

Facts About SSI



Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides monthly payments from the U.S. Treasury to qualifying persons with disabilities. Payments are made to persons who have limited income and resources and who meet living arrangement requirements. Social Security follows rules and policies and reviews recipients' disabilities periodically to ensure they meet program requirements. Until a child turns 18, Social Security considers the income and resources of family members who are a part of your household with regard to program income requirements. If your teen qualifies, Social Security assigns a representative payee (parent, family member, or other caregiver) to help manage the money and pay for basic living expenses and needs.

After the child turns 18, Social Security reviews the child's disability, and only the child's income and resources. The adult definition of disability is based on one's ability to work. Sometimes people who qualified for SSI payments under the children's rules do not meet the rules and policies of the adult program. Be sure to give Social Security any requested information about your teen's medical condition and doctors who have treated his/her disability. On the other hand, the adult rules consider only the child's income and resources, not those of others in the household. Even if the child could not receive SSI payments before his/her 18th birthday because the family made too much money, he/she may now qualify as an adult.

SSI is to be used to pay the costs of food and shelter for the recipient. If your teen 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 their household. A rental agreement between the parent and child should be developed and provided to the Social Security Administration (SSA).

SSA website: <https://www.ssa.gov>

If Social Security makes a decision about SSI payments that you do not agree with, you can appeal through several levels in the agency and the federal district court.

Employment Supports

There are a variety of vocational rehabilitation services that **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)** can offer to students with disabilities. If your teen hasn't applied for these services, please request that the school invite a VR counselor to meet with you and/or your teen 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.
- ✓ transportation, equipment and other services if needed for training; and
- ✓ assessing the need for assistive technology equipment and services.

For information on DRS services, go to www.dhs.sd.gov or call (605) 773-3195.

Attend a Meet & Greet with Your Teen!

These informal and interactive gatherings allow you to network and make connections with adult service agency staff and identify resources that your teen may access in the future.

Representatives from Division of Rehabilitation Services and/or Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, area Independent Living Centers, Community Service Providers, Employment Specialists, Post Secondary Disability Services, Social Security Benefits Planning Specialists, and Division of Developmental Disabilities Services are invited to answer questions students & families may have. For more information on dates and locations throughout SD, contact the transition liaison in your area or go to www.tslp.org.

Tips For Developmental Disability Services In the High School Transition Process

Where will John live and work after high school?

Will he need supports to live and work independently?

While in high school, your teen should...

- ✓ Learn about his/her disability and how to become a self-advocate.
- ✓ Become involved in extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ Share strengths, learning styles, challenges and needed accommodations with teachers.
- ✓ Actively participate in IEP meetings.
- ✓ Tour and visit with adult service providers.
- ✓ Apply for services through the Division of Rehabilitation Services and gain work experience through Project Skills.
- ✓ Consider applying for the Youth Leadership Forum. (For more info, see www.tslp.org)
- ✓ Learn about supports available after exiting high school.
- ✓ Make school responsibilities (homework, projects) their own, not yours.
- ✓ Complete ordinary tasks in your home.



Developed by
Transition Services Liaison Project,
a Black Hills Special Services
Cooperative program.



Visit us at www.tslp.org

Did You Know...



When students graduate with a regular high school diploma, the school district will no longer be responsible to provide services for them.

When students graduate with an unsigned diploma, they could continue to receive services until the end of the school year (June 30) following their 21st birthday, based on an IEP determination. (In many schools in SD, students are given the option to 'walk' through the graduation ceremony and receive an unsigned diploma.)

If the IEP team determines that a student will not meet the graduation requirements or is in need of continued transition services, the IEP team must develop a new IEP for the next school year and the student can continue to receive services. Many school districts in South Dakota are developing and implementing creative educational opportunities for students who continue to receive special education services through their 21st birthday. Funding for many adult agencies may not be available until a student is 21 years old. However, there may be options for students under age 21 to access adult services. For more information, call Dakota At Home at 1-833-663-9673, Option 2.

