



# Qualifying for Benefit Continuation After You Turn 18

The Age-18 Redetermination is especially important to youth with disabilities and their families.

We review the status of all Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients on a regular basis. We refer to this process as a redetermination. This process happens about every 3 years.

The age-18 redetermination is when we use adult criteria to decide if you still have a disability. The adult requirements are different from our standards for child disability benefits. The adult criteria is based on your ability to earn money, instead of your ability to complete daily tasks.



If we determine you do not have a disability at your age-18 redetermination, you may still qualify for benefits by taking part in an educational or vocational program.

## SSI Continued Payments (Section 301 Payments)

If you are no longer medically eligible for benefits after the age-18 redetermination, your SSI payments usually stop. However, if you are participating in an approved program of special education, vocational rehabilitation (VR), or similar services, your benefits may continue.

You may qualify for SSI continued payments under Section 301 when you meet the following criteria:

- You participate in an appropriate VR program, or similar services that began before the month your disability stopped under our rules.
- We review your participation in the program and decide that if you continue in the program, you are not likely to resume disability benefits.

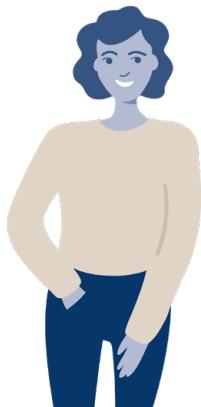
Some examples of appropriate VR programs include:

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) for a youth who is between ages 18 and 21.
- A VR agency using an individualized plan for employment.
- Support services using an individualized written employment plan.
- A written service plan with a school under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- An approved Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS).

Under Section 301, your benefits may continue until:

- You complete the program.
- You stop participating in the program.
- We determine that even if you continue in the program, you are likely to resume disability benefits.

# What can you learn from Maya about your options?



Maya receives SSI and has an IEP at school, due to a learning disability. During an IEP planning meeting, Maya's parent asked:

## **"Will Maya always receive SSI?"**

The teacher explained the age-18 redetermination process and also let them know that normally Maya's SSI cash payments would stop if Social Security found

Maya no longer medically eligible after the age-18 redetermination. However, Maya may be eligible to continue receiving benefits while participating in an approved IEP and is between the ages of 18 and 21. Maya's teacher also explained that it's important to inform Social Security that they have an IEP during the age-18 disability review.

The teacher also stressed how important it is to report all of Maya's earnings to Social Security. While our work incentives encourage people receiving SSI to try working, the amount and types of income that Maya earns will affect their monthly cash payments.

## Additional Information

For additional information, read *What you Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18* (Publication No. 05-11005) online at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf).



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## Youth Toolkit 2024

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[www.ssa.gov/youth/](http://www.ssa.gov/youth/)



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