

**Children's Disability / SSI  
Resource Card**

**Disability Advocacy for Pediatric Practitioners  
How to Help Eligible Families Get Benefits**

**Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA)  
Medical-Legal Partnership Project (MLPP)**

CCA Hartford Office  
860-570-5327

CCA at Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
860-545-8581

CCA at Yale New Haven Hospital  
203-688-0113

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

**Definitions**

**Child** - not married or head of household under 18, OR under 22 and student regularly attending school.

**Dedicated Account** - past due benefits (> 6 months) required paid into separate account used only to pay for expense related to disability. Monitored by SSA.

**Deeming** - parent's or guardian's income and resources counted as if available to child.

**Disabled** - child under 18 with physical or mental condition which results in marked and severe functional limitations AND condition lasted or is expected to last 12 months, OR child is blind.

**Income** - wages/earnings from employment, royalties, honoraria, etc.

**Resources** - things owned and deemed to determine financial eligibility such as bank accounts, cash, land, life insurance, automobiles, etc.

**Reconsideration** - first appeal from denied application. Paper review by SSA.

**SSA** -Social Security Administration

**Eligibility**

**Financial**

**Earned Income** - wages, earnings from self-employment, certain royalties and honoraria, sheltered workshop payments

**Unearned Income** - Social Security benefits, state disability payments, unemployment benefits, interest income, cash gifts

**Income Not Counted** - first \$20 income/month; first \$65 earnings and ½ earnings over \$65/month; value of food stamps; income tax refunds, etc.

**Resource Limit** - \$2,000 with one parent; \$3,000 if child lives with two parents

**Resources Not Counted** - primary home, primary car, household goods/personal effects, burial funds not greater than \$1,500, life insurance not greater than \$1,500

<b>SSI Eligibility Income Chart</b> Children's Deeming Maximum monthly income for eligibility (guidelines only)				
Effective January 2019				
Number of Ineligible Children in Household	Earned Income One Parent HH	Earned Income Two Parent HH	Unearned Income One Parent HH	Unearned Income Two Parent HH
0	3,209	3,981	1,582	1,968
1	3,595	4,367	1,968	2,354
2	3,981	4,753	2,354	2,740
3	4,367	5,139	2,740	3,126
4	4,753	5,525	3,126	3,512
5	5,139	5,911	3,512	3,898
6	5,525	6,297	3,898	4,284

**Remember**  
There is no deeming when there are public assistance payments (i.e. TFA) or SSI income in the household.

**Eligibility**

**Disability:** Three Step Process

1. Is the child working?  
(engaged in Substantial Gainful Activity - SGA)  
If NO,
2. Does the child have a medically determinable and severe impairment or combination of impairments?  
If YES,
3. Do the child's impairments  
- meet the requirements of a listed impairment (see Disability Listings below), or  
- medically equal the requirements of a listed impairment, or  
- cause functional limitations that are the same as the disabling functional limitations of any disability listing?

If YES to above, child disabled and benefits could be granted. If NO, claim is denied.

**Disability Listings**

- 100 Growth Impairment
- 101 Musculoskeletal System
- 102 Special Sense & Speech
- 103 Respiratory System
- 104 Cardiovascular System
- 105 Digestive System
- 106 Genitourinary System
- 107 Hematological Disorders
- 108 Skin Disorders
- 109 Endocrine System
- 110 Impairments that Affect Multiple Body Systems
- 111 Neurological
- 112 Mental Disorders
- 113 Malignant Neoplastic Diseases
- 114 Immune System

Complete detailed listings are online at:  
[www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm)

Download the medical form for SSI disability claim at  
[cca-ct.org/physdisform.pdf](http://cca-ct.org/physdisform.pdf)

**SSI Application and Appeals Process**



**Tips**

- 5 day grace period for mailing appeals
- Attorney or advocate recommended at hearing stage
- Medical evidence critical at hearing stage
- Be specific, not general, about function
- Focus on functional limitations of child as well as medical disability

## SSI Functional Analysis

### If your pediatric patient does not meet SSA Medical Listings

SSA uses the following analysis to determine SSI eligibility if your pediatric patient does not meet published medical disability listings:

#### Six Areas for Functional Limitations

- 1. Acquiring and Using Information**  
How well a child acquires/learns and uses information.
- 2. Attending and Completing Tasks**
- 3. Interacting and Relating with Others**
- 4. Moving About and Manipulating Objects**
- 5. Caring for Oneself**  
How well a child maintains a healthy emotional and physical state, including how well the child meets physical and emotional wants and needs in appropriate ways, copes with stress, etc.
- 6. Health and Physical Well Being**  
Cumulative physical effects of physical or mental impairments and associated treatments or therapies on child's functioning.

## Functional Capacity Guidelines

Physician/Clinician determines severity of child's condition by evaluating the **Six Areas for Functional Limitations** and noting whether child's functional limitation is either:

#### Marked

Limitation interferes seriously with child's ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities.

- Test scores are at least 2 but less than 3 standard deviations below mean
- Birth to 3: levels are more than 1/2 but not more than 2/3 child's chronological age

#### Extreme

Limitation interferes very seriously with child's ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities.

- Test scores at least 3 standard deviations below mean
- Birth to 3: child functioning at level that is 1/2 of chronological age or less

#### Disability Determination

**Marked limitation in Two Domains OR  
Extreme limitation in One Domain**

#### When does a child patient need a lawyer?

Your child patient/claimant will need a lawyer or advocate after a request for a hearing is made.

## Resources and Contacts

### Social Security Administration (SSA)

**National Hotline** ..... 800-772-1213  
**Office of Hearings and Appeals** ..... 860-240-4333  
**Website:** socialsecurity.gov/ssi  
**Publication:** ssa.gov/pubs/10026.pdf

#### Connecticut Offices

**Bridgeport** ..... 866-331-6399  
**Danbury** ..... 866-275-7821  
**Hartford** ..... 877-619-2851  
**East Hartford** ..... 866-706-6759  
**New Haven** ..... 866-331-5281  
**New London** ..... 866-643-3401  
**Stamford** ..... 866-770-1881  
**Waterbury** ..... 877-405-4874  
Complete list of Connecticut SSA offices:  
ssofficelocation.com/connecticut-social-security-offices-sos7

### Legal Resources

#### Center for Children's Advocacy

**Hartford** ..... 860-570-5327  
**Bridgeport** ..... 203-335-0719  
**CCA at CT Children's Medical Ctr** ..... 860-545-8581  
**CCA at Yale New Haven Hospital** ..... 203-688-0113

**Connecticut Legal Rights Project** .... 860-262-5030

#### Connecticut Legal Services

**Bridgeport** ..... 203-336-3851  
**New Britain** ..... 860-225-8678  
**New London** ..... 860-447-0323  
**Stamford** ..... 203-348-9216  
**Waterbury** ..... 203-756-8074  
**Willimantic** ..... 860-456-1761

**Greater Hartford Legal Aid** ..... 860-541-5000  
**New Haven Legal Assistance** ..... 203-946-4811  
**Quinnipiac Law School Clinic** ..... 203-582-3238  
**Statewide Legal Services** ..... 800-453-3320  
**CT Office of Protection & Advocacy** .860-297-4300

## Disability Advocacy

**Americans with Disabilities Act** ada.gov

**Section 504 of Rehab. Act of 1973** hhs.gov/ocr/504

**Special Ed - Individuals with Disabilities Educ. Act  
Federal Department of Education**  
ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/index.html?src=mr  
**Connecticut Department of Education**  
sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&Q=320730

**General Information** disabilityinfo.gov

### Advocacy Resources

**Advocacy Unlimited** ..... 860-667-0460  
**AFCAMP for Children with Disabilities**..... 860-297-4307  
**ARC of Connecticut** ..... 860-953-8335  
**Autism Society of Connecticut** ..... 888-453-4975  
**Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law** .... 202-467-5730  
**Birth to Three Program** ..... 800-505-7000  
**Brain Injury Association of CT** ..... 860-721-8111  
**Connecticut Board of Education and  
Services for the Blind** ..... 860-602-4000  
**Connecticut Commission on Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing** ..... 860-231-8756  
**Connecticut Department of Mental Health and  
Addiction Services** .... 800-446-7348, 860-418-7000  
**Connecticut Department of Developmental Disabilities**  
..... 860-418-6000  
**Connecticut Legal Rights Project** ..... 860-262-5030  
**Connecticut Parents Advocacy Ctr.** .... 800-445-2722  
**Family Advocacy for Children's Learning Disabilities  
Association of Connecticut** ..... 860-650-1711  
**FAVOR: Mental Health** ..... 860-563-3232  
**Hartford Assoc. for Retarded Citizens** 860-218-6000  
**National Assoc. of Mental Illness (NAMI)**  
..... 860-882-0236  
**Padres Abriendo Puertas** ..... 800-842-7303  
**Special Ed Resource Center (SERC)** .860-632-1485  
**Center for Care Coordination  
(Connecticut Children's)** ..... 860-837-6200  
**Spina Bifida Association** ..... 800-574-6274  
**State Office of Protection & Advocacy** 860-297-4300  
**UConn Pappanikou Center for Developmental  
Disabilities** ..... 866-623-1315, 860-679-1500

