



Understanding Supplemental Security Income

DOCUMENTS YOU MAY NEED WHEN YOU APPLY FOR SSI

(Last modified: 07/27/2004)

You may not need all of the following documents. Sometimes one document can substitute for another. The lists are not all-inclusive. We will tell you what you need and what other documents are acceptable. We will help you get them if you are having trouble.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD OR NUMBER

You will need to apply for a Social Security number if you do not have one.

PROOF OF AGE

- a public birth record recorded before age 5;
- a religious birth record recorded before age 5; or
- other documents showing your age or date of birth.

NOTE: If you already proved your age when you applied for Social Security benefits, you do not need to prove it again for SSI.

CITIZENSHIP OR ALIEN STATUS RECORD

If you are a citizen, examples of documents you may need are:

- birth certificate showing you were born in the U.S.; or
- religious record of birth or baptism showing your place of birth in the U.S.; or
- naturalization certificate; or
- U.S. passport; or
- certificate of citizenship.

If you are an alien, examples of documents you may need are:

- a current immigration document; e.g., an I-551 (Permanent Resident Card); or
- I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record).

If you are an alien who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, you may need your military discharge paper (form DD-214).

PROOF OF INCOME

If you have income, you may need to provide the following:

- earned income - payroll stubs, or if self-employed, a tax return for the last tax year.
- unearned income - any records you have (e.g., award letters, bank statements, court orders, receipts) showing how much you receive, how often, and the source of the payment.
- work expenses – See page 39 for more information on SSI work incentives.

PROOF OF RESOURCES

- bank statement(s) for all checking and savings accounts.
- deed or tax appraisal statement for all property you own besides the house you live in.
- life or disability insurance policies.
- burial contracts, plots, etc.
- certificates of deposit, stocks, or bonds.
- car titles or registrations.

PROOF OF LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- lease or rent receipt.
- names, dates of births, medical assistance cards or social security numbers for all household members.
- deed or property tax bill.
- information about household costs, food, utilities, etc.

MEDICAL SOURCES (If you are filing as blind or disabled)

- medical reports, if you have them.
- names, addresses, and telephone numbers of doctors, hospitals and other providers of medical services to you.

OTHER SOURCES

If you are applying as a disabled child, or on behalf of a disabled child, we need the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people (teachers, caregivers) who can provide information about how the disabled child's medical condition affects his or her day-to-day activities.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ***Do not wait to apply.*** If you think you may be eligible for SSI, you should contact us right away. The earliest we will pay SSI is the month after the filing date of your application. We may use the date you contact us as the filing date. If you do not have all of the things we need, you can get them later.
- ***We need to see the original documents.*** We do not accept photocopies. We will return the original documents to you.
- ***Try to keep a copy of things you send us.*** Keep track of the dates you send information to us, or talk to us, as well as the name of the Social Security employee with whom you spoke.

THIS INFORMATION IS GENERAL. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE.