

## Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children: What is it, who is it for, and how can **Parents/Caregivers** help?



How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for your family and child(ren)
- Income that can be used for supportive services (i.e. therapies, childcare)
- Enhanced health insurance coverage (Medicaid)



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?

- Find a SOAR provider in your community and talk to them about your child's needs
- Provide information about your child's functioning while at school, at home, at the doctor's office, etc.
- Help identify additional sources of medical or educational documentation
- Connect with family peer networks in your area
- If interested in learning more, review or complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum



What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-child-ussi.htm>
- Family Run Organizations: <https://www.fredla.org/>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/content/contact-us>, <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/directory>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course can be a resource for parents to learn about SSI, the process of applying, and how they can become connected with resources <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>