

How A Child Can Qualify For Social Security Disability Benefits With An Intellectual Disability

Children that have an intellectual disability may qualify for Social Security disability benefits. When children have a serious medical condition like an intellectual disability, they need a lot of care. And that care can cause financial difficulties for low-income parents that are already struggling to make ends meet. If your child has an intellectual disability your child may be approved for [SSI](#) from the Social Security Administration. SSI is paid to parents to help them pay for the child's care and living expenses.

If your child receives SSI, the money paid to you for their care must be spent on them. You will need to document how the money is spent and show it's spent on the child. But that extra money can help parents that are struggling to take care of their child who has special needs.

Qualifying For SSI Because Of An Intellectual Disability

The Social Security Administration requires everyone that applies for Social Security disability benefits to submit an application. You can fill out an application for your child. All of the medical conditions that qualify a child to receive SSI are listed in the SSA's Blue Book. The Blue Book includes the [list of disabilities for SSI](#), including intellectual disability. You will need to submit a letter of diagnosis for your child along with medical records that show the child's condition meets all of the requirements in the Blue Book listing for intellectual disability. The first Blue Book requirement is that the child has IQ of 70 or below or an IQ of 71-75 with verbal performance scores of 70 or below. Include a letter of diagnosis and IQ tests if available to show that your child meets that requirement.

Additionally, you need to show that your child has an extreme limitation in at least one of these areas or a severe limitation in [two or more of these areas](#):

- understanding, remembering, or applying information (ability to learn terms and concepts, follow instructions, and solve problems)
- interacting with others (ability to understand social cues, cooperate, make and maintain friendships, and handle conflicts)
- concentrating on tasks and maintaining pace (ability to complete tasks in a timely manner, ignore or avoid distractions, and work close to others without distracting them), and
- managing oneself (ability to protect oneself from harm, regulate emotions, control behavior, and maintain personal hygiene).

IQ tests, behavioral assessments, and medical evidence like MRIs or CAT scans can help prove that your child meets the requirements.

Financial Requirements

The SSA wants to make sure that the funds from SSI or disability benefits are going to families that really need them so they have created an income cap for receiving SSI. There are strict [SSI asset limits](#). You will need to submit a W-2 or a Federal tax return showing income for each adult in the house that works full time to show that the total household income falls below the SSA's cap.

Starting An Application for SSI Benefits

Parents or guardians can start the application for SSI for a child on the [SSA's website](#), but you can also make an appointment at your [local Social Security Administration office](#). Bring copies of your child's medical records and your financial documents with you to the appointment. Someone at the office can help you fill out the application and submit all the supporting documents.

Sources Found Via:

- <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/disabling-conditions>
- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/112.00-MentalDisorders-Childhood.htm#112_05
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/faq/assets-calculation-ssi>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/start.html>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/locator/>