

SSI OVERVIEW FOR CLINIC STAFF

How you can help your patients apply for Supplemental Security Income

You may be seeing aged or disabled patients in your clinic that might be eligible for SSI (Supplemental Security Income). SSI is a “needs-based” program and is not based on a person’s work history. Many people confuse SSI with SSD (Social Security Disability). SSD *is* tied to work history and patients will often say they have applied for SSI before and have been denied due to “lack of work credits”. If they say this, they are referring to SSD and should still be encouraged to apply for SSI.

Who is eligible for SSI?

Anyone who is:

- Aged (age 65 or older); or
- Blind; or
- Disabled

And who:

- Has limited income; and
- Has limited resources; and
- Is a U.S. born or naturalized citizen or in one of certain categories of aliens (Note: in general, an alien who is subject to an active warrant for deportation/removal does not meet the citizenship/alien requirement); and
- Is a resident of one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- Is not absent from the country for a full calendar month or more than 30 consecutive days; and
- Agrees to apply for any other cash benefits for which he or she may be entitled; and
- Meets certain other requirements.

Why would we want to refer our patients for SSI?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a Federal income-supplement program funded by general tax revenues. In Washington, being eligible for SSI means you receive a monthly benefit (payment to the individual) and the following benefits and services:

Medicaid to pay for hospital stays, doctor bills, prescription drugs, and other health costs

Medicare premiums are paid

Food Stamps

Other Social Services

How to help your patients apply for SSI

For Patients that are NOT Community Health Plan Members:

- Please discuss the possibility of SSI with your patient and give them the following number:
 - **1-800-772-1213**
- Or refer them to their local Social Security Office

Please advise your patients of the following from Social Security:

“Do not wait to apply. If you think you may be eligible for SSI benefits, you should contact your local Social Security Administration office **right away**. The earliest we will pay benefits is the month after the filing date of your application, or the month after you first meet all the eligibility requirements, whichever is later. *We may use the date you contact us as the filing date.* If you do not have all of the things we need, you can get them later.”

You can access complete SSI eligibility and application information at the following website: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/text-understanding-ssi.htm>

For Community Health Plan Members:

- You may refer CHP Members to Plan Level Case Management for an Entitlement Review using a Case Management Referral Form. Please specify that you would like case management to review for SSI eligibility, giving as many details as possible. It is helpful if you discuss this with the member first. The referral form can be faxed to (206) 613-8873.
- If you have questions about a Community Health Plan member and would like to discuss before you make a referral for Plan Level Case Management, please contact Carrie Carroll, MSW at (866) 440-2479 x8898 or 206-613-8898.
- You may also call and speak with the CM Supervisor at (866) 440-2479 x8964 or (206) 613-8964.
- If the CM agrees that the member may be eligible for SSI, they will facilitate the SSI referral.
- The member will be contacted directly to help them through the application process.