**What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?**

* SSI is a Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes):
* It is designed to help aged, blind and disabled people who have little or no income; and
* It provides cash to meet the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.
* The [Supplemental Security Income](https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11000.pdf) (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled adults and [children](https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf) who have limited income and resources.
* SSI benefits also are payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.
* People who have worked long enough may also be able to receive Social Security disability or retirement benefits as well as SSI.

**SSI** is Supplemental Security Income from the Federal Government.

**State SSI** is paid by the State of WI. It is a small additional payment to the Federal SSI payment. Only some of the states in the U.S.A pays the State SSI payment. In Wisconsin, State SSI income can be verified using Forward Health Interchange.

***Key: Recipients have little to no work history***

**What is Social Security Disability (SSDI)?**

* Social Security pays disability benefits to people who can’t work because they have a medical condition that’s expected to last at least one year or result in death.
* In general, to get social security disability benefits, you must meet two different earnings tests:
	+ A recent work test, based on your age at the time you became disabled; and
	+ A duration of work test to show that you worked long enough under Social Security.
	+ \*\*Note\*\* Certain blind workers must meet only the duration of work test.
* Sometimes a person’s social security is such a small amount that they can also receive some SSI-Supplemental Security Income, too.

***Key: Recipients have work history***