



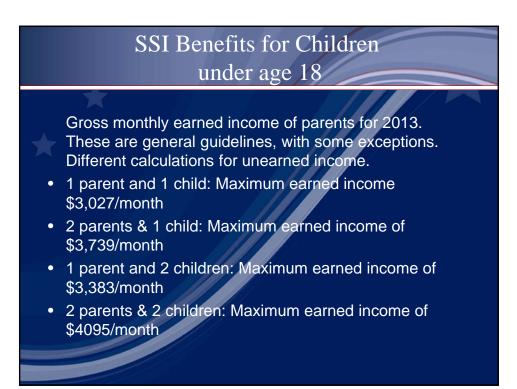


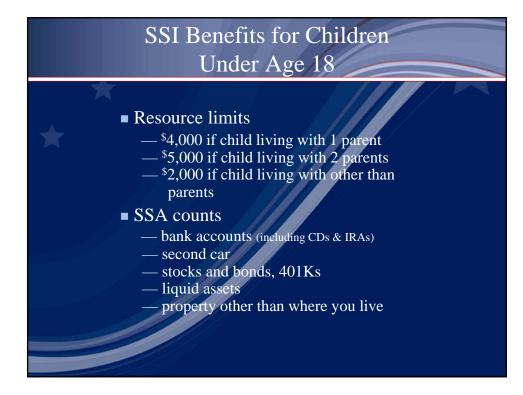
SSI Benefits for Children Under Age 18

 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays benefits to children with disabilities living in households with limited income and resources.

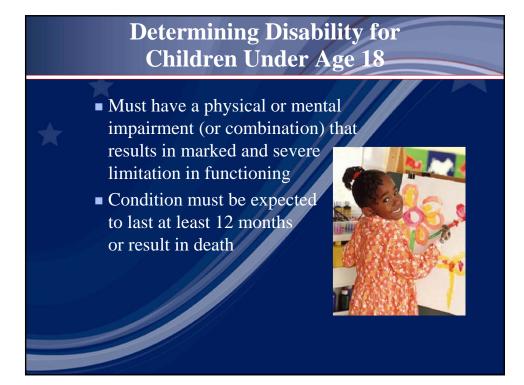


 For eligibility, Social Security Administration (SSA) looks at the income and assets of parent(s) living in the household and those of the child with a disability.









Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for persons with disabilities after their 18th birthday

Everyone who receives SSI will automatically receive NJ Medicaid

When the Child with a Disability Reaches Age 18

- <u>Social Security Admin. no longer</u> counts the income and resources of parent(s) for eligibility
- If the child continues to live with parent(s) but does not pay for food or shelter, a lower SSI payment may apply
- SSA uses the rules for adults in determining eligibility



SSI Benefits for Adults (after 18th birthday)

- Must have a physical or mental impairment (or combination of conditions)
- Inability to perform substantial work activity
- Disability must be expected to last 12 consecutive months or result in death
- Very limited resource limits

SSI Benefits for Adults – Eligible After 18th Birthday

- Resource limits
 - \$2,000 for individual
- Social Security Admin (SSA) Counts
 - bank accounts (CDs)
 - stocks and bonds, 401Ks
 - liquid assets

Example: Bonds given as baby gifts, using the child's Soc. Sec. # count as assets! Parents often forget about this, and child is determined ineligible if total assets exceeds \$2,000.



Resource Limits for SSI

- Adults (age 18 and older) with intellectual or developmental disabilities will be found **ineligible** for SSI if they have more than \$2,000 in their own name.
- Depending on the amount of assets in the child's name: Family may get information from the SSA at no charge on legally acceptable ways to purchase items for the benefit of the consumer, or they may consult an attorney about a special needs trust so consumer with I/DD is eligible for SSI.
- Be sure that caregivers understand financial eligibility rules of the SSI program BEFORE applying for SSI.

What Is a Special (Supplemental) Needs Trust (SNT) ?

