

SSI and Reentry: Here's What You Need to Know



What is SSI?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is monthly payments to people who have low income and few resources, and who are disabled and unable to work, blind, or age 65 or older.

I was receiving SSI before I was incarcerated. How do I get back on?

If you have been incarcerated for less than one year, you do not have to re-prove your medical disability. Call Social Security or your local Social Security Office to tell SSA that you have been released and need to get back onto benefits. Be ready with your Social Security number and information about your living situation, current financial status (income and any resources you own) and prison discharge information.

If you have been incarcerated for more than a year, you may have to reapply and prove that you are disabled based on your medical records and other factors.

How do I apply for SSI benefits?

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, local Social Security offices are currently closed. You can apply by calling (800) 772-1213 or calling your local SSA field office (see numbers below) or, for SSD cases, online. Parents and legal guardians may apply for their children with disabilities.

The Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) SOAR Project assists men, women, and youth who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in applying for SSI. HAP can be reached at: (800) 837-2672. HAP also has a SOAR Justice Project to provide specialized support for people who are returning home from incarceration or are otherwise involved in the criminal-justice system.

What paperwork do I need to apply?

Social Security will look at records of your medical treatment from the past year, plus older records if they are relevant. It is very important to be in treatment for all of your conditions.

Social Security gives special weight to records from doctors, psychologists, and other medical providers. It will look at records from these providers to see if you have a disability. Once it decides if you have a disability, it will consider records from other people, like therapists, teachers, home health aides, or family members.

How long does it take to qualify for SSI benefits?

If you are released within twelve months of incarceration, you are eligible to start receiving benefits right away. If you need to reapply, it can take several months to get onto benefits, or longer if you are denied and appeal. If you are denied and need help with an appeal, Community Legal Services may be able to help. **Appeal online right away (if possible) or call your local Field Office and then call Community Legal Services at (215) 981-3700 for a telephone intake.**

Can I still receive SSI if I work?

To qualify for SSI, you must show that you are not able to engage in Substantial Gainful Activity, which means that you are not able to earn \$1260 a month (in 2020).

Once you start receiving SSI, you can work, but your SSI payments will be reduced based on your earnings. There are some discounts and allowances for certain types of work. Be sure to report the money you earn each month by calling (800) 772-1213.

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SSA Office	Address	Phone	Zip Codes Served
Downtown	2 Penn Center, Suite 2000A, 1500 JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19102	(866) 613-3969	19102; 19103; 19105; 19106; 19107; 19108; 19109; 19110; 19121; 19122; 19123; 19130; 19146; 19147; 19155
Northeast	9300 Ashton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114	(866) 331-7840	19111; 19114; 19115; 19116; 19120; 19124; 19135; 19136; 19149; 19152; 19154; 19006; 19009; 19040
University City	4240 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104	(877) 445-9977	19101; 19104; 19131; 19139; 19142; 19143; 19151; 19153
Germantown	701 E Cheltenham Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144	(866) 495-0255	19118; 19119; 19126; 19127; 19128; 19129; 19138; 19141; 19144; 19150; 19001; 19012; 19027; 19038; 19095
South	3336 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145	(877) 575-5191	19112; 19145; 19148
Nicetown	2929 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132	(877) 319-0727	19132; 19133; 19140
Aramingo	3400 Aramingo Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134	(855) 248-0233	19125; 19134; 19137
Upper Darby	8645 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082	(866) 964-0780	
Fairless Hills	444 Lincoln Highway, Fairless Hills, PA 19030	(866) 964-7318	
Limerick	39 West Ridge Pike, Royersford, PA 19468	(866) 964-7415	
West Chester	1101 West Chester Pike, West Chester, PA 19382	(888) 306-3216	
Bethlehem	555 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018	(866) 783-7458	
East Stroudsburg	9090 Franklin Hill Road, Suite 101, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	(888) 835-6169	
Norristown	1700 Markley Street, Norristown, PA 19401	(866) 964-6305	19075; 19090
Chester	807 Crosby Street, Chester, PA 19013	(866) 398-1456	19113
Allentown	41 North 4th Street, Allentown, PA 18102	(877) 405-6746	
Easton	134 South 4th Street, Easton, PA 18042	(866) 964-5056	

For all other offices go to: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.js>