

Supplemental Security Income—CBO’s January 2020 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.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
	Calendar Year										
Federal Beneficiaries on December 31 (Thousands)											
Aged	1,111	1,114	1,121	1,132	1,147	1,162	1,178	1,196	1,215	1,235	1,258
Blind and disabled adults	5,634	5,625	5,627	5,637	5,664	5,688	5,718	5,754	5,796	5,842	5,905
Blind and disabled children	<u>1,099</u>	<u>1,094</u>	<u>1,102</u>	<u>1,111</u>	<u>1,124</u>	<u>1,134</u>	<u>1,144</u>	<u>1,154</u>	<u>1,166</u>	<u>1,177</u>	<u>1,192</u>
Total	7,844	7,833	7,850	7,880	7,935	7,983	8,040	8,105	8,177	8,255	8,354
Awards of Federally Administered Benefits (Thousands)											
Aged	100	103	106	109	115	116	119	122	124	127	131
Blind and disabled adults	480	492	503	511	529	528	536	545	554	562	583
Blind and disabled children	<u>159</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>179</u>
Total	739	755	770	783	812	811	824	837	851	864	893
Average Monthly Federal Benefit on December 31 (Dollars)											
Aged	423	434	446	459	471	483	496	508	520	532	545
Blind and disabled adults	603	619	636	654	672	690	708	726	743	760	778
Blind and disabled children	712	730	749	768	788	807	825	844	863	882	901
Average Across All Groups	592	608	625	642	660	677	693	710	727	743	761
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
	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	5.7	6.4	6.1	5.8	6.6	6.9	7.2	8.1	7.1	8.1
Blind and disabled adults	40.6	41.4	46.1	43.9	41.4	46.5	47.9	49.4	55.3	48.3	54.3
Blind and disabled children	9.5	9.5	10.6	10.1	9.6	10.8	11.2	11.5	12.9	11.3	12.7
Other	<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>	<u>0.9</u>
Subtotal	56.4	57.2	63.7	60.9	57.7	64.7	66.8	68.9	76.9	67.6	75.9
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	56.6	57.4	64.0	61.1	57.9	65.0	67.0	69.2	77.2	67.9	76.2

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.