

## What is SSI?

SSI is short for Supplemental Security Income. SSI is a program under the Social Security Administration (SSA) that pays monthly benefits to people who are age 65 or older, are blind or have a disability and who have limited resources and income.

Often times, children (under 18 years of age) applying for SSI do not meet the financial and resource limitation allowance due to required reporting of all household income. However, when a child becomes an adult at age 18, the family's income and resources will no longer be considered when determining a child's financial SSI eligibility. Students should make application for SSI in the month after they turn 18. The individual applying must be present at the meeting, along with the parents to assist with answering questions.

If you plan to have your child apply for SSA disability benefits, you need to call SSA to schedule an appointment or apply online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). For phone numbers of regional offices, go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), click on "Find a Social Security Office" on the right hand side and then enter your zip code.

NOTE: If your child with a disability is receiving SSI benefits prior to age 18, he/she **must reapply** with SSA for SSI benefits as an adult. For this application, SSA will use somewhat different disability criteria than were used to evaluate his/her disability as a child. The adult definition of disability for SSI eligibility states: "An individual age 18 and older is 'disabled' if he or she has a medically determinable physical or mental impairment, which results in the inability to do any substantial gainful activity, and can be expected to result in death; or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

SSI is to be used to pay the costs of food, clothing and shelter for the recipient. If your child is living with you and is approved for SSI after he/she turns 18, the SSI check will be reduced by one-third unless he/she is paying living expenses. The amount of living expenses does need to be a fair amount, one that a parent would charge for anyone who may rent a room in the household. A rental agreement between the parent and child should be developed and sent to SSA to address this reduction.

For more information about Social Security benefits: <http://www.ssa.gov/multimedia/video/asl/>

## Opportunities for Your Child in the Adult Services System

**Family Support 360 PLANS** is a program for people with developmental disabilities. These services will make it easier for people to live and work in the community on their own. Contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities at 1-800-265-9684

**Independent Living Centers** provide services to individuals with disabilities in the areas of advocacy, information and referrals, independent living skills and training and peer support. Contact an Independent Living Specialist at 1-800-265-9684

**DakotaLink** provides assistance to individuals of all ages to acquire and use the latest available assistive technology devices that best meet the need to maintain independence at home, work, in the classroom or in leisure activities. Contact DakotaLink at 1-800-645-0673.

**South Dakota Benefits Specialist Network** provides advice and support on Social Security work incentives, Medicaid, Food Stamps, TANF, Housing Assistance and other disability related benefits. Contact South Dakota Benefits Specialist Network at 1-800-224-5336.

## The Law & Guardianship

It can be a particularly worrisome time if you question your child's ability to make important life decisions when he/she turns 18. Guardianship may be an answer.

To learn about the pros, cons, and alternatives to guardianship or for more information, contact either:

**The Guardianship Program, Inc.**  
(605) 224-9647 or 1-866-228-9119  
[sd.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:sd.guardians@gmail.com)

**Disability Rights South Dakota**  
(605) 224-8294 or 1-800-658-4782  
[sdas@sdadvocacy.com](mailto:sdas@sdadvocacy.com)

**DHS Assistance Programs**  
<https://dhs.sd.gov/guardianship/default.aspx>



## Transition Services Liaison Project

[www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org)

### Black Hills Special Services Coop.

Dan Rounds, Coordinator  
Pierre, SD 57501  
1-800-224-5336 or (605) 494-3618  
Email: [drounds@bhssc.org](mailto:drounds@bhssc.org)

### Regional Transition Liaisons

Bev Petersen, South Eastern Region  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
(605) 367-5330  
Email: [bev.petersen@state.sd.us](mailto:bev.petersen@state.sd.us)

Cindy Kirschman, North Central Region  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
(605) 626-2398  
Email: [cindy.kirschman@state.sd.us](mailto:cindy.kirschman@state.sd.us)

Dave Halverson, Western Region  
Sturgis, SD 57785  
(605) 347-4467  
Email: [dhalverson@bhssc.tie.net](mailto:dhalverson@bhssc.tie.net)

Jenny Anatra, South Central Region  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 494-3611  
Email: [janatra@bhssc.org](mailto:janatra@bhssc.org)



**South Dakota School for the Deaf**  
2001 East 8th Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1896  
Phone: 605.367.5200  
Fax: 605.367.5209  
<http://sdsd.sdbor.edu/>

SDSD serves as a resource for families and local schools by providing a specialist in hearing loss as a member of the educational team.

**So your child is deaf or hard of hearing and getting ready to transition into adulthood . . .**

# Tips for Parents

*"A young person with a disability should be given opportunities to make choices and experience the consequences of those choices..."*

*"Learning to behave responsibly comes with support, practice, and mistakes..."*

*"Few things help children more than placing responsibility upon them and letting them know that you trust them..."* (Authors Unknown)

## While in high school, your child should...

- ✓ Apply for the Youth Leadership Forum ([www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org)).
- ✓ Learn about his/her disability.
- ✓ Become involved in extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ Share strengths, learning styles, challenges and needed accommodations with the general education teachers.
- ✓ Consider applying for services through the Division of Rehabilitation Services.
- ✓ Actively participate in IEP meetings.
- ✓ Engage in volunteer work experiences.
- ✓ Explore career opportunities and develop career interests.
- ✓ Participate in job shadow opportunities.



