

## 2845– SSI ELIGIBLE CHILD

POLICY STATEMENT	SSI benefits do not affect a child's IV-E eligibility; a child receiving SSI should always be IV-E eligible if the child meets all the IV-E eligibility criteria.
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS	<p>SSI income is exempt (not counted) in determining if the child meets the financial need requirement for AFDC relatedness. If the child receives SSI in the eligibility month, the child meets AFDC relatedness financial need criteria for both income and resources.</p> <p>As of February 4, 1994, federal policy has allowed the concurrent receipt of SSI and IV-E foster care reimbursement benefits. The SSCM and Eligibility Specialist should continue to aggressively determine IV-E reimbursability for all children, including those receiving or eligible to receive SSI benefits. When a child is IV-E reimbursable, the SSCM must make a decision on whether to continue the child's SSI benefits to cover board and care costs or cover the board and care costs under IV-E. It is not in the child's best interest to lose SSI income while in out-of-home care if it appears the child may be returning home soon, due to the need to have SSI income available upon return home.</p> <p>The cost of care for a child receiving SSI should not be made IV-E reimbursable unless the monthly <i>federal financial participation (FFP)</i> amount for IV-E reimbursement of the placement cost for that child exceed the SSI monthly payment. This is because the SSI payment is reduced dollar for dollar by the amount of any Federal Title IV-E reimbursement payments for board and care. In other words, at the point the cost of care multiplied by the FFP amount (the federal Medicaid percentage) is more than the SSI amount, the FFP amount should be considered. SSI is a set amount of federal funds. This amount is adjusted every January. Title IV-E federal funds are not limited, and will reimburse allowable costs.</p> <p>Guidelines to follow when considering a child in receipt of SSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A child who is eligible for SSI and IV-E reimbursability should continue to receive the SSI check if the SSI payments are more than the IV-E reimbursable FFP for the foster care per diem. The child will be IV-E <i>eligible</i>, but not IV-E <i>reimbursable</i> for covering the cost of board and care.</li> </ul>

**BASIC  
CONSIDERATIONS  
(cont.)**

- The cost of care for a child who is receiving SSI and meets all IV-E reimbursable criteria should be made IV-E reimbursable if the federal IV-E reimbursement for the foster care per diem is more than the SSI payment. In this situation the Revenue Maximization RMS is responsible for determining the IV-E reimbursability of the child. The SSCM should notify the Social Security Administration (SSA) that the child is receiving a IV-E per diem, including the amount and the effective date. The child's SSI check would be suspended as required by the dollar for dollar rule, and there would be no concurrent receipt of two federal funding sources.

**NOTE:** The FFP and the SSI payments change annually.

Programmatic reasons not to discontinue a child's SSI benefits:

- If the child is expected to be in out-of-home care a short period of time (i.e., 60 days);
- The child is in the adoption process;
- The child is approaching age 18 or is in an independent program.

If a child is SSI eligible when entering care, the Rev Max Regional Centers will open a Medicaid case on SUCCESS, coding the living arrangement as FC. This will generate the interface update to MHN. The SUCCESS interface with Social Security Administration systems will close the CWFC (F40) and RSM (F22) SSI child in SUCCESS. Title IV-E SSI cases will remain open in SUCCESS.

**PROCEDURES**

Revenue Maximization Specialist (RMS) will determine the most appropriate funding source based on the individual child's circumstances.

**Verification**

Follow verification guidelines found in the appropriate sections of this manual. If no other option is available, the SSCM's statement as to removal home circumstances is acceptable.

Clearinghouse must be checked for information on each member in the removal home family and for child in care.

**Standard of Promptness**

The standard of promptness for IV-E Medicaid and IV-B Medicaid is 45 days. In situations when the only verification missing to complete the case is the court order, the application may be held up to the 60<sup>th</sup> day. If after 60 days the court order language is outstanding, the RMS should finalize the case as SSI/IV-B with the understanding that the case may

have to be re-rated once the court order is received. All cases that are finalized after the 45<sup>th</sup> day should be coded on MISC with the correct delay reason. IF at any point the RMS determines that the child does not meet AFDC relatedness criteria, it is not necessary to wait for the court order. The application should be approved as SSI/IV-B.

A review of eligibility is conducted every six months.

NOTE: If notified by the SSCM that the child is leaving DFCS custody and the SSI must be reinstated or an application made to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for SSI determination, the child must be re-rated to IV-B in order for SSA to process the request. The SSCM will notify SSA of the change in custody, placement and funding source in sufficient time to allow the SSA to process the request and begin issuing a check to the designated payee.