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Dear Colleague,

We recently changed our rules about what financial assistance can affect an individual's eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or monthly SSI payment amount. Usually, we consider any item an individual receives in cash or in-kind that can be used to meet his or her need for food or shelter income. Generally, the more countable income someone has, the less their SSI monthly payment will be. If their countable income is over the allowable limit, they cannot receive SSI payments. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we no longer count most types of pandemic-related financial assistance against eligibility or payment amount. This includes:

- Economic Impact Payments (EIP)
- State Stimulus Payments (*Some exclusions may apply.*)
- Unemployment Assistance (also includes regular unemployment)
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): Loan Forgiveness to Employers and Self-Employed Individuals
- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program – Direct Payments to Farmers and Ranchers
- Emergency Rental Assistance Fund
- Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing/Rural Rental Assistance
- Homeowner Assistance Fund
- Housing Assistance and Supportive Services Programs for Native Americans
- Emergency Assistance to Children and Families through the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund

A full list of Covid-19 financial assistance that no longer counts against SSI eligibility or SSI payment amount is available at [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) | SSA](#).

To address situations where an individual's SSI application was denied, or their payment amount was reduced by receiving assistance, we are reviewing SSI claims and other SSI records going back to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect our review will take several months to complete. In most cases, if an individual's payment amount was affected, and we do not need any additional information, we will automatically restore their SSI payments. If we need to take a new SSI application or need any additional information, we will mail a letter explaining what is needed. Individuals do not need to call our offices unless they have moved and need to update their address. They can find the phone number to their local office by accessing our [office locator](#).



SAVE THE DATE
National Disability Forum
Wednesday, September 15, 2021

SAVE THE DATE

National Disability Forum

Equity in SSA Programs: Hidden Barriers

Platform - Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Morning Session 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Afternoon Session 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

STAY TUNED: Additional details are forthcoming.

To learn more about the National Disability Forum, check out

<https://www.ssa.gov/ndf/>.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at

OEA.Net.Post@ssa.gov.

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New Disability Resources

Have you checked out the Social Security Matters Blog recently? The last four posts were disability related. Check them out:

[Helpful Facts about Social Security Disability Benefits](#)

[Disagree with Your Disability Decision? We Will Take Another Look](#)

[How Social Security Decides if You Still Have a Qualifying Disability](#)

[Understanding Social Security Disability Benefits](#)

Did you know there's a series of SSI and SSDI video vignettes on the Social Security YouTube channel? Check them out:

[Did you receive a notice of overpayment from Social Security?](#)

[How to request translation services.](#)

[What to do if your claim is denied.](#)

[What to do if we decide you are no longer disabled.](#)

[How to request restarting benefits if we stop your benefits.](#)

[Can you work if you receive disability benefits?](#)

[Can you work if you receive SSI?](#)

Future Michigan Updates

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive future Michigan Updates, or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to vonda.vantil@ssa.gov