

Supplemental Security Income—CBO’s Baseline as of March 6, 2020

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.

These budget projections reflect legislation, administrative actions, and regulatory changes through March 6, 2020. They are based on the economic forecast that CBO completed on January 7, 2020, and do not account for changes to the nation’s economic outlook and fiscal situation arising from the recent and rapidly evolving public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
By Calendar Year											
Federal Beneficiaries on December 31 (Thousands)											
Aged	1,114	1,117	1,124	1,134	1,149	1,163	1,180	1,197	1,216	1,236	1,259
Blind and disabled adults	5,652	5,636	5,630	5,635	5,660	5,681	5,709	5,743	5,783	5,827	5,887
Blind and disabled children	<u>1,114</u>	<u>1,106</u>	<u>1,111</u>	<u>1,117</u>	<u>1,127</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>1,144</u>	<u>1,153</u>	<u>1,163</u>	<u>1,174</u>	<u>1,187</u>
Total	7,881	7,858	7,864	7,886	7,936	7,980	8,033	8,094	8,162	8,237	8,333
Awards of Federally Administered Benefits (Thousands)											
Aged	100	103	106	109	115	116	119	122	124	127	131
Blind and disabled adults	465	475	485	495	515	514	522	531	539	547	567
Blind and disabled children	<u>157</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>178</u>
Total	723	736	751	766	797	795	808	822	835	848	876
Average Monthly Federal Benefit on December 31 (Dollars)											
Aged	423	434	446	459	471	484	496	508	520	532	545
Blind and disabled adults	603	619	637	655	673	691	708	726	743	761	779
Blind and disabled children	708	726	745	764	784	802	821	840	858	877	896
Average Across All Groups	593	608	625	642	659	676	693	710	727	743	760
Maximum Monthly Benefit (Individual)	783	803	824	845	867	887	908	929	949	970	991
Percentage Change	1.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
By Fiscal Year											
Number of Payments ^a	12	12	13	12	11	12	12	12	13	11	12
Benefit Outlays (Billions of dollars)											
Aged	5.6	5.8	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.6	6.9	7.2	8.1	7.1	8.1
Blind and disabled adults	40.7	41.5	46.2	43.9	41.4	46.5	47.9	49.3	55.1	48.1	54.1
Blind and disabled children	9.5	9.6	10.6	10.1	9.6	10.8	11.1	11.5	12.8	11.2	12.6
Other	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</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>	<u>0.9</u>
Subtotal	56.5	57.5	63.9	60.9	57.6	64.7	66.7	68.8	76.7	67.4	75.6
Vocational Rehabilitation, Research, and Demonstration Projects	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total, Mandatory Outlays	56.7	57.7	64.1	61.1	57.9	64.9	66.9	69.0	77.0	67.7	75.9

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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 required 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.