

Supplemental Security Income—CBO’s May 2019 Baseline

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.

	Actual, 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
By Calendar Year												
Federal Beneficiaries on December 31 (Thousands)												
Aged	1,117	1,113	1,112	1,114	1,120	1,128	1,142	1,156	1,171	1,188	1,206	1,225
Blind and disabled adults	5,710	5,674	5,640	5,626	5,625	5,637	5,666	5,692	5,724	5,762	5,806	5,855
Blind and disabled children	<u>1,147</u>	<u>1,134</u>	<u>1,128</u>	<u>1,124</u>	<u>1,128</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>1,146</u>	<u>1,155</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,197</u>
Total	7,974	7,922	7,880	7,865	7,873	7,900	7,954	8,002	8,059	8,125	8,198	8,277
Awards of Federally Administered Benefits (Thousands)												
Aged	99	95	97	100	103	106	111	112	115	118	120	123
Blind and disabled adults	463	455	465	477	488	496	514	513	522	531	539	548
Blind and disabled children	<u>157</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>177</u>
Total	719	709	720	737	752	766	795	794	808	821	835	848
Average Monthly Federal Benefit on December 31 (Dollars)												
Aged	403	415	425	437	449	461	473	485	497	510	522	535
Blind and disabled adults	580	592	606	623	640	658	675	693	711	729	747	765
Blind and disabled children	687	702	747	763	781	801	820	840	859	879	899	920
Average Across All Groups	570	583	600	616	633	650	667	684	701	718	736	753
Maximum Monthly Benefit (Individual)	750	771	787	808	829	850	870	891	911	932	954	976
Percentage Change	2.0	2.8	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
By Fiscal Year												
Number of Payments ^a	11	12	12	12	13	12	11	12	12	12	13	11
Benefit Outlays (Billions of dollars)												
Aged	4.9	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.6	6.9	7.1	8.0	7.1
Blind and disabled adults	36.2	40.4	40.9	41.7	46.4	44.1	41.6	46.7	48.2	49.7	55.6	48.6
Blind and disabled children	8.8	9.6	9.7	10.3	11.4	10.8	10.2	11.5	11.8	12.2	13.7	12.0
Other	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>1.0</u>
Subtotal	50.7	55.6	56.8	58.3	64.8	61.8	58.4	65.6	67.7	69.9	78.0	68.7
Vocational Rehabilitation, Research, and Demonstration Projects	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total, Mandatory Outlays	50.9	55.8	57.0	58.4	65.0	62.0	58.6	65.8	67.9	70.1	78.2	68.9

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

This table does not include administrative costs, which are discretionary and thus subject to appropriation. Supplemental benefits provided by states, whether administered by the states or by the Social Security Administration, also are excluded.

To qualify for benefits, "aged" recipients must be 65 or older, have low income, and have few assets. "Blind and disabled" recipients qualify on the basis of blindness or another disability, low income, and few assets. Qualifying adults who are blind or disabled are 18 or older; children are 17 or younger.

a. The Social Security Administration (SSA) is to pay Supplemental Security Income payments on the first day of the month. If the first day of the month occurs 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.