

# How to Apply For Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability Benefits

## FOR A CHILD UNDER AGE 18

- 1. Review the Child Disability Starter Kit.** This kit answers common questions about applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for children, and includes a worksheet that will help you gather the information you need. You can obtain this starter kit online:

[ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-112.pdf](https://ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-112.pdf)

- 2. Please have your child's Social Security number available** when you call the toll-free Social Security phone number 1-800-772-1213. You will find out whether your family income and resources are within the allowed limits. If you meet the financial criteria, you can start the application process over the phone.
- 3. Have your child's Social Security number and complete the Child Disability Report online.** At the end of the report, you will sign a form that gives the child's doctor(s) permission to give SSI information about their disability. This information is required for SSA to make a decision on the child's claim.

[ssa.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html)

- 4. If you receive a denial from SSI,** it may be because they did not receive the medical verification from your child's doctor(s). To make this process easier, you can obtain free copies of your child's medical records by completing a release of information form and mailing the records directly to the SSI office.
- 5. If you need to appeal,** if you receive a denial letter, read the information to understand the process for completing an appeal. There is often a limited time frame for submitting an appeal.
- 6. Need help?** Contact Alpha Resource Center's Children, Family & Advocacy Services at (805) 618-5409.

