

Children's Disability / SSI Resource Card

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

Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA) Medical-Legal Partnership Project (MLPP)

CCA Hartford Office
860-570-5327

CCA at Connecticut Children's Medical Center
860-545-8581

CCA at Yale New Haven Hospital
203-688-0113

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 paid into separate account 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

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 stamp; 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 2018

Number of Children in Household	Earned Income		Unearned Income	
	One Parent HH	Two Parent HH	One Parent HH	Two Parent HH
0	3,125	3,875	1,540	1,915
1	3,500	4,250	1,915	2,290
2	3,875	4,625	2,290	2,665
3	4,250	5,000	2,665	3,040
4	4,625	5,375	3,040	3,415
5	5,000	5,750	3,415	3,790
6	5,375	6,125	3,790	4,165

Remember

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

Eligibility

Disability: Three Step Process

1. Is the child working?
(engaged in Substantial Gainful Activity - SGA)
2. Does the child have a medically determinable and severe impairment or combination of impairments?
If NO,
3. Do the child's impairments
 - 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 disability listing?

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

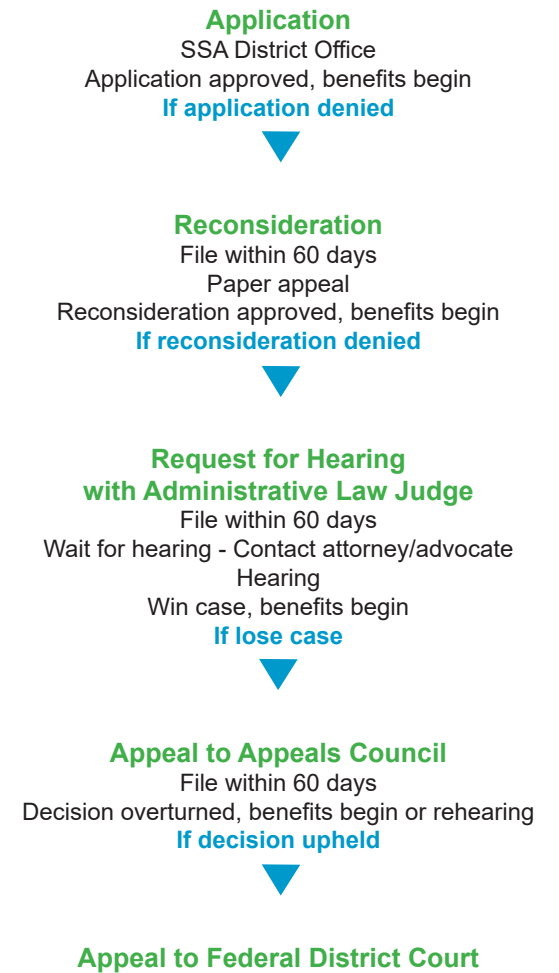
Disability Listings

- 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

Download the medical form for SSI disability claim at
cca-ct.org/physdisform.pdf

SSI Application and Appeals Process



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 Medical Listings

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

Six 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 child's functioning.

Functional Capacity Guidelines

Physician/Clinician determines severity of child's condition by evaluating the **Six Areas for Functional Limitations** and noting whether child's functional limitation is either:

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 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 Two Domains OR
Extreme limitation in One Domain**

When does a child patient need a lawyer?

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

Resources and Contacts

Social Security Administration (SSA)

National Hotline800-772-1213
Office of Hearings and Appeals860-240-4333
Website: socialsecurity.gov/ssi
Publication: ssa.gov/pubs/10026.pdf

Connecticut Offices

Bridgeport866-331-6399
Danbury866-275-7821
Hartford877-619-2851
East Hartford866-706-6759
New Haven866-331-5281
New London866-643-3401
Stamford866-770-1881
Waterbury877-405-4874
Complete list of Connecticut SSA offices:
ssofficelocation.com/connecticut-social-security-offices-sos7

Legal Resources

Center for Children's Advocacy

Hartford860-570-5327
Bridgeport203-335-0719
CCA at CT Children's Medical Ctr860-545-8581
CCA at Yale New Haven Hospital.....203-688-0113

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

Connecticut Legal Services

Bridgeport203-336-3851
New Britain860-225-8678
New London860-447-0323
Stamford203-348-9216
Waterbury203-756-8074
Willimantic860-456-1761

Greater Hartford Legal Aid860-541-5000

New Haven Legal Assistance203-946-4811

Quinnipiac Law School Clinic203-582-3238

Statewide Legal Services.....800-453-3320

CT Office of Protection & Advocacy .860-297-4300

Disability Advocacy

Americans with Disabilities Act ada.gov

Section 504 of Rehab. Act of 1973 hhs.gov/ocr/504

Special Ed - Individuals with Disabilities Educ. Act
Federal Department of Education

ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html?src=mr

Connecticut Department of Education

sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&Q=320730

General Information disabilityinfo.gov

Advocacy Resources

Advocacy Unlimited860-667-0460

AFCAMP for Children with Disabilities..... 860-297-4307

ARC of Connecticut860-953-8335

Autism Society of Connecticut888-453-4975

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law 202-467-5730

Birth to Three Program800-505-7000

Brain Injury Association of CT 860-721-8111

Connecticut Board of Education and

Services for the Blind860-602-4000

Connecticut Commission on Deaf and

Hard of Hearing860-231-8756

Connecticut Department of Mental Health and

Addiction Services 800-446-7348, 860-418-7000

Connecticut Department of Developmental Disabilities

.....860-418-6000

Connecticut Legal Rights Project860-262-5030

Connecticut Parents Advocacy Ctr.800-445-2722

Family Advocacy for Children's Learning Disabilities

Association of Connecticut 860-650-1711

FAVOR: Mental Health860-563-3232

Hartford Assoc. for Retarded Citizens 860-218-6000

National Assoc. of Mental Illness (NAMI)

.....860-882-0236

Padres Abriendo Puertas800-842-7303

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

Special Kids Support Center at CCMC 860-545-9230

Spina Bifida Association800-574-6274

State Office of Protection & Advocacy 860-297-4300

UCONN Pappanikou Center for Developmental

Disabilities 866-623-1315, 860-679-1500