- **Special Needs Trust** is a way to set aside funds for a person with a disability without jeopardizing vital government benefits (e.g., SSI, Medicaid, Section 8 housing).
- Two Types of SNT's:
 - Third Party funds from parents, grandparents, friends, insurance.
 - First party funds from the beneficiary, a settlement, direct inheritance, earnings, savings

This slide was prepared by Ellen Nalven M.Ed., Executive Director Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of NJ (PLAN/NJ)



Benefits of a SNT

- The beneficiary may continue to collect benefits: SSI, Medicaid, Food Stamps, HUD Housing, etc.
- The trust can provide things to enhance his or her life, such as personal care assistance, transportation, education, recreation, clothing, electronics, furniture, etc.
- The trust protects assets from being claimed by creditors or government agencies.
- The beneficiary is protected from being exploited through the appointment of a trustee.

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The SSI Application Process

When you apply for SSI benefits, you will be asked to:

- Describe your child's disabling condition
- Give information about where your child has received treatment for his/her disability
- Give information about medications
- Give information about education and past work history
- Authorize release of the records to be used in making the disability decision



The SSI Application Process

- Recommend doing the medical/disability portion of SSI application online.
- It's helpful to describe *all* of the child's limitations, e.g., will be in school until age 21 because of the disability

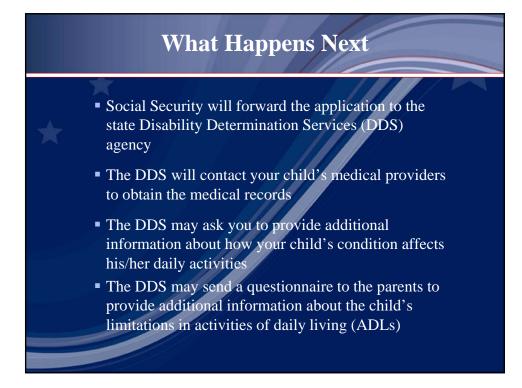
Authorization to Disclose Information

This form (SSA-827) gives permission to your child's healthcare providers and others to release the records to Social Security

- This form will appear at the end of the online disability report
- You can electronically sign and submit this medical release form
- Another option is to print, sign and mail it to Social Security







And Then What?

- If adequate information is available in existing records, along with your statements, the DDS will make a decision
- The DDS may ask your child to have a special examination, at their expense, if more information is needed about your child's disabling condition
- Let child's doctor and office manager know that SSA/DDS may request information. It is important for doctor's office to respond.





If Your Child's Claim Is Allowed

SSA will send you an award notice that explains

- When your child's benefits start and the monthly benefit amount
- Information you need to report to Social Security (Examples: work activity, medical status)
- When your child's case will be reviewed
- What to do if you have any questions

If Your Child's Claim Is Denied

- You will get a letter explaining the denial
- You may appeal the decision within <u>60 days</u> after you receive the notice from SSA. Appeals must be made in that time frame.
- You will need to update information that has changed and/or provide additional details
- All levels of appeal can be done online



Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal

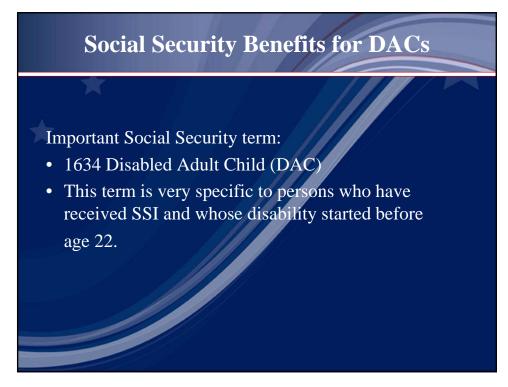
Complete and submit these forms online:

- The appeal form mentioned in the decision letter you received
- An Appeal Disability Report (Form i3441)

You also will need to print, sign and mail a new Authorization to Disclose Information (Form SSA-827).







DDD's Medicaid Requirement

- With DDD's new requirement on Medicaid eligibility, all families and professionals should be informed of the importance of persons with I/DD applying for SSI at age 18!
- When approved for SSI, they will get Medicaid also.

DDD & Medicaid Eligibility for DACs

What happens when a person with I/DD has SSI and Medicaid, and then mom or dad retires, becomes disabled, or dies?

