

Guide to Reading the State Summaries

This guide explains the program features detailed in the summaries for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Although each state does not feature all of the assistive programs listed below, the three major state assistance programs are:

- State supplementation (mandatory and optional) of federal Supplemental Security Income payments,
- State assistance for special needs, and
- Medicaid.

To facilitate comparisons across states, a separate section includes four tables that summarize:

- The number of persons receiving optional supplementation,
- Selected features of state supplementation programs,
- Selected features of medical programs affecting SSI recipients and the needy, and
- State threshold amounts for blind and disabled individuals to maintain Medicaid eligibility under section 1619(b) provisions of the Social Security Act.

With the exception of Kansas, Nevada, and Rhode Island, all states and the District of Columbia have provided current data for this publication. The state summaries contain information on the program features discussed below.

State Supplementation

Mandatory Minimum Supplementation

The states provide mandatory minimum supplementation only to recipients who were converted to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program from the former state assistance programs when the SSI program began. Mandatory minimum state supplementary payments are required by Public Law 93-66 to maintain the December 1973 payment levels that these recipients received under the former state assistance programs. States are required to provide this supplementation to maintain their eligibility for Title XIX (Medicaid) federal matching funds. The governmental unit responsible for administering these payments may be either a state or local agency or the Social Security Administration.

Optional State Supplementation

Some states provide optional monthly supplements to help persons meet needs not fully covered by federal SSI payments. The state determines whether it will make a payment, to whom, and in what amount. These supplements, paid on a regular monthly basis, are intended to cover such items as food, shelter, clothing, utilities, and other daily and special necessities determined by the individual states. Some states provide optional supplementary payments to all persons eligible for SSI benefits. Others may limit payments to certain SSI recipients such as the blind or residents of domiciliary care facilities, or they may extend payments to persons who are ineligible for SSI because their income is too high. In some cases a separate count for these individuals is not possible.

Administration. The governmental unit responsible for administering these payments may be a state or local agency or the Social Security Administration (SSA). Under state administration, the state must absorb both program benefits and administrative costs. Under federal administration, the state must reimburse SSA for the cost of the program benefits and, as of October 1, 2007, must pay \$9.95 in administrative costs for each benefit paid. As of October 1, 2007, the rate was adjusted for inflation as calculated by the change in the consumer price index (CPI) between June 2006 and June 2007, rounded to the nearest whole cent. The Commissioner may select a different rate for a state, taking into account the complexity of administering the state's supplementary payment program.

Effective date. The date when the state instituted or revised its optional supplementation program.

Statutory basis for payment. The state law(s) authorizing the supplementary payments.

Funding. The source of funds for supplementary payments and administrative costs. In states requiring financial participation from local governments, the portions contributed by the state and the locality are indicated.

Passalong method. To maintain eligibility for Medicaid reimbursement, any state making supplementary payments after June 30, 1977, must continue making payments and must pass along the cost-of-living increase to the federal benefit rate (FBR). Two methods are available to ensure that cost-of-living increases are passed on to the recipients: the

payment levels method and the total expenditure method.

Under the payment levels method, the State must maintain the March 1983 payment level for each living arrangement category. However, in July 1983, the expected cost-of-living adjustment was delayed until January 1984, so instead there was a general increase in the FBR. Thus, to determine the required supplementary payment levels, the March 1983 payment levels are reduced by the amounts the FBR general increase exceeded the expected July 1983 cost-of-living increase, which are \$10.30 for an individual, \$15.40 for an eligible couple, and \$5.50 for an essential person.

Under the total expenditure method, state expenditures for supplementary payments in the current calendar year must at least equal expenditures in the preceding calendar year. If expenditures fall short in the current year, the state must increase expenditures in the next calendar year by an amount at least equal to the shortfall.

Place of application. The office(s) accepting applications for supplementary payments.

