Supplemental Security Income

Under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, the federal government and the states provide monthly cash assistance to people who are disabled, blind, or aged, and who have low income and few assets. To qualify for SSI, a disabled beneficiary must have a physical or mental impairment that meets the definition of disability under Social Security law. Federal benefits are calculated from the maximum benefit set each year by law, which is reduced for individual beneficiaries on the basis of their existing income. The federal portion of SSI is funded by the general fund of the Treasury (not one of the Social Security trust funds). Several states provide supplemental payments to some or all state residents who receive federal SSI benefits.



Supplemental Security Income													
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2025- 2029	2025 2034
BUDGET INFORMATION													
Billions of dollars, by fiscal year													
Estimated Outlays	57	64	65	67	75	65	73	75	77	85	81	336	727
Components of the Supplemental Security Income Program													
Estimated Outlays for Benefits													
Aged	6	7	7	7	8	7	8	8	8	9	9	36	78
Blind and disabled adults	41	45	46	48	53	47	52	54	55	62	59	239	521
Blind and disabled children	9	10	11	11	12	10	12	12	12	13	13	54	116
Estimated Outlays for Vocational Rehabilitation, Research,													
Demonstration Projects, and Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	10
PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT INFORMATION													
Average Monthly Benefit Per Beneficiary (Dollars)	699	722	742	761	779	799	816	835	855	874	896	n.a.	n.a.
Average Monthly Beneficiaries (Thousands of people)	7,300	7,219	7,180	7,209	7,265	7,301	7,327	7,356	7,384	7,413	7,441	n.a.	n.a.
OTHER INFORMATION													
Maximum Monthly Benefit (Individual, by calendar year)	943	967	991	1,014	1,036	1,059	1,082	1,106	1,130	1,156	1,183	n.a.	n.a.
Percentage Change of Maximum Monthly Benefit	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	n.a.	n.a.
Number of Payments (By fiscal year) ^a	11	12	12	12	13	11	12	12	12	13	12	n.a.	n.a.

SSA = Social Security Administration; SSI = Supplemental Security Income; n.a. = not applicable.

The projections account for the estimated effects of three proposed rules, which would shorten the period the SSA uses to determine whether an individual's past work is relevant to a disability determination, reduce the amount of income that is counted in the calculation of benefits for some beneficiaries, and exclude food from support that is counted in the calculation of benefits. In accordance with CBO's standard practice for incorporating the effects of proposed rules in its baseline projections, these projections reflect the assumption that there is a 50 percent chance that the rule would be finalized and take effect in 2025.

See Social Security Administration, "Intermediate Improvement to the Disability Adjudication Process: Including How We Consider Past Work; Correction," Proposed Rule, 88 Fed. Reg. 83877 (December 1, 2023), http://tinyurl.com/yc4k85cj; "Expand the Definition of a Public Assistance Household," Proposed Rule, 88 Fed. Reg. 67148 (September 29, 2023), http://tinyurl.com/23tf56u4; and "Omitting Food From In Kind Support and Maintenance Calculations," Proposed Rule, 88 Fed. Reg. 9779 (February 15, 2023), http://tinyurl.com/bztt5hvh.

a. SSA is required to make SSI payments on the first day of the month. If that day falls on a holiday or a weekend, SSA will instead make the payments on the preceding business day. As a result, in any given fiscal year there may be 11, 12, or 13 payments.