

Understanding Social Security Benefits and Supplemental Security Income

January 28, 2019

Oregon Money Management Quarterly Volunteer Meeting

Social Security Administration

Entitlement
programs

Needs-based
program

Social Security
Retirement

Social Security Disability
Insurance

Supplemental
Security Income

Social Security benefit – “Retirement”

- A cash benefit available for workers who pay into Social Security taxes and earn “credits” toward Social Security benefits. If you were born in 1929 or later, you need 40 credits (10 years of work).
- Available for workers who reach retirement age (depends on when you were born).
- Some members of your family can also get benefits if you’re getting benefits (spouse over 60, former spouse over 62, disabled children, etc.).
- Paid through the Social Security Trust Fund (.85¢ of every Social Security tax dollar paid goes to this trust fund).

Social Security Benefits – entitlement programs SSB (retirement) and SSDI (disability)

Social Security is more than just a retirement program. Others receive benefits because they are:

- Disabled
- A spouse or child of someone getting benefits
- A divorced spouse of someone getting or eligible for Social Security
- A spouse or child of a worker who has died
- A divorced spouse of a worker who died
- A dependent parent of a worker who died

Social Security Benefit – SSDI

Social Security Disability Insurance

- SSDI is a cash benefit available to workers who have accumulated a sufficient number of work credits and are disabled.
- SSDI is funded by payroll tax contributions and paid through the Social Security Trust Fund (.15¢ of every Social Security tax dollar paid goes into this trust fund).
- Disability is determined through the local Social Security Administration office. Determinations are based on medical evidence.
- There is a five month waiting period before a worker can qualify for SSDI.
- Once you turn 65, SSDI becomes SSB.

Supplemental Security Income - SSI

- A type of benefit payment available to qualified individuals based on financial need, according to income and assets
- SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as for those of any age (including children) who are blind or have a disability
- Funded by general fund taxes
- Overseen and managed by the Social Security Administration
- Eligibility is determined by a claims representative at the Social Security Administration

Supplemental Security Income - SSI

- If you are eligible to receive SSI benefits, you are eligible for Medicaid although you will need to complete a separate application. You are also likely entitled to:
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP benefits
- Free Assurance wireless phone
- Income limits for 2019 - \$771 for one person \$1,157 for a couple

How Benefits are Paid

- Direct deposit into an account at a financial institution
- Direct Express® prepaid debit card
- Electronic transfer account

Online my Social Security account

www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount

- Check your earnings
- Receive benefit estimates
- Request a replacement Social Security number card
- If you receive benefits, you can also:
 - Get your benefit verification letter
 - Change your address and phone number
 - Request a replacement Medicare card
 - Request a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season
 - Start or change your direct deposit

Applying for SSI and SSDI

- If you're a disabled adult intending to file for both SSI and SSDI, you can apply online for both benefits at the same time if:
- You are between the ages of 18 and 65
- You have never been married
- Aren't blind
- Are a citizen residing in one of the 50 states, District of Columbia or the Northern Mariana Islands AND
- Haven't applied for or received SSI benefits in the past.

Thank you!

Questions? Concerns?

Comments? Feedback?



www.socialsecurity.gov

1-800-772-1213