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## SSI BENEFITS

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a cash benefit to needy persons who are aged (at least 65), blind or disabled. It is a federal program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). States are allowed the option to supplement the federal benefit with state funds. In Michigan SSI benefits include a basic federal benefit and an additional amount paid with state funds. The amount of the state benefit varies by living arrangement.

### Issued Benefits

The SSA issues the federal benefit to all SSI recipients. The SSA also issues the state funded benefit for SSI recipients in the following living arrangements:

- Adult foster care.
  - Domiciliary care.
  - Personal care.
- Home for the aged.
- Institution.
  - Nursing home.

Initially, a lump sum check maybe issued for any retroactive benefits. Thereafter, the SSA issues SSI benefits monthly, on the first of the month.

### State SSI Payment

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issues the State SSI Payment (SSP) to SSI recipients in the following living arrangements:

- Independent living.
- Household of another. (Living in the household of another person and receiving partial or total support and maintenance in kind from that person.)

**Note:** For payment levels see RFT 248 Reference Tables.

Payments are made for only those months the recipient received a regular first of the month federal benefit. These are shown on SOLQ as a **recurring payment dated the first of the month**. **SSPs are not issued for retroactive or supplemental federal benefits.**

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SSP benefits are issued quarterly. These benefits are paid the last month of each quarter. The yearly quarters are:

- January through March.
- April through June.
- July through September.
- October through December.

Payments are processed by recipient ID digit ending; see RFS 106 (Reference Schedules Manual).

SSP warrants are issued to the individual or payee account designated by the SSA.

Starting in 2013 SSP will be paid through Electronic Funds Transfer, EFT.

### Death of Recipient

See BAM 505 for processing returned benefits. Notify the local Social Security Administration office of the recipients death if you believe they do not have that information.

### Representative Payee

The Social Security Administration designates the representative payee. However, if the SSA does not notify the MDHHS of a change in payee or the recipient becomes his/her own payee, a change or deletion can be done on Bridges.

### Recoupment

Follow Benefit Overissuance policy in BAM 700.

**Note:** The State SSI Payment program **cannot** be entered onto the Automated Recoupment System. If recoupment is indicated follow local office accounting procedures for manual recoupments.

### Mandatory SSI Recipients

Mandatory SSI recipients are those clients who were receiving benefits under the state administered aged, blind and disabled programs that were taken over by the federally administered SSI program in 1974. In order to ensure a continuity in the SSI income level of these recipients, the SSA uses a separate, complex formula

to determine the amount of the state supplement. Therefore, DHS has left the administration of mandatory supplements for all living arrangements as a federal responsibility.

However, some of the recipients receiving mandatory supplements in independent living or household of another living arrangements receive less than the State SSI Payment.

### **Benefit Reduction**

The DHS-430, Notice of State SSI Payment Change, is sent to each SSI recipient whose current quarterly State SSI Payment is less than the previous quarterly State SSI Payment. The recipient is referred to the SSI hot line (1-855-275-6424) for questions concerning the benefit reduction.

If the recipient wants to request a hearing, he/she is referred to the local office Hearings Coordinator; see BPG Glossary.

The DHS-430, Notice of State SSI Payment Change, does all of the following:

- Gives recipients timely notice of any proposed benefit reduction.
- Notifies recipients of their hearing rights and the date by which a timely hearing request will preserve benefits at the current level pending the hearing decision.
- Notifies recipients of the date they will receive their next (reduced) quarterly check.

**Recipients receiving an DHS-430 will receive their check with the recipient ID digit end 9's; see RFS 106, State SSI Payment Payroll Deadline Schedule.**

### **Payment History**

The SSP quarterly warrants are listed on Bridges benefit issuance screen.

SSP monthly amounts are shown on Bridges eligibility search screen

### **Local Office Responsibilities**

- Respond to all recipient inquiries; see BAM 800.

- Process rewrites for undelivered, lost, stolen, not received or destroyed SSP warrants. Use warrant rewrite procedures in BAM 500 and 505.
- Process hearing requests; see BAM 600.
- Represent the department at the hearing.

**LEGAL BASE**

20 CFR 416  
Social Security Act, 1616 [42 USC 1382e]