

Whatcom County Child Health Notes:

SSI BENEFITS FOR DISABLED INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Children with physical or mental disabilities may qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, if the family's income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level. SSI is a federal program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA), and is available to US citizens and non-US citizens with a variety of types of immigrant status.

SSI BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Monthly payments, ranging from \$1 to \$545/month (depending on family's income, assets and number of dependents)
- Unrestricted Medicaid coverage
- Referral to DSHS to determine eligibility for potential additional assistance (i.e., food stamps, personal care services.)



WHAT IS THE DOCTOR'S ROLE ?

If a doctor thinks a child may qualify for SSI benefits based on a disability, the doctor can recommend that the parents apply. If needed, the family can be referred to a Family Resource Coordinator (FRC) for help with the application process. (Contact Maureen Godwin, FRC, at 738-2522.) SSA will contact the doctor for medical information.

MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY FOR SSI

Children under 18 years old must have a medically diagnosed physical or mental condition which:

- Results in marked limitations in two domains of functioning; or, results in extreme limitations in one domain, **AND**
- Has lasted, or is expected to last, more than 12 months; or, is expected to result in death

Infants with low birth weight (LBW) may be considered "disabled" for their first year if:

- Birth weight is less than 1200 grams, **OR**
- Birth weight is between 1200-2000 grams **and** more than 2 standard deviations below the mean for gestational age

EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS

SSI can presume disability for the conditions listed below. Immediate payments will be made for up to 6 months, until a formal disability decision is made.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Down syndrome ▪ Total blindness ▪ HIV infection ▪ Mental retardation ▪ Diabetes with amputation of one foot ▪ Amputation of two legs or of one leg at the hip 	<p>And, in some cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total deafness ▪ Cerebral palsy ▪ Muscular dystrophy
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WHAT IS THE FAMILY'S ROLE ?

APPLYING FOR SSI

Families can call SSA between 7 am to 7 pm (M-F) to request an application or to ask questions. Families will be asked for the child's social security number.

- Call 1-800-772-1213
For languages other than Spanish or English, press "0", identify the language, and ask for an interpreter
- For TTY, call 1-800-325-0778

WHAT IS SSA'S ROLE ?

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR SSI

SSA will gather information from medical providers regarding medical status and will interview parents about financial status.

- The family's income **MUST** fall below 200% of the federal poverty level
- Other factors such as assets and number of dependents are also considered
- SSI requires documentation and eligibility review to assure that the child continues to meet eligibility requirements