Scope of coverage. The categories of persons the state has elected to supplement. States with state-administered programs establish their own eligibility conditions and payment categories. States with federally administered programs must adhere to SSI eligibility criteria in all aspects but are allowed to establish additional income exclusions and payment categories.

Resource limitations. The resource limitations and exclusions for federally administered state supplementation are the same as for federal SSI payments: countable resources must be worth \$2,000 or less for an individual, or \$3,000 or less for a couple. Countable resources are properties—real or personal—that count toward the resource limits. Recognizing that not everything an individual owns is available for his or her support and maintenance, the law provides for excluding certain resources in determining eligibility for SSI. Excluded resources include (but are not limited to):

- The house an individual lives in;
- A car, if it is used to provide necessary transportation;
- Household goods (if needed for maintenance, use, and occupancy of the home) and personal effects;
- Life insurance policies with a total face value of \$1,500 or less per person;
- Burial plots or spaces for the individual or his or her immediate family;

- A burial fund of up to \$1,500 each for the burial expenses of the individual and his or her spouse; and
- Property essential to self-support, including property used in a trade or business or on the job if the individual works for someone else.

States with state-administered supplementation can establish their own resource limitations and exclusions for optional state supplementary payments.

Income exclusions. An exclusion is the amount of a recipient's income that is not counted against the state supplementary payment.

In general, an SSI recipient's income from sources other than SSI is counted against the SSI payment amount. Some income, however, is excluded from being counted. The federal program excludes \$20 per month of earned or unearned income; in addition, \$65 per month of earned income plus one-half of the remaining earnings is excluded. Some types of income are entirely excluded, such as certain home energy and support and maintenance assistance, food stamps, most federally funded housing assistance, state assistance based on need, one-third of child support payments, and income received infrequently or irregularly.

States that choose federal administration must exclude at least the amounts excluded by the federal program and may exclude more. Countable income is deducted first from the federal payment. Any income that remains to be counted after the federal payment is reduced to zero is deducted from the state supplementary payment.

States with state-administered programs can establish their own income exclusions of any amount and type.

Recoveries, liens, and assignments. Provisions of state supplementation plans governing recovery of assistance payments and assumption of a recipient's property by the agency. As a condition of providing assistance, a state may require that a lien be placed on a recipient's property. Such a requirement does not affect a person's eligibility or payment status for federal SSI benefits or federally administered state supplementary payments.

Financial responsibility of relatives. State supplementation provisions that govern the responsibility of relatives (other than parent for child and spouse for spouse) for providing economic support and returning overpayments.

Interim assistance reimbursement (IAR). The Social Security Administration may reimburse a state that has provided basic needs assistance to an individual during the period in which either the

person's application for SSI was pending or his or her SSI benefits were suspended or terminated. The individual's retroactive SSI payment is sent to the state as reimbursement if:

- The state has an agreement with SSA to participate in the IAR program;
- The individual has given SSA written authorization to have his or her retroactive payment sent to the state as reimbursement; and
- The individual is found eligible for SSI payments or has had his or her benefits reinstated for the same period of suspension or termination.

Payment calculation method. States with state administration determine the method by which payments are calculated and what, if anything, will affect the payment. States with federal administration follow federal guidelines.

Payment levels. The maximum state supplementary payments and the combined maximum federal and state payments that can be awarded to recipients without countable income are presented, by state-designated living arrangements, in Table 1 in each state summary. Unless otherwise stated, payment levels apply equally to aged, blind, and disabled recipients. The federal benefit rates that are included in the combined payment levels became effective January 2008 (unless otherwise stated) and are given in the table below.

In states where the SSI payments are federally administered, each living arrangement is described according to the following federal living arrangements. The state may also have other living arrangements. States that administer the SSI payment

have the option to supplement and determine their own definitions of living arrangements.

