

# Age-18 Redeterminations

## Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

### What is an age-18 redetermination?

A review the Social Security Administration (SSA) conducts when a child on SSI turns 18. Because the definition of disability for a child is different from the definition of disability for an adult, SSA must review the medical and other evidence to decide if SSI benefits should continue.

### If I am nearing my 18th birthday, do I have to submit medical records to SSA myself?

No, but it is a good idea to keep a list of the providers you see, when you see them, and the medications and tests they order. When it begins the age-18 determination, SSA will contact you and ask for information about your treatment and medications, medical providers, school and work history, and income and resources. At that point, you can ask SSA to request your medical records for you, or you can submit any records you have to SSA.

### Is this the same as a continuing disability review?

No. SSA conducts a continuing disability review every few years to see if your medical condition has improved. The frequency of the reviews depends on whether SSA thinks your condition is likely to improve, and some people may go many years without a continuing disability review. All children on SSI will have an age-18 redetermination after they turn 18.

### Is the standard the same as it would be if I were applying for SSI as an adult?

Not exactly. When an adult applies for SSI benefits based on a disability, earnings over a certain amount make the adult automatically ineligible for SSI benefits. (In 2025, the amount is \$1,620 per month.) This rule does not apply in an age-18 redetermination; earnings over that amount will not automatically make you ineligible for SSI benefits. Still, evidence that you are able to work may mean that SSA decides that you are not disabled. In addition, if you are approved for SSI benefits, the income you earn may reduce your monthly SSI benefit amount.

### How likely is it that I will keep my benefits?

Every case is different, but historically, about one-third of children lose their SSI eligibility following the age-18 redetermination.

### How can Project HEAL help?

Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law), a community-based program of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute, can help answer specific questions about age-18 redeterminations.

For more information on Project HEAL and its services, visit: [KennedyKrieger.org/ProjectHEAL](https://KennedyKrieger.org/ProjectHEAL)

To connect with Project HEAL, call **443-923-4414** or complete an [online intake form](#).

**\* SSA's policies may change. Contact SSA ([ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov)) or Project HEAL for updates. \***