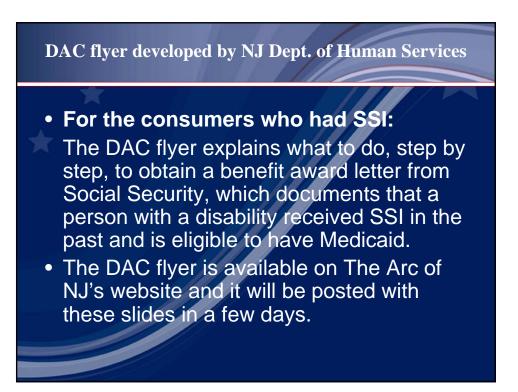
- Consumer will start to receive a monthly SSD benefit check, based on the parent's work history.
- If SSD benefit is larger than \$958/month (for 2013) consumer will be notified that SSI and Medicaid are ending.
- IMPORTANT: <u>Consumer who previously had SSI can</u> <u>get NJ Medicaid by applying to the County Board of</u> <u>Social Services (also called County Welfare agency) as a</u> <u>disabled adult child (DAC). Consumer cannot exceed</u> <u>\$2,000 in resources.</u>

Medicaid Eligibility Requirements for Disabled Adult Children (DAC)

An individual who was receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and who meets the following:

- Is at least 18 years of age;
- Has blindness or a disability which began before the age of 22;
- Has been receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on blindness or disability; and
- Has lost SSI due to the receipt of Social Security benefits on a parent's record due to the retirement, death or disability of a parent.

If the person meets all the above criteria, she/he may qualify as a Disabled Adult Child (DAC)





The "non 1634 DACS" What happens when a person NEVER HAD SSI and then mom or dad retires, becomes disabled, or dies? Consumer will start to receive a monthly Social security Disability (SSD) benefit on parent's work history, and 24 months later, Medicare starts If SSD benefit is larger than \$958/month (for 2013) and consumer also has Medicare, he/she CANNOT GET NJ MEDICAID DDD views these people as "non-DACS". In the future: These people should be able to get DDD services, as non 1634 DACs, if they meet DDD's functional eligibility criteria, and SSD started before child reached age 18.

Why is SSI at age 18 so important?

- Having SSI guarantees that consumers will be 1634 DAC- eligible in the future -- when a parent retires, becomes disabled, or dies.
- When consumers are 1634 DACs, they will continue to be Medicaid eligible no matter how much SSD money consumers receive in the future from the parent's employment history.

Medicare Coverage

- Persons who receive Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits are automatically enrolled in Medicare after receiving SSD for 24 months
- SSA will send information about Medicare before this coverage starts





Applying for "ABD" Medicaid

• To apply for the Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) Community Medicaid program, please call your local County Welfare Agency (CWA)/Board of Social Services (BSS) for an appointment. To view or print a list of County Welfare Agencies (Boards of Social Services), please visit:

http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/njsnap/cwa/index.html

- When applying for ABD Medicaid you will be asked to provide personal papers that will prove who you are, where you live, what you own, how much money you receive each month, where it comes from and how much you spend on living expenses, and any financial resources. The more information you are able to bring the better.
- On the day of the appointment, please provide your worker with copies of all necessary documents to ensure accurate processing of your application.
- Programs available to you are Medicaid Only and New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Program. If employed and Disabled, NJ WorkAbility.

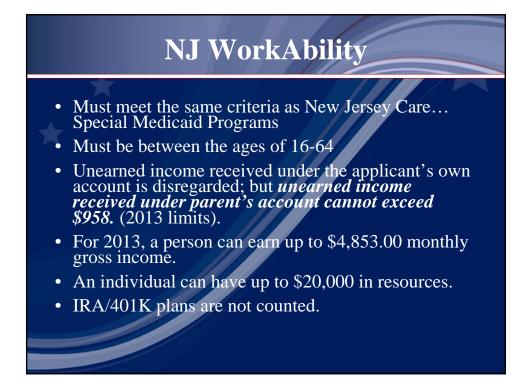
Medicaid Only Program Financial Eligibility Criteria

• Your monthly gross income cannot exceed \$741.25. (2013 Income Limit)

• Resources at or below \$2,000

New Jersey Care... Special Medicaid Program Financial Eligibility Criteria

- For 2013: The current monthly gross income from all sources must be at or below \$958.00. (Income is determined by total gross income subtracting a disregard of income. Unearned income receives a \$20 disregard and earned income receives a \$65 disregard and divide the remainder in half)
- <u>For 2013</u>, the total resources must be at or below \$4000.





