unit should be notified as soon as you identify a child is receiving benefits, SSI or RSDI via email at DCSSocialSecurity@dcs.IN.gov
- ✓ If a child is in a DCS paid placement, DCS is the payee for the ward's Social Security benefits. Receipt of Social Security benefits and a foster care per diem at the same time can result in an overpayment that the Social Security Administration (SSA) will recoup.
- ✓ If a child is not in a paid placement, i.e. unlicensed relative home, the placement can act as a payee for the ward's Social Security benefits.
 - The individual who will act as payee is required to appear in person at the local SSA office with identification and proof of placement of the ward.
 - SSA will determine if the individual meets SSA's criteria to be an acting payee.
- ✓ The referral form can be found on a child's Person Page in MaGIK under 'Forms' and 'All DCS Forms' titled "DCS SSI Referral Form".
- ✓ For adoptive children receiving SSI, particularly those in the SSI application process, please inform the pre-adoptive parents they will likely be eligible for back payment of benefits from prior to the adoption finalizing. However, SSI after the adoption finalizes is unlikely, especially if the child is receiving AAP adoption subsidy. FCMs or Parents can email DCSSocialSecurity@dcs.IN.gov with any questions regarding this situation.

Timelines

- ❖ The disability process is lengthy (on average 3 to 5 months), so it is important for DCS to process potential applications as soon as possible – this is particularly important for children approaching age 18 or those on the path to adoption.
- ❖ Once a month DCS processes refunds to SSA for individuals or facilities that become a ward's new payee. It then takes SSA and the US Treasury 3 months to refund the new payee.
- ❖ A person must be named and approved as a payee for a child prior to the 10th of the month to receive the following month's check. Once an individual has been approved as a payee it can take 8-12 weeks for SSA to reassign benefits to a new payee.