

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children: What is it, who is it for, and how can **the Education System** help?



How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for children (and their families) in your district who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness



Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to turning age 18) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children and families with low income and resources
- Note: If a child is unmarried, lives with their parents, and their parents do not receive SSI, a portion of the parents' income and resources may be considered



How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Identify children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Fill out an SSA-5665 Teacher Questionnaire (when requested by SOAR case worker or DDS)
- Write a letter documenting the child's limitations in functioning and supportive services provided when requested by Disability Determination System (DDS) or the SOAR case worker
- Assist with gathering educational evidence, such as: 504 plans, Individualized Education Program (IEP) records, IQ testing, special education services, school counseling, disciplinary reports
- Gather medical evidence, such as hospital or clinic records and psychiatric evaluations, and arrange for additional testing as appropriate
- Identify counselors or staff that could assist families and SOAR Leads or case workers with the application process



What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-child-ussi.htm>
- National Center for Homeless Education: <https://nche.ed.gov/>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/content/contact-us>, <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/directory>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for education providers and organizations who are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process or assisting children and families with applying for SSI
<https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/course/soar-child-curriculum>

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

Connect with your state SOAR contacts: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/directory>