The mission of the **Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)** is to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have equal opportunities and receive the services and supports they need to live and work in South Dakota communities. **DDD** offers a wide array of services from intermittent support in a person’s home to around-the-clock care. All services are offered with the goal of supporting people to live as independently as possible and supporting their health and safety needs.

Some examples of disabilities that may be eligible for services through **DDD** are Down Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, intellectual and/or developmental disability.

DDD operates two waiver programs under Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to people with intellectual or developmental disabilities in South Dakota.

- 1) Family Support 360
- 2) Community, Hope, Opportunity, Independence, Careers, Empowerment, Success (CHOICES)

For more information or to discuss eligibility for any of the service options available through the DDD, please contact them by calling: Dakota at Home at 833-663-9673, Option 2 or email DDDintakeprocess@state.sd.us



New Resource Available for Parents!

***Preparing for the Future...
Understanding Guardianship and Alternatives***

Guardianship/conservatorship is a complex process that is important for people with disabilities and their families to understand. It is a legal process used to protect individuals who are unable to care for themselves in certain aspects of their lives. South Dakota Parent Connection and Disability Rights South Dakota created a guide to address questions and concerns parents, students, or teachers may have as they begin discussions about decision-making that may include guardianship, conservatorship, or other options.

For copies of this resource or for additional assistance, contact:

South Dakota Parent Connection	or	Disability Rights South Dakota
(605) 361-3171 or 1-800-640-4553		(605) 224-8294 or 1-800-658-4782
www.sdparent.org		www.drSDLaw.org

The **Department of Human Services (DHS)** can help with legal costs to set up private guardianships for adults through the Establishment Program. In limited circumstances, DHS also provides guardianship services to adults who do not have anyone else to serve as guardian and are in unsafe situations. To learn more, contact Dept. of Human Services Guardianship Program at 605-773-5990 or 1-800-265-9684.



**Service Options through the
Division of Developmental Disabilities**

Community Support Provider (CSP)

A community support provider offers direct services to people on the CHOICES waiver. There are 20+ CSPs located across the state who provide supports to over 2000 people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

CHOICES Services (provided by CSP)

Residential Services: Help for people to live as independently as possible and to support health and safety needs. There are varying levels of supervision (supported living, supervised living, group home).

Shared Living: A residential living option where a person with an intellectual or developmental disability lives with someone who wants to share a life and provide supports. The shared living provider must be over the age of 18.

Day Services: Supports to help people have meaningful life experiences during their day. These services include leisure and recreational activities to help people get, keep, or build on their living skills. This can be provided at a facility and/or in the community.

Employment Services: Help for people to learn work skills, prepare for employment, maintain employment and/or advance in their field. There are varying levels of support available.

Assistive Technology: A device, item, piece of equipment or product system that is utilized to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities for a participant that is not currently covered by Medicaid.

Specialized Medical Equipment & Drugs: equipment or supplies needed for a participant to increase or maintain their ability to perform activities of daily living that is not currently covered by Medicaid.

CHOICES Case Manager

Selecting a case management provider is one of the first steps once deemed eligible for this waiver. The case management provider cannot be the same as your CSP as it helps prevent conflicts of interest.

Case Manager role:

- Identify, apply for and access needed supports from available providers and resources in their community
- Advocate and problem solve
- Make a high quality, person-centered plan for supports and services
- Meet with a participant at least quarterly in person

Family Support 360

Family Support 360 helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families get the services they need to live in their own home and community as independently as possible. FS 360 is self-directed, which allows the person or their guardian to choose their staff and schedule based on their needs.

Family Support Coordinators will help identify services needed so it is possible for them to live on their own or with family.

Supports & Services may include:

- Help getting around the house-changes to the home to improve independence, such as grab bars, ramps, wheelchair lifts, etc.
- Companion Services - services to build social skills and increase independence.
- Supported Employment
- Personal Care in the home
- Special Medical Adaptive Equipment and Supplies
- Nutritional Supplements
- Specialized Therapies
- Vehicle Modifications

For more information or to discuss eligibility for any of the service options available through the Division of Developmental Disabilities, call Dakota At Home at 833-663-9673, Option 2 or email DDDintakeProcess@state.sd.us.