

Applying for SSI

How can I contact the Social Security Administration (SSA)?



Call the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213 to:

- apply by phone
- make an in-person appointment (**strongly recommended** – SSA wants to see you and talk with you)



The SSA website has a form that makes it **seem** like you can apply online. HOWEVER, that form only shows you the information you need **when you apply by telephone or in person**. You can access this pre-screening application at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability

What will I need?

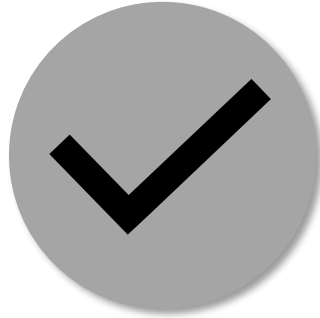


You will need to be able to submit **original** documents of anything the SSA requests, such as your young adult's original birth certificate. **Make copies of everything you submit!** You'll get the originals back, but still be sure to make copies.



Know that you will be asked to sign a release of information so that the SSA can obtain records from your young adult's school, doctor's office, etc.

How does the SSA determine eligibility?



The applicant must meet **both financial and disability criteria**. The SSA considers a disability to be a physical or mental impairment that prevents a person from participating in substantial gainful activity. The SSA uses a two-prong test. In autism cases, **the applicant must submit documentation demonstrating that person has:**

STEP 1

- qualitative deficits in reciprocal social interaction, and/or
- deficits in verbal and nonverbal communication, in imaginative activity, and/or
- marked restricted repertoire of activities and interests

The deficits must also result in **two** or more of the following:

STEP 2

- marked restriction of activities of daily living
- marked difficulties in maintaining social function
- marked difficulties in concentration, persistence, or pace
- repeated episodes of decompensation, each of extended duration (e.g. behavioral issues)

How can I provide the necessary documentation?



Documentation can include an IEP, a letter from a physician, medical records, psychological reports, etc. **Bring as much as you can find!**