## If your child is going on to post-secondary schooling, they should also...

- ✓ Tour and visit with disability services office at colleges of interest.
- ✓ Attend Catch the Wave ([www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org)).
- ✓ Address the possible need for accessing assistive technology devices.
- ✓ Challenge themselves with rigorous courses in the general education setting.
- ✓ Set high standards for themselves.
- ✓ Set up a regular study schedule.
- ✓ Share strengths, learning styles, challenges and needed accommodations with the general education teachers.
- ✓ Take ACT (American College Testing) or SAT (Standard Achievement Testing) exams early.



## Going to college? Attend Catch the Wave!



**Catch The Wave** is a one-day conference designed specifically for high school students who have a disability and are considering post-secondary education (either college or technical institutes). Students will learn about preparing for college life, securing appropriate accommodations, and developing self-advocacy and communication skills. Highlights of the conference will be panel discussions with individuals who have a disability and have experienced a post-secondary setting, as well as disability coordinators discussing entrance and eligibility requirements. For more information on the date and location, contact the transition liaison in your area or go to the TSLP website at: [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org)



SDMyLife is a FREE online program for

South Dakota students to help them better understand themselves and how their interest, skills, and knowledge relate to real-world academic and career opportunities. Students use SDMyLife to research, select, and plan their careers. They can explore by career cluster, keyword, or school subject. Students can also research postsecondary education and training options, build a portfolio, study with Method Test Prep and find out about scholarships opportunities.

To learn more go to: [www.sdmylife.com](http://www.sdmylife.com)

Take a hands on approach to learn more about your career idea of choice by attending one of the many available SD Career Camps. These are all day long events run by professionals who talk about what they do and how they entered their profession.



Learn more at: <http://sd.gov/careercamps/misc.aspx>



**Map It: What Comes Next** is a free, online, interactive training designed for transition-aged students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The training utilizes three questions:

Who Am I? What Do I Want? How Do I Get There?

Video vignettes signed in ASL with spoken English and written transcription, self-assessments, and a series of interactive questions guide students as they identify their goals and develop strategies to achieve them. All interactive materials are saved and compiled in an electronic portfolio.

<https://dcmp.org/learn/465-map-it-what-comes-next-module>



communicate • understand • support

Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) offers a variety of services to assist individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Those services can include: information and referral, peer supports, individual advocacy, employment services, communication assistance, community integration skills training, ASL classes and much more!



<http://csdsouthdakota.org/>

<b>Aberdeen</b>	<b>Lance Sigdestad</b> <a href="mailto:lsigdestad@csd.org">lsigdestad@csd.org</a>	<b>605.370.6593</b>
<b>Rapid City</b>	<b>Katie Peterson</b> <a href="mailto:kpeterson@csd.org">kpeterson@csd.org</a>	<b>605.393.5875</b>
<b>Sioux Falls</b>	<b>Mark Koterwski</b> <a href="mailto:mkoterwski@csd.org">mkoterwski@csd.org</a>	<b>605.496.0027</b>
	<b>Nathan Johnston</b> <a href="mailto:njohnston@csd.org">njohnston@csd.org</a>	<b>605.370.5245</b>

**The Getting a Job!** online training was developed and designed for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who work with them. Focusing on the transition from school to work, the training offers a series of activities, supporting documents and topical videos designed to help the job seeker prepare for the world of work. All the videos in the modules are presented in ASL, and are also voiced in English and captioned.



This eLearning course can be completed in multiple sessions, or all at once. Students can document their thoughts, lessons and important papers in their own Career Planning Log.

<https://dcmp.org/learn/466-getting-a-job-module>

**South Dakota School for the Deaf** offers a variety of activities for teens, elementary kids, preschool kids and families.



For more information go to <http://sdsd.sdbor.edu/activities.htm> or call 605.367.5200



Find a variety of transition resources on the SD School for the Deaf website!

<http://sdsd.sdbor.edu/transition.htm>



Described and Captioned Media Program

<https://dcmp.org/>

**Their Mission:** to promote and provide equal access to communication and learning through described and captioned educational media. The ultimate goal of the DCMP is for accessible media to be an integral tool in the teaching and learning process for all stakeholders in the educational community, including students, educators and other school personnel, parents, service providers, businesses, and agencies.

Free-loan described and captioned educational media available, information related to education, accessibility, deafness, blindness, assistive technology, and an array of other subjects for FREE with approved membership!

### Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

can offer services to students with disabilities. If your child hasn't applied for these services, please request the school to invite a VR counselor to meet with you and/or your child or attend an IEP meeting. Some services DRS may provide (based on eligibility, financial need and individual needs) are:

- ✓ guidance in transition planning;
- ✓ financial assistance for college or training, when appropriate;
- ✓ vocational counseling and guidance;
- ✓ work experience through Project Skills and/or job placement, job coaching, and employment/follow along services for competitive employment in the community.
- ✓ assessing the need for assistive technology equipment and services.

Find the DRS office nearest you:  
<http://dhs.sd.gov/rehabservices/default.aspx>  
phone/TTY (605) 367-5330.



## HIGH SCHOOL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS

**Project Skills** is a paid work experience program for South Dakota high school students with disabilities. The program is a cooperative arrangement between the Division of Rehabilitation Services and local school districts. **Project Skills** provides students the opportunity to learn different skills in a variety of job placements, with the assistance of a job coach. A new program was recently developed so VR can provide employability skills for 504 students through a program called **Employment Skills (ESP)** which is set up the same as Project Skills. However, it does NOT require the school to provide the match but it does still provide the students the opportunity to gain valuable employment skills with support needed to be successfully employed down the road.

For further information regarding this program, contact your local Division of Rehabilitation Services office, high school special education teacher or Transition Services Liaison Project.

