



SSI - Fact Sheet

Why is SSI important?

- There are currently 7.4 million people receiving SSI payments.
- Individuals with disabilities, including many children with special health care needs, account for 85% of the people currently receiving SSI payments

How does this program help children and adults with special health care needs?

SSI helps families with limited income and resources by reducing financial insecurity for families caring for children with special health care needs by:

- **Helping families meet their basic needs** such as food, rent, utilities, clothing, school supplies, etc.
- **Funding disability-related expenses** such as specialized therapies, medically prescribed diets, diapers for older children, home modifications for accessibility, etc.
- **Providing Medicaid** which covers essential long-term services and supports, including medical care, eyeglasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, etc.

SSI benefits help to lift nearly 200,000 children with special health care needs above 50% of the poverty line.

Potential impacts of funding cuts:

- Increased rates of poverty and food insecurity among families raising children with special health care needs.
- Delays in early intervention and other medically necessary treatments.
- Negative long-term outcomes such as a decreