

## Children's Disability / SSI Resource Code Card

Disability Advocacy for Pediatric Practitioners  
How to Help Eligible Families Get Benefits

### Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA)

#### Medical-Legal Partnership Project (MLPP)

Saint Francis Office ..... 860-714-1412

CCMC Office ..... 860-545-8581

CCA Office ..... 860-570-5327

Immigrants & Refugees: New Arrivals Advocacy Project  
(IRNAAP)..... 860-570-5327

## Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

### Definitions

**Child** - not married or head of household *under 18*, OR *under 22 and student regularly attending school*.

**Dedicated Account** - past due benefits (> 6 months) required to be paid into separate account to be used only to pay for expense related to disability. Monitored by SSA.

**Deeming** - parent's or guardian's income and resources counted as if available to child.

**Disabled** - child under 18 with physical or mental condition which results in marked and severe functional limitations AND condition lasted or is expected to last 12 months, OR child is blind.

**Income** - wages/earnings from employment, royalties, honoraria, etc.

**Resources** - things owned and deemed to determine financial eligibility such as bank accounts, cash, land, life insurance, automobiles, etc.

**Reconsideration** - first appeal from denied application. Paper review by SSA.

**SSA** -Social Security Administration

### Comments or Updates?

Call (860) 714-1412 or e-mail [jsicklick@kidscounsel.org](mailto:jsicklick@kidscounsel.org)

## Eligibility

### Financial

**Earned Income** - wages, earnings from self-employment, certain royalties and honoraria, sheltered workshop payments

**Unearned Income** - Social Security benefits, state disability payments, unemployment benefits, interest income, cash gifts

**Income Not Counted** - first \$20 income/month; first \$65 earnings and ½ earnings over \$65/month; value of food stamps; income tax refunds, etc.

**Resource Limit** - \$2,000 with one parent; \$3,000 if child lives with two parents.

**Resources Not Counted** - primary home, household goods/personal effects, burial funds not greater than \$1,500, life insurance not greater than \$1,500.

### SSI Eligibility Income Chart

Children's Deeming  
Maximum monthly income for eligibility (guidelines only)

Effective January 2009

Number of Children in Household	Earned Income One Parent HH	Earned Income Two Parent HH	Unearned Income One Parent HH	Unearned Income Two Parent HH
	0	2,821	3,495	1,388
1	3,158	3,832	1,725	2,062
2	3,495	4,169	2,062	2,399
3	3,832	4,506	2,399	2,736
4	4,169	4,843	2,736	3,073
5	4,506	5,180	3,073	3,410
6	4,843	5,517	3,410	3,747

### Remember

There is no deeming when there are public assistance payments (i.e. TFA) or SSI income in the household.

## Eligibility

### Disability 3 Step Process

1. Is the child engaged in substantial gainful activity (SGA), i.e. working?
2. Does the child have a medically determinable and severe impairment or combination of impairments?  
If NO,
3. Does the child's impairment(s)
  - meet the requirements of a listed impairment (see Disability Listings below), or
  - medically equal the requirements of a listed impairment, or
  - cause functional limitations that are the same as the disabling functional limitations of any listing?

If YES to above, child is disabled and benefits granted.  
If NO, claim is denied.

## Disability Listings

- 100 Growth Impairment
- 101 Musculoskeletal System
- 102 Special Sense & Speech
- 103 Respiratory System
- 104 Cardiovascular System
- 105 Digestive System
- 106 Genitourinary System
- 107 Hematological Disorders
- 108 Skin Disorders
- 109 Endocrine System
- 110 Impairments that Affect Multiple Body Systems
- 111 Neurological
- 112 Mental Disorders
- 113 Malignant Neoplastic Diseases
- 114 Immune System

Complete detailed listings are online at:  
[www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm)

Download the medical form for SSI disabilityclaim at:  
[www.kidscounsel.org/physdisform.pdf](http://www.kidscounsel.org/physdisform.pdf)

## SSI Application and Appeals Process

### Application

SSA District Office  
Application approved, benefits begin  
**Application denied**



### Reconsideration

File within 60 days  
Paper appeal  
RECON approved, benefits begin  
**RECON Denied**



### Request for Hearing with ALJ

(Administrative Law Judge)  
File within 60 days  
Wait for hearing - Contact attorney/advocate  
Hearing  
Win case, benefits begin  
**Lose Case**



### Appeal to Appeals Council

File within 60 days  
Decision overturned, benefits begin or rehearing  
**Decision upheld**



### Appeal to Federal District Court

### Tips

- 5 day grace period for mailing appeals
- Attorney or advocate recommended at hearing stage
- Medical evidence critical at hearing stage
- Be specific, not general, about function
- Focus on functional limitations of child as well as medical disability

## SSI Functional Analysis

### If your pediatric patient does not meet SSA's Disability Listings

SSA utilizes the following analysis to determine SSI eligibility if your pediatric patient does not meet published medical disability listings:

#### 6 Areas for Functional Limitations

- 1. Acquiring and Using Information**  
How well a child acquires/learns and uses information.
- 2. Attending and Completing Tasks**
- 3. Interacting and Relating with Others**
- 4. Moving About and Manipulating Objects**
- 5. Caring for Oneself**  
How well a child maintains a healthy emotional and physical state, including how well the child meets physical and emotional wants and needs in appropriate ways, copes with stress, etc.
- 6. Health and Physical Well Being**  
Cumulative physical effects of physical or mental impairments and associated treatments or therapies on a child's functioning.

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Information about the Medical Legal Partnership Project is available online at [www.kidscounsel.org](http://www.kidscounsel.org).

The Medical Legal Partnership Project (MLPP) is a joint medical-legal collaboration between Center for Children's Advocacy, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Charter Oak Health Center, and Community Health Services, Inc.

Project activities are funded through generous grants from The Aetna Foundation, American Savings Foundation, Connecticut Bar Association, Connecticut Health Foundation, Fisher Foundation, Hartford Courant Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, J.B. Cox Charitable Trust, The NewAlliance Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut.

## Functional Capacity Guidelines

Physician/Clinician determines severity of child's condition by evaluating the 6 areas for functional limitations listed and noting whether child's functional limitation is either marked or extreme:

### Marked

Limitation interferes seriously with child's ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities.

- test scores are at least 2 but less than 3 standard deviations below mean
- Birth to 3 - levels that are more than 1/2 but not more than 2/3 child's chronological age

### Extreme

Limitation interferes very seriously with child's ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities.

- test scores at least 3 standard deviations below mean
- Birth to 3 - child functioning at level that is 1/2 of chronological age or less

## Disability Determination

**Marked limitation in 2 domains OR  
Extreme limitation in 1 domain**

### When does a child patient need a lawyer?

Your child patient will need a lawyer or advocate after a request for a hearing is made.

## Resources and Contacts

### Disability Advocacy Resources

**Americans With Disabilities Act** [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)

**Section 504 of Rehab. Act of 1973** [www.hhs.gov/ocr/504](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/504)

**Special Ed Individual with Disabilities Education Act**  
Federal Department of Education  
[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/index.html?src=mr](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/index.html?src=mr)

State Department of Education  
[www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&Q=320730](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&Q=320730)

**General Information**  
[www.disabilityinfo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.gov)

## Resources and Contacts

### Social Security Administration (SSA)

[www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi)

**National Hotline** ..... 800-772-1213

#### Connecticut Offices

307 Main St, Ansonia, CT 06401 ..... 203-735-6201  
3885 Main St, Bridgeport, CT 06606 ..... 203-365-8452  
225 North Main St, Bristol, CT 06010 ..... 860-314-2304  
131 West St, Danbury, CT 06810 ..... 203-748-3569  
478 Burnside Ave, E. Hartford, CT 06108 ..... 860-290-5420  
960 Main St, Hartford, CT 06103 ..... 860-493-1857  
1 West Main St, Meriden, CT 06451 ..... 203-238-0346  
425 Main St, Middletown, CT 06457 ..... 860-347-8562  
233 Main St, New Britain, CT 06051 ..... 860-858-6086  
150 Court St, New Haven, CT 06510 ..... 203-773-5201  
2 Shaws Cove, New London, CT 06320 ..... 866-643-3401  
24 Belden Ave, Norwalk, CT 06850 ..... 203-849-1911  
101 Water St, Norwich, CT 06360 ..... 860-886-7118  
2 Landmark Sq, Stamford, CT 06901 ..... 203-359-0030  
147 Litchfield St, Torrington, CT 06790 ..... 860-489-1633  
95 Scovill St, Waterbury, CT 06706 ..... 203-756-7476  
1320 Main St, Willimantic, CT 06226 ..... 860-423-6386

**Disability Adjudications & Review** ..... 860-240-4333

**Publication: *Children with Disabilities***  
[www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.pdf)

## Legal Resources

**Center for Children's Advocacy** ..... 860-570-5327  
[www.kidscounsel.org](http://www.kidscounsel.org)

**Medical Legal Partnership Project Offices**  
at Saint Francis Hospital ..... 860-714-1412  
at Connecticut Children's Medical Center ... 860-545-8581

**Connecticut Legal Rights Project** ..... 860-262-5030

**Connecticut Legal Services**  
New Britain ..... 860-225-8689  
New London ..... 860-447-0323  
Waterbury ..... 203-756-8074  
Willimantic ..... 860-456-1761

**Greater Hartford Legal Aid** ..... 860-541-5000

**New Haven Legal Assistance** ..... 203-946-4811

**Quinnipiac Univ, Law School Clinic** ..... 203-582-3238

**Statewide Legal Services** 800-453-3320, 860-344-0380

**State Office of Protection & Advocacy** .... 860-297-4300

## Advocacy Resources

**Center for Children's Advocacy  
Medical Legal Partnership Project Offices**  
at Saint Francis Hospital ..... 860-714-1412  
at Connecticut Children's Medical Center ..... 860-545-8581

**Special Kids Support Center (CCMC)** ..... 860-610-4200

**Advocacy Unlimited** ..... 860-667-0460

**African Caribbean American Parents of  
Children with Disabilities** ..... 860-297-4307

**ARC of Connecticut** ..... 860-953-8335

**Autism Society of Connecticut** ..... 888-453-4975

**Bazon Center for Mental Health Law** .... 202-467-5730

**Birth to 3 Program** ..... 800-505-7000

**Brain Injury Association of Connecticut** ... 860-721-8111

**Connecticut Board of Education and  
Services for the Blind** ..... 860-602-4000

**Connecticut Commission on Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing** ..... 860-231-8756

**Connecticut Department of Developmental  
Disabilities (formerly DMR)** ..... 860-418-6000

**Connecticut Department of Mental Health  
and Addiction Services** ..... 800-446-7348, 860-418-7000

**Connecticut Legal Rights Project** ..... 860-262-5030

**Connecticut Parents Advocacy Center** .. 800-445-CPAC

**Family Advocacy Organization for Children's Learning  
Disabilities Association of Connecticut** ... 860-650-1711

**FAVOR (Mental Health)** ..... 860-563-3232 x.201

**Hartford Assoc. for Retarded Citizens** ..... 860-218-6000

**National Assoc. of Mental Illness (NAMI)** .. 860-882-0236

**Padres Abriendo Puertas** ..... 800-842-7303

**Special Ed Resource Center (SERC)** ..... 860-632-1485

**Spina Bifida Assoc. of Connecticut** ..... 800-574-6274

**State Office of Protection & Advocacy** ..... 860-297-4300

**UConn Pappanikou Center for Developmental Disabilities**  
866-623-1315, 860-679-1500