

Attachment A – Identifying SSI/SSA Payments

Social Security Administration Programs

It is imperative that SR eligibility workers recognize the Social Security income types and determine whether the Social Security Administration (the Administration) categorized the income as SSI or SSA.

The two programs the Social Security Administration administers that affect SR eligibility are –

- **SSA** – Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance.
- **SSI** – Supplemental Security Income.

The coalition may not use SSI and SSA income verification letters if the verification date is older than one year.

Overview of the SSI and SSA Programs		
SSA	<u>Benefits</u> for individuals who worked and earned sufficient credits to qualify. May appear as Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI), OASDI, SSD or SSDI.	The Administration does not place a cap on income in order to receive benefits (unlike SSI). Qualified wage-earner must be disabled or have reached retirement age. Survivors and dependents commonly receive benefits from the qualified wage-earner's account.
SSI	Aged, disabled or blind individuals who have little to no income and did not earn sufficient work credits receive payments. Appears as Supplemental Security Income (SSI).	The SSA pays SSI to disabled individuals. The SSA can pay SSI to children from birth or to a disabled adult. The SSA does not base SSI on work history (the work history may be insufficient or non-existent) but instead only on the individual's disability. This is a means-tested benefit. It has income and asset limits. Additional information regarding SSI is available at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-11015.pdf . The Administration makes payments on the first of the month. The Administration may lower payments based on income. Once eligible, SSI recipients qualify for food stamps and Medicaid.

Key words contained in verification/award letters commonly mean –

- **Benefit** – refers to **SSA**
- **Payment** – refers to **SSI**
- **Entitled** – refers to **SSA**
- **Insurance** – refers to **SSA**

SSA – Commonly Used Claim Number Suffixes	
A	Primary Claimant (wage earner)
B-B6	Aged/Young Wife/Husband
C1-C9	Child – includes minor, student or disabled child
D-D6	Widow/Widower

E-E5	Widowed Mother/Father
F1-F6	Parent
HA	Disabled Claimant (wage earner)
HB	Aged Wife of a Disabled Claimant
W, W1, W6	Disabled Widow/Widower

SSI – Commonly Used Claim Number Suffixes	
DI	Disabled Individual
DS	Disabled Spouse
DC	Disabled Child
BI	Blind Individual
BS	Blind Spouse
BC	Blind Child
AI	Aged Disabled Alien
AS	Aged Disabled Spouse

*These are commonly used claim number suffixes. This list is not exhaustive and individual cases may vary.

SSA claim numbers

Example A – Claim Number – 218-22-3453 –

Mildred receives survivor’s benefits on the account of her deceased husband, Baxter –

- Mildred’s Social Security Number (SSN) is 444-33-5555. The first part of her claim number is 218-22-3453.
- The Administration did not base the claim number on Mildred’s SSN. It is most likely Baxter’s SSN.

Example B – Claim Number – 265-89-9876**C1** –

- If the child’s claim number matches the mother’s SSN, the child is drawing from the mother’s account. The specialist should expect to see SSA income reported for both. If not, ask questions and make clear case notes.
- Originally, the Administration assigns the C1 suffix to the youngest child.

Example C – Claim Number – 265-79-9875**C3** –

- This means there may be two other children drawing SSA, with C1 being the youngest child.
- If these three children are in the home, the specialist should question the SSA income of all three children. The coalition must include all SSA in household income.
- If this child’s claim number matches the parent in the home, that usually means the parent also receives SSA and the specialist should ask for the parent’s letter.

Key points about SSA income

- The coalition must always count SSA in the household income for everyone counted in the household size, **including the child.**
- **SSA income benefit receipt dates** –

To determine whether income is SSA, review the verification letter. This letter usually contains the date the Administration pays benefits.

Birthdate On	Benefits Pay Date
1 st -10 th	Second Wednesday
11 th -20 th	Third Wednesday
21 st -31 st	Fourth Wednesday

- For example, if the person was born on June 16, the verification letter may state, “Your monthly benefit will be paid on the third Wednesday of every month.”
- If the Administration approved SSA benefits before May 1, 1997, **the payment date will be on the third of the month.**

Key points to identify SSI income

- Award/verification letters refer to the cash as a **payment**, not benefit.
- If the amount is less than the SSI maximum payment, be aware that the applicant likely reported other income to the Administration. If the amount is more, the income is most likely SSA, and the specialist can verify by further reviewing the award/verification letter.
- Verification letters usually state that the Administration makes payments on the first of each month.
- Coalitions should never count in the household income the SSI amount children receive in the program. Coalitions must **always** count the SSI of adults who are a part of the household size.
- If the income appears to be SSI, ask whether the family member receiving SSI is on Medicaid. Those on SSI qualify for Medicaid (nationwide). Florida Administration offices almost always start both at the same time. To verify the income type, review the verification letter.
- When the parent receives SSI for the child, list the child’s name in the applicable statewide information system (coded as **SSIC**) and record the child’s name on the income worksheet as the person receiving benefits.
- If AI, AS, BI, BS, DI, DS or DC follows the Social Security claim number, the income is SSI.
- Persons on SSI usually qualify for food stamp income, which coalitions must identify as “excluded” on the income worksheet.

Income Type	Income Type Description	Guidance
PEN	PENSION	Any retirement benefits other than Social Security.
RETB	RETIREMENT BENEFITS	Associate retirement benefits only with the adult family members. If a minor child receives benefits under a parent’s claim for retirement benefits, include that income under the SSB income type. This applies only to benefits received from the Social Security Administration.

SSAD	SSA DISABILITY	Social Security Disability pays benefits to an adult if the client is disabled and has worked five or more years and paid Social Security taxes. If a minor child receives benefits under a parent's claim for disability, include the minor child's income under SSB.
SSAS	SSA SURVIVOR	Social Security benefits surviving adult family members receive. If a minor child is drawing under the parent's account code, include the minor child's benefit under SSB.
SSB	SOCIAL SEC BENEFITS	Use this code for minor children who are receiving SSA benefits as survivor benefits or based on the parent being disabled or retired. This code should also be used for adult disabled children who are receiving SSA benefits based on the adult child's parent being disabled or retired.
SSI	SUPPLEMENTAL SEC INC	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) adults receive. The SSI program pays benefits to disabled adults who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits are also payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits. It differs from SSB in that general tax revenues, not Social Security taxes, fund it, so it does not require the recipient to have worked and paid Social Security taxes.
SSIC	SSI CHILD	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) a child receives. The SSI program pays benefits to disabled children who have limited income and resources.