What Documents to Provide

Where do you live?

• Any of the following documents may provide proof of New Jersey residency:

- Copy of Deed to Home
- Apartment Lease
- NJ Driver's License
- Rent Receipt
- Current Utility Bill
- Statement from Landlord

What Documents to Provide

What do you own?

- Many people do not realize how much they own. Ownership is not limited to homes and automobiles. It can include cash values of life insurance policies, trust fund accounts, burial plots and many other things. In order to present the clearest picture of your financial situation, you may be asked to bring copies of any of the following items:
 - **Checking & Savings Accounts**
 - All Life Insurance Policies
 - **Pre-Paid Funeral Arrangements**
 - Special Needs Trusts
 - IRAs
 - Annuities, 401k / 403b Retirement Accounts
- Stocks or Bonds
- **Certificates of Deposit**
- **Deed to Burial Plots**
- **Trusts or other Holding** Instruments
- **Keogh Accounts**

What Documents to Provide

How much do you make?

The next area that you will be asked to provide documentation for is your monthly income. The income can be earned, such as receiving a pay check, or unearned, such as receiving social security benefits. Listed below are some examples of documents that can prove how much money you receive each month and its source.

Note: All applicants must provide their Social Security Card and Medicare Card:

- Social Security Verification Most Recent Pay Stubs
- Income Statement from Employer
- Support/Alimony Payments Unemployment Verification
- Temporary Disability Verification
- Worker's Compensation Verification

Note:

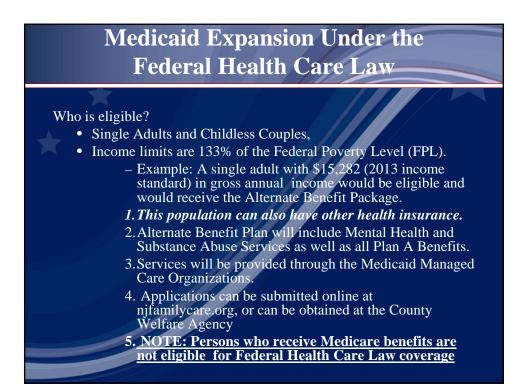
- Interest and dividends count as income.
- In kind support will be assessed if you do not pay fair market value for room and board expenses.

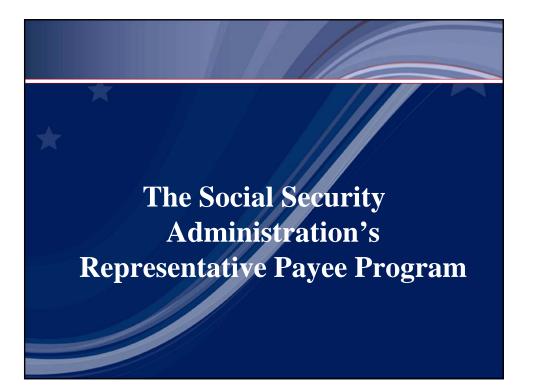
Excluded Resources

- Life Insurance policies, such as term life policies and policies whose face value does not exceed \$1,500
- Burial spaces.
- Burial accounts not to exceed \$1,500.
- Funds assigned to an irrevocable funeral trust.
- Funds assigned to a Medicaid compliant special needs trust
- Anything deemed not accessible through no fault of the individual.
- Excluded resources must be re-evaluated at every Medicaid redetermination for accessibility.