Federal Code A. Includes eligible persons who:

- Live in their own household whether or not they are receiving in-kind support and maintenance;
- Live in a foster or family care situation;
- Have no permanent living arrangement (for example, a transient);
- Live in an institution (except inmates of public institutions) for all or part of a month, provided that Medicaid does not pay more than 50 percent of the cost of their care; or
- Live alone with a child, spouse, or persons whose income may be deemed to the eligible person.

It also includes eligible persons for whom Codes B, C, and D do not apply.

Federal Code B. Includes eligible persons who:

- Live in a household other than their own throughout a month with at least one other person who is not their child, their spouse, or an ineligible person whose income is deemed to them; and
- Receive food and shelter from within that household.

The Code A payment standard is reduced by one-third for people in federal Code B living arrangements.

Federal Code C. Includes eligible children under age 18 who live in the same household as their parents (that is, deeming applies). The payment standard is the same as in Code A.

Federal benefit rates, January 2008 (in dollars)

Living arrangements	Individual	Couple	Essential person ^a
Living independently	637.00	956.00	319.00
Living in the household of another ^b	424.67	637.34	212.67
Living in a Medicaid facility ^c	30.00	60.00	...

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

- This represents the additional amount included in a recipient's check to cover the needs of a household member who provides essential care and services to the recipient and whose needs were previously taken into account in determining the recipient's assistance payment under a state plan approved under titles I, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act.
- If the recipient lives in another person's household for a full calendar month and receives both food and shelter from that person, the federal benefit rate (amounts for living independently) is reduced by one-third.
- Includes eligible persons who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of their care. It also includes eligible children under age 18 who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid, or a combination of Medicaid and private insurance, is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of care.

Federal Code D. Includes eligible persons who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of their care. It also includes eligible children under age 18 who live in a public or private medical institution throughout a month and Medicaid, or a combination of Medicaid and private insurance, is paying more than 50 percent of the cost of care.

Number of recipients. The number of recipients receiving optional payments from the state is displayed in Table 2 in each state summary. This number may include persons who are ineligible for federal SSI payments but meet state eligibility criteria.

Total expenditures. The total amount of expenditures for SSI recipients reported by states who participate in the Optional Supplementation Program. The expenditures reflect previous year counts.

State Assistance for Special Needs

This assistance is for emergency or special conditions not covered by monthly SSI or optional state supplementary payments. Disaster benefits, burial expenses, additional subsidies for institutional care, and moving expenses are included in this category.

Administration. The governmental unit responsible for administering these payments is indicated.

Special needs circumstances. The special needs circumstances (recurring and nonrecurring) for which assistance can be approved are defined. Where available, eligibility requirements and payment limitations are described.

Medicaid

All states have federally assisted medical assistance (Medicaid) programs.

Eligibility

States may grant Medicaid eligibility to all SSI recipients or apply state guidelines in determining eligibility.

Either the SSI program guidelines or the state guidelines may be used to determine eligibility. State guidelines may not be more restrictive than the state's January 1972 medical assistance standards. The governmental unit responsible for determining eligibility is indicated.

Medically Needy Program

The presence or absence of a medically needy program for SSI-related populations is indicated. Statute permits states to choose either no medically needy program, a restricted program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or a program for the TANF-related and one or more of the SSI-related categories (that is, aged, blind, or disabled). States determine eligibility for this program.

Unpaid Medical Expenses

Medicaid law requires states to pay covered medical expenses for up to 3 months prior to the Medicaid application, if the individual would have been eligible at the time. In many states the SSI application serves as the Medicaid application, and this entry indicates whether SSA has a contractual agreement with the state to inquire about the unpaid medical expenses of SSI claimants.

Summary Tables

Summary Table 1.

