

# **What should I know about Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?**

Many people realize that Supplemental Security Income provides people who meet certain criteria with a monthly income. SSI is only for people who have limited resources and little to no income. The recipient must also be disabled, blind or over 65 years old. This program is different from Social Security Disability Insurance because recipients of SSI don't pay into the program through work credits like SSDI recipients.

## **Can I get help from other programs if I am on SSI?**

You might be eligible for food stamps, which is now known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This is an income-based program that will take your household size and income into account. Getting SSI doesn't automatically qualify you for SNAP.

You will likely be eligible for Medicaid if you are getting SSI. You would have to contact the county office to determine how to get this medical coverage.

## **Do I get state benefits and federal benefits in Pennsylvania?**

The SSI payments in Pennsylvania is comprised of federal and state funds. Pennsylvania is one of the states that adds money to the federal payment to SSI recipients. The money is all put together in one monthly benefit payment. In 2015, the maximum benefit for a single person with an independent living status

is \$733.00 per month. For an independent couple, the maximum is \$1,100. Some people might receive less than the maximum.

The first step to getting SSI payments in Pennsylvania is to apply for the benefits. The process can sometimes be complex and lengthy. In some cases, you might be denied and have to appeal. [Working with someone](#) who understands the ins and outs of the system, such as the attorneys at Martin Law, can help you when you are applying.