Check List for Community Medicaid					
Information Required	One of the following documents should be provided as verification				
Proof of Age	US Passport Driver's License	Birth Certificate Other			
Proof of Citizenship	US Passport Alien Registration Card Other	Birth Certificate Voter's Registration Card	Naturalization Papers Medicare Card		
Marital Status	Marriage Certificate Spouse's Death Certificate	Separation Papers Other	Divorce Decree		
To accurately assess income information and financial resources, copies of all that is applicable must be provided					
Income Verification When applicable, please provide documentation showing designation of POWER OF ATTORNEY or GUADANSHIP or a THIRD PARTY SIGNATOR who has signed an Authorized Representative form.	Importance of providing all sources	ion Railroad Reitro Pension Checks Workers' Comp I wer an itemization of the most com of income.	Notification	keep in mind, the	
Resource Verification	Checking Acct Statements Savings Acct Statements Certification of Deposit Amount of Cash on Hand IRA, 401K, 403B, Keogh Acco Money Market Accounts Mortg Christmas /Vacation Clubs	unts Trusts or other	Trusts e for Burial Policies with Cash Value Statement Financial Instruments	58	





The Representative Payment Program

•Assists persons with disabilities who are not capable of managing money.

•The representative payee is the designated person who will manage the consumer's Social Security income.

What is a Representative Payee

- Person
- Agency
- Organization or
- Institution selected to receive and manage benefits on behalf of an incapable or legally incompetent beneficiary.



Applying to be a Representative Payee

Contact your local Social Security office

- Face-to-face interview
 - Documented proof of identity
 - Current mailing & location address
 - Bank account information (for direct deposit)



How SSA Selects a Payee

Conduct a face-to-face interview to:

- Determine relationship to the beneficiary.
- Discuss qualifications,
- Discuss ability to carry out responsibilities of a rep payee,
- Explain rep payee duties,
- Explain reporting responsibilities, and
- Explain liability for not reporting changes.



Power-of-Attorney

- For Social Security, having power-ofattorney or a joint bank account with the beneficiary is NOT the same thing as being a rep. payee.
- Being a Social Security rep. payee does not entitle an individual to manage any funds that aren't Social Security or SSI payments.





IMPORTANT!

- Online access to an individual's Social Security account: **My Social Security**
- Starting April 1, 2014, most communication from Social Security that previously was done by mail will only occur via the person's My Social Security account!
 - This applies to everyone who receives Social Security benefits, not just SSI applications.







Your Online

Social Security Statement Provides

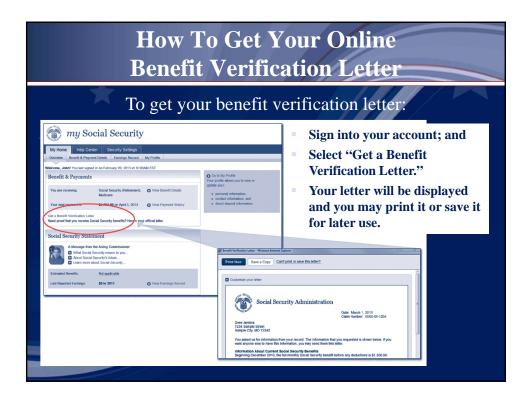
- Estimates of the retirement and disability benefits you may receive;
- Estimates of benefits your family may get when you receive Social Security or die;
- A list of your lifetime earnings according to Social Security's records;
- The estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid;
- Information about qualifying and signing up for Medicare; and
- A printable version of your *Social Security Statement*.

The Online Benefit Verification Letter

With *my* Social Security you can get your online benefit verification letter and use it as official proof of:



- Your income when you apply for a loan or mortgage, assisted housing or other state or local benefits;
 - Your current Medicare health insurance coverage;
 - Your retirement or disability status; and
- Your age.





my Social Security				
Getting S How to create a my Soc				
<u>Step 3</u> Provide some personal information to verify your identity.	Social Security Te officer Header Header & Administration Create an Account Verify your Identity Create your Identity Verify your Identity Create your Account Please tell us who you are Verif Name As monion only our Social Security card Prist M Last Suffic			
Social Security The officer Westels of the U.B. Social Security Adversation Create an Account If Verify your Identity Z* Secure your Identity Create your Account Please create your account details Uvername:	<u>Step 4</u> Choose a username and password to create your account.			



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