In the SSI program, a child becomes an adult at age 18. Different medical and non-medical rules are used in determining eligibility. The income and resources of family members (except for a spouse) are not considered when deciding whether an adult meets the financial limits for SSI. Only the adult’s (and spouse’s) income and resources are counted. Additionally, the disability rules for adults are used when deciding whether an adult has a disability.

If your child is already receiving SSI, their medical condition will be reviewed once they turn 18. The adult disability rules will be used to determine eligibility.

Even if your child wasn’t eligible for SSI before their 18th birthday because you or your spouse had too much income or too many resources, they may become eligible for SSI at age 18. For more information, read Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (Publication No. 05-11000).

To start your application, go to the Apply for Benefits page. Next, gather the information and documents you need to apply. The Adult Disability Checklist provides the information you need to complete the application.

Resources You May Find Helpful

Social Security Disability Benefits Starter Kit
Contact your local Social Security office or check the status of your application by calling 800-772-1213.
Learn about how to Appeal a Decision.
Once approved, you must report certain changes. Here is a list of those changes.
Information about Reporting Wages for SSI.