

# SSI in Wisconsin

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People in financial need who are 65 or older or people of any age who are blind or disabled may be eligible for monthly cash payments from **both** the **federal** Social Security Administration (SSA) and from the **state** Department of Health Services (DHS). The payments are called Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

**You can receive state SSI payments only if you qualify for federal SSI payments.** (One exception is a small group of grandfathered SSI recipients who still receive the state SSI payments they qualified for in December 1995.)

You may be eligible for SSI payments if you have little or no income and your assets are \$2,000 or less for a single person or \$3,000 or less for a married couple. Certain assets, such as your home you live in and one vehicle if used for your household's transportation, do not count.

You can apply for federal SSI payments at your nearest Social Security office. You do **not** have to apply separately for the state SSI payments. You will **automatically** receive the **state** SSI payments as long as you **qualify** for **federal** SSI payments. You will receive both SSI payments during the first week of each month.

## Medicaid

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If you receive SSI payments, you automatically qualify for **Medicaid** (also known as medical assistance or Title 19). A separate Medicaid application is not necessary. As long as you receive SSI, the state will authorize your Medicaid every month. You will receive a ForwardHealth card to show to your medical providers when you first become eligible for Medicaid, and you may have to choose a health maintenance organization (HMO) to receive services.

If you also have **Medicare**, the state will automatically pay your out-of-pocket Medicare costs, such as Medicare premiums, deductibles, and copayments.

## FoodShare

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When you receive SSI, you also may qualify for FoodShare. FoodShare can help you buy more food without having to spend other income.

County social services and human services agencies take FoodShare applications. However, people who live in a household where everyone is applying for or receiving SSI may apply for FoodShare at their local Social Security office.

## Other Social Services

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Additional social services may be available to SSI recipients through county social services and human services agencies. These services include:

- Homemaker and chore services.
- Long-term support and care.
- Rehabilitation services.
- Protective services.

For more information about these and other social services, contact your county social services or human services agency.

## SSI Payments

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The table on the back of this fact sheet shows the 2026 maximum SSI payments for SSI recipients in different living arrangements. Not all SSI recipients receive the maximum SSI payment amounts. **Federal** payments may be lower if you have other income, such as Social Security retirement or Social Security disability. Not all of your other income applies toward your SSI eligibility. Your Social Security office can give you more information about how other income affects federal SSI payment amounts.

Everyone who **qualifies for federal SSI** payments of any amount **automatically qualifies for the maximum state SSI payments**. If you lose eligibility for federal SSI payments, you will also lose eligibility for state SSI payments.

## For More Information

You can get more information about **federal SSI** and how to apply by calling Social Security's toll-free number: **1-800-772-1213**.

You can speak to a service representative between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. If you have a touch-tone phone, recorded information is available after 7 p.m. weekdays and all day on weekends and holidays. The Social Security website is [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the toll-free TTY number 1-800-325-0778 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days.

You can get information about your **state SSI payments** by calling the state SSI toll-free number at **1-800-362-3002** (voice) or 711(TTY) between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on business days, or fax 608-221-0991. You can write to DHS/State SSI, P.O. Box 6680, Madison, WI 53716-0680. The state SSI website is [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ssi/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ssi/index.htm). Note: you cannot apply for state SSI at this address or phone number. You must apply for state SSI at your Social Security office, and you must qualify for federal SSI payments to receive the state SSI payments.

**Medicaid Benefits:** If you receive SSI and have a question about your Medicaid benefits, call Member Services at **1-800-362-3002**.

### 2026 SSI

Living Arrangements	Federal Payment	State Payment	Total Payment
<b>Independent Living</b>			
Eligible individual	\$994.00	\$83.78	\$1,077.78
Eligible couple	\$1,491.00	\$132.05	\$1,623.05
Couple/one spouse eligible	\$994.00	\$130.43	\$1,124.43
<b>Living in the Household of Another</b>			
Eligible individual	\$662.67	\$83.78	\$746.45
Eligible couple	\$994.00	\$132.05	\$1,126.05
Couple/one spouse eligible	\$662.67	\$135.05	\$797.72
<b>Natural Residential or Substitute Care SSI-E Exceptional Expense Supplement</b>			
Eligible individual	\$994.00	\$179.77*	\$1,173.77
Eligible couple	\$1,491.00	\$477.41*	\$1,968.41
<b>SSI Caretaker Supplement</b>	\$275 for the first eligible child and \$165 for each additional eligible child**		

\*This amount combines the SSI state payment and SSI-E payment. The **SSI-E state payments** are available to SSI recipients who reside in certain substitute care facilities or who require additional support services in order to live independently. Only county social services and human services agencies may certify eligible SSI recipients for the SSI-E supplement.

\*\*The **Caretaker Supplement state payments** are available to SSI recipients who are parents with dependent children.