Number of persons receiving optional state supplementation, by state and eligibility category, January 2008

State	Total	Aged	Blind	Disabled	
				Adults	Children
Alabama ^a	269	90	5	174	b
Alaska ^a	16,031	4,967	78	10,986	c
Arizona ^d	310	--	--	--	c
Arkansas ^e	...	...	...	...	...
California	1,228,578	360,374	17,992	702,748	147,464
Colorado	22,519	18,397	--	4,122	b
Connecticut	15,194	4,550	97	10,547	f
Delaware ^g	697	39	12	581	^g 65
District of Columbia ^g	1,450	118	10	1,218	^g 104
Florida ^a	13,380	5,668	6	7,706	b
Georgia	2,680	761	24	1,895	b
Hawaii	2,464	716	26	1,647	75
Idaho	13,028	2,286	36	9,562	1,144
Illinois	27,361	5,801	87	21,473	b
Indiana	3,393	901	11	2,481	c
Iowa	5,547	721	481	4,063	282
Kansas ^e	...	...	...	...	...
Kentucky	4,151	1,502	25	2,624	b
Louisiana	4,338	1,207	37	3,094	b
Maine ^d	40,343	--	--	--	--
Maryland ^d	3,124	--	--	--	c
Massachusetts	179,322	45,348	3,701	101,119	29,154
Michigan	227,311	--	--	--	--
Minnesota	38,546	11,684	273	26,589	b
Mississippi ^e	...	...	...	...	...
Missouri	8,303	--	--	--	c
Montana	1,030	35	13	874	108
Nebraska	5,558	1,043	44	4,471	b
Nevada	9,553	8,836	^h 607	...	...
New Hampshire	21,882	8,511	390	12,981	b
New Jersey	155,452	33,686	805	89,372	31,589
New Mexico	103	6	3	94	c
New York	621,394	130,792	2,460	386,798	101,344
North Carolina	23,919	11,881	81	11,957	c
North Dakota ^e	...	...	...	...	...
Ohio ^d	1,864	544	--	--	c
Oklahoma	80,698	17,187	403	51,618	11,490
Oregon	24,085	3,235	446	20,404	f
Pennsylvania	347,538	43,382	656	151,572	151,928
Rhode Island	30,602	3,781	166	20,766	5,889
South Carolina	2,401	948	7	1,446	b
South Dakota ^d	3,702	--	--	--	--
Tennessee ^e	...	...	...	...	...
Texas	9,850	2,636	116	7,098	b
Utah	2,042	435	15	1,295	297

(Continued)

**Summary Table 1.
Continued**

State	Total	Aged	Blind	Disabled	
				Adults	Children
Vermont	13,596	1,087	71	9,867	2,571
Virginia ^d	5,496	2,244	11	3,241	c
Washington ^d	--	--	--	--	--
West Virginia ^e	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	100,217	8,699	933	65,122	25,463
Wyoming ^d	2,796	--	--	--	--

SOURCES: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Record, 100 percent data; information in the state summaries.

NOTE: -- = not available; . . . = not applicable.

- a. Includes some grandfathered non-SSI recipients who meet state eligibility criteria, but do not meet federal eligibility guidelines.
- b. A separate count for children is not available.
- c. Children under 18 years old are not eligible for optional payment.
- d. Data not available by eligibility category.
- e. The state does not have an optional supplementation program.
- f. Only blind children are eligible; a separate count is not available.
- g. Benefits received under a child welfare program.
- h. Includes 133 blind children.

Summary Table 2.
Selected features of state supplementation, by state, January 2008

