



The Connect to Work Center
The Premier Resource Center for Benefits Information

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Who Should Apply For Social Security Benefits?

- Anyone who has a disability that will make it very difficult to work.

When Should I Apply?

- If your family has very low income and assets (savings, checking, bonds, etc.), apply prior to age 18.
- Otherwise, apply at age 18 as parents' income and assets will no longer be counted.

Why Should I Apply?

- If found eligible for Social Security, you will receive a monthly benefit payment that can help you financially while you prepare to move out of high school and into a job or further education such as college, business or technical school.

How Do I Apply?

- You can complete forms online at www.ssa.gov or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, between 7a.m. and 7p.m. (TTY 1-800-325-0778 for hearing impaired) to schedule an appointment with your local Social Security office.
- You can complete your application either in person or by phone.

Can I Work And Apply For Benefits?

- Yes, as long as you're earning less than Substantial Gainful Activity (for 2008 that is \$940 gross per month unless you are blind, then \$1,570 gross per month).

How Long Does It Take To Make A Decision?

- It takes about 3 to 5 months, depending on how much time it takes to get your medical and school records and any other information needed to make a decision.

Can I Do Anything To Speed Up The Decision?

- Yes, you can speed up the decision by making sure that you have the information listed on the Adult Disability Medical Checklist and having it with you at your interview.
- See **How To Apply** above for Social Security's checklist, website and phone number.

What If I'm Denied Benefits?

- The notice you receive from Social Security will tell you how to file for a Reconsideration of the denial decision. It's important to do this within the time frame Social Security gives you in the notice.

This is a brief explanation of Social Security benefits. For additional information, you can either go to the www.ssa.gov website or call 1-800-772-1213.