

SSI In Washington State

People in financial need who are age 65 or older or people of any age who are blind or have a disability (including children) may be eligible for monthly cash payments from the federal government. The payments are called Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You may be eligible for SSI payments if you have little or no income, and if the value of the things you own is less than \$2,000 if you are single, or \$3,000 if you are married. We do not count the value of your home or your car (if it is not an expensive model). Certain other assets may not count either. Call Social Security for more information.

In addition to meeting the income limits, you must live in the U.S. or the Northern Mariana Islands **and** be in one of the following groups:

- U.S. citizens or nationals;
- certain American Indians;
- lawful permanent residents with 40 work credits;
- certain noncitizens with a military service connection, and their spouses or unmarried dependent children;
- certain noncitizens lawfully residing in the U.S. who are blind or disabled, or who were receiving SSI on August 22, 1996; or
- certain Amerasian immigrants, Cuban/Haitian entrants, refugees, asylees or individuals whose deportation or removal has been withheld may be eligible for seven years after the date their immigration status was granted.

For more information about noncitizen eligibility requirements, ask for the factsheet, *Supplemental Security Income for Noncitizens* (Publication No. 05-11051).

Also, you must apply for any other money benefits for which you may be eligible.

Even though the Social Security Administration runs the program, SSI is not the same as Social Security. Money for SSI payments comes from the general fund of the U.S. Treasury.

The state of Washington adds money to the federal payment. For the convenience of SSI recipients, the state of Washington and the federal government have agreed to include the amount in the federal payment. Therefore, SSI recipients receive one U.S. government payment during the first week of each month with federal and state money included.

The back of this factsheet has a table showing the 1998 maximum monthly payment amounts for SSI recipients in different living arrangements.

Medical Assistance

If you receive SSI payments, you usually get medical assistance (Medicaid) automatically. A separate Medicaid application isn't necessary. The state of Washington will send you Medicaid coupons with information about their use.

Food Stamps

When you receive SSI, you also may be eligible for food stamps. Food stamps can help you buy more food without spending more money. Social Security doesn't decide if you can get food stamps. However, people who live in a household where everyone is applying for or receiving SSI may apply for food stamps at a Social Security office.

SSI Payments

The amounts shown on the bottom of this factsheet include both federal and state money. Not all SSI recipients receive the

maximum payment amounts. Payments may be lower if you have other income. Your Social Security office can give you more information about payment levels and how income affects them.

For More Information

You can get recorded information 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays, by calling Social Security's toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213**. You can speak to a service representative between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. Our lines are busiest early in the week and early in the month so, if your business can wait, it's best to call at other times. Whenever you call, have your Social Security number handy.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days.

You also can reach us on the Internet. Type <http://www.ssa.gov> to access Social Security information.

The people at Social Security can tell you what information you need to apply for SSI. Parents and guardians can apply on behalf of children under age 18 who are blind or have a disability.

The Social Security Administration treats all calls confidentially—whether they're made to our toll-free numbers or to one of our local offices. We also want to ensure that you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some incoming and outgoing calls. If you want more information about social services, such as homemaker and chore services, community placement, and rehabilitation or protective services, call your local office of the Department of Social and Health Services listed under "State of Washington" in the blue pages of the phone book.

Category	1998 Total Payment	
	Area I*	Area II*
Living Alone		
Eligible Individual	\$521.00	\$500.55
Eligible Couple	762.00	741.00
Eligible Individual Living With		
Ineligible Spouse	661.20	631.25
Living in the Household of Another		
Eligible Individual	334.15	334.15
Eligible Couple	499.30	499.30
Living in the Household of Another With		
Ineligible Spouse	432.10	432.10
Child Living With Parents	521.00	500.55
Living in Medical Care Facility Where Medicaid Pays More Than 50%:		
Eligible Individual	30.00	30.00
Eligible Couple	60.00	60.00

*Area I includes King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston counties. Area II includes all other counties in Washington.

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