

**SSI BENEFITS
DETERMINATION**

Children who have physical, emotional, or mental disabilities may be potentially eligible for, or could be currently eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

A child may be SSI eligible if:

- He/she has a physical or mental condition or conditions that can be medically proven and which result in **marked and severe** functional limitations.
- The medically proven physical or mental condition or conditions will last or are expected to last at least 12 months or could be expected to result in death.
- He/she does not work at a job considered to be substantial work.

Children coming into care with SSI eligibility or who become eligible for SSI after entering care, automatically receive Medicaid eligibility. **Do not open MA-FCDW for children receiving MA-SSI; see FOM 803.** Youth who are in a foster care or delinquency placement who appear to meet the above definition of disability are to be screened by the assigned worker for SSI eligibility with special attention given to the following youth:

1. Youth receiving a determination of care supplement in family foster care.
2. Youth who, later in their placement, become disabled.
3. Youth approaching age **18** whose disability prevents them from becoming self-supporting. Within three months of a youth's 18th birthday, an application should be initiated with the Reconciliation and Recoupment Section.

**Initial SSI
Application -
Procedures for
Determining
Potential Disability**

This process only applies to children who are funded through title IV-E, state ward board and care or limited term/emergency foster care payments. **Children funded through county child care**

payments must follow their local office procedures for SSI applications.

Children that do not need to be screened for SSI benefits:

- Children currently receiving SSI benefits (can be determined by review of MiSACWIS). SSI eligibility is also indicated on Bridges Type of Assistance MA-SSI.
- Children currently pending SSI. The memo from the Reconciliation and Recoupment Section will also indicate if an SSI application has already been filed.

Note: For a child supervised by a placement agency foster care (PAFC) provider, the DHS monitor must be notified that the child is potentially eligible for SSI benefits. The DHS monitor will contact the Reconciliation and Recoupment Section by faxing the DHS-3205 to 517-335-6147.

For those youth who may be eligible for SSI:

1. The Reconciliation and Recoupment Section will work as a liaison between the Social Security Administration and the DHS caseworker. Submit the following documents to the Reconciliation and Recoupment Section by fax at 517-335-6147:
 - DHS3205 indicating that the child is potentially eligible for SSI. **Indicate in the comments section to whom the communication should be returned at the local office.** This will ensure timely responses are received in the local office.
 - Birth certificate.
 - Court order granting DHS placement and care responsibility of the child.
2. The Recoupment and Reconciliation Section will send an initial SSI packet for the worker to complete which must be returned in three weeks. The forms in the packet must be complete or the information will not be accepted by the Social Security Administration. Any medical records, school documents and/or other documentation that supports the child's disability should be returned with the packet. Do not wait for documentation to submit the rest of the packet. If documentation is received later, it can be submitted at that time.

3. The Social Security Administration may take up to six months to make a determination. The Social Security Administration may send a letter directly to the child's placement requesting that the child be taken for further medical appointments. The child's placement must be notified that they may receive a letter and the appointment must be completed. The placement should also be directed to notify the DHS worker of the appointment as a separate notice will not be sent directly to the DHS worker. Failure to attend the medical appointment may result in a denial by the Social Security Administration.
4. If the application is denied by the Social Security Administration, the Reconciliation and Recoupment Section will not appeal their decision. The local office can appeal the decision on behalf of the child.