State	Administration of—		Method of passalong	Participation in interim assistance reimbursement program
	Mandatory minimum supplementation	Optional state supplementation		
Alabama	No recipients	State	Payment levels	No
Alaska	No recipients	State	Total expenditures	Yes
Arizona	State	State	Payment levels	Yes
Arkansas	Federal	No program	No program	No
California	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
Colorado	State	State	Total expenditures	Yes
Connecticut	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes
Delaware	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes
District of Columbia	Federal	Federal/state	Total expenditures	Yes
Florida	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes
Georgia	Federal	State	Payment levels	Yes
Hawaii	No recipients	Federal	Total expenditures	Yes
Idaho	State	State	Payment levels	No
Illinois	State	State	Payment levels	Yes
Indiana	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes
Iowa	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes
Kansas	Federal	No information	Unknown	Yes
Kentucky	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes
Louisiana	Federal	State	Payment levels	No
Maine	State	State	Payment levels	Yes
Maryland	Federal	State	Payment levels	Yes
Massachusetts	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
Michigan	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes
Minnesota	No recipients	State	Payment levels	Yes
Mississippi	Federal	No program	No program	No
Missouri	State	State	Payment levels	No
Montana	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
Nebraska	State	State	Total expenditures	Yes
Nevada	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
New Hampshire	State	State	Payment levels	Yes
New Jersey	Federal	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
New Mexico	State	State	Payment levels	Yes
New York	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes
North Carolina	State	State	Payment levels	Yes
North Dakota	No recipients	No program	No program	No
Ohio	Federal	State	Payment levels	Yes
Oklahoma	State	State	Total expenditures	No
Oregon	State	State	Total expenditures	Yes
Pennsylvania	Federal	Federal/state	Payment levels	Yes
Rhode Island	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
South Carolina	No recipients	State	Payment levels	No
South Dakota	Federal	State	Payment levels	No
Tennessee	Federal	No program	No program	Yes
Texas	No recipients	State	Payment levels	No
Utah	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
Vermont	No recipients	Federal	Payment levels	Yes
Virginia	No recipients	State	Total expenditures	Yes
Washington	State	State	Total expenditures	Yes
West Virginia	No program	No program	No program	No
Wisconsin	No recipients	State	Total expenditures	Yes
Wyoming	State	State	Payment levels	No

SOURCE: Based on information in the state summaries.

Summary Table 3.**Selected features of medical programs affecting SSI recipients and the needy, by state, January 2008**

State	Medicaid eligibility		Medically needy program	SSA obtains information on unpaid medical expenses
	Criteria	Determined by—		
Alabama	Federal	Federal	No	No
Alaska	Federal	State	No	No
Arizona	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Arkansas	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
California	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Colorado	Federal	Federal	No	Yes
Connecticut	State	State	Yes	No
Delaware	Federal	Federal	No	Yes
District of Columbia	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Florida	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Georgia	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Hawaii	State	State	Yes	No
Idaho	Federal	State	No	No
Illinois	State	State	Yes	No
Indiana	State	State	No	No
Iowa	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Federal	State	Yes	No
Kentucky	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Maine	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Maryland	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Minnesota	State	County	Yes	No
Mississippi	Federal	Federal	No	No
Missouri	State	State	No	No
Montana	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Nebraska	Federal	State	Yes	No
Nevada	Federal	State	No	No
New Hampshire	State	State	Yes	No
New Jersey	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Federal	Federal	No	No
New York	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
North Carolina	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
North Dakota	State	State	Yes	No
Ohio	State	State	No	No
Oklahoma	State	State	Yes	No
Oregon	Federal	State	No	No
Pennsylvania	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Federal	Federal	No	No
South Dakota	Federal	Federal	No	Yes
Tennessee	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Texas	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Utah	Federal	State	Yes	No
Vermont	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Virginia	State	State	Yes	No
Washington	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Federal	Federal	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Federal	Federal	Yes	No
Wyoming	Federal	Federal	No	Yes

SOURCE: Based on information in the state summaries.

Summary Table 4.**State threshold amounts for disabled and blind individuals to maintain Medicaid eligibility under section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act, calendar year 2008**

State	Twice state supplementation ^a (dollars)	Base amount ^b (dollars)	State per capita Medicaid expenditure ^c (dollars)	Threshold ^d	
				Amount (dollars)	Rank
<i>Disabled individuals</i>					
Alabama	0	16,308	7,055	23,363	51
Alaska	8,688	24,996	28,825	53,821	1
Arizona	0	16,308	11,863	28,171	37
Arkansas	0	16,308	10,080	26,388	46
California	5,592	21,900	12,446	34,346	14
Colorado	600	16,908	12,501	29,409	31
Connecticut	4,032	20,340	33,291	53,631	2
Delaware	0	16,308	17,009	33,317	15
District of Columbia	0	16,308	23,003	39,311	6
Florida	0	16,308	11,347	27,655	39
Georgia	0	16,308	11,338	27,646	40
Hawaii	0	16,308	14,232	30,540	27
Idaho	768	17,797	19,486	36,562	9
Illinois	0	16,308	14,892	31,200	25
Indiana	0	16,308	15,840	32,148	21
Iowa	0	16,308	14,380	30,688	26
Kansas	0	16,308	15,562	31,870	22
Kentucky	0	16,308	9,078	25,386	48
Louisiana	0	16,308	10,858	27,166	42
Maine	240	16,548	24,591	41,139	5
Maryland	0	16,308	19,654	35,962	13
Massachusetts	2,745	19,053	17,003	36,056	12
Michigan	336	16,644	9,674	26,318	47
Minnesota	1,944	18,252	26,547	44,799	3
Mississippi	0	16,308	8,655	24,963	49
Missouri	0	16,308	14,146	30,454	28
Montana	0	16,308	11,904	28,212	36
Nebraska	0	16,308	16,491	33,015	17
Nevada	216	16,524	13,542	29,850	29
New Hampshire	648	16,956	21,771	38,727	7
New Jersey	750	17,058	15,964	33,022	16
New Mexico	0	16,308	16,266	32,574	20
New York	2,088	18,396	25,240	43,636	4
North Carolina	0	16,308	15,166	31,474	24
North Dakota	0	16,308	21,609	37,917	8
Ohio	0	16,308	16,675	32,983	19
Oklahoma	1,128	17,436	6,924	24,360	50
Oregon	41	16,349	13,289	29,638	30
Pennsylvania	658	16,966	11,588	28,554	33
Rhode Island	1,376	17,684	18,464	36,148	11
South Carolina	0	16,308	10,800	27,108	45
South Dakota	360	16,668	15,167	31,835	23
Tennessee	0	16,308	11,503	27,811	38
Texas	0	16,308	12,050	28,358	34
Utah	0	16,308	11,927	28,235	35

(Continued)

**Summary Table 4.
Continued**

State	Twice state supplementation ^a	Base amount ^b	State per capita Medicaid expenditure ^c	Threshold ^d	
				Amount	Rank
<i>Disabled individuals (cont.)</i>					
Vermont	1,249	17,557	18,650	36,207	10
Virginia	0	16,308	13,040	29,348	32
Washington	1,104	17,412	9,731	27,143	44
West Virginia	0	16,308	10,846	27,154	43
Wisconsin	2,011	18,319	14,672	32,991	18
Wyoming	600	16,908	10,325	27,233	4
<i>Blind individuals</i>					
California	7,152	23,460	12,446	35,906	2
Iowa	528	16,836	14,380	31,216	4
Massachusetts	3,594	19,902	17,003	36,905	1
Nevada	2,623	18,931	13,542	32,473	3
Oregon	641	16,949	13,289	30,238	5

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Program Operations Manual System (POMS), SI 02302.200, Charted Threshold Amounts.

- a. Twice the annual state supplementation rate, if any, for an individual living independently.
- b. The base amount is the annual amount of earned income it takes to reduce the annual SSI federal plus state benefit to zero. It is calculated as the sum of twice the state individual supplementation rate plus \$16,308; \$16,308 is the amount of earned income it takes in calendar year 2008 to reduce the annual federal benefit to zero, based on the monthly calculation (\$85 plus twice the monthly federal benefit rate of \$637) multiplied by 12.
- c. Based on data from 2006.
- d. The threshold is the sum of the base amount and the state per capita Medicaid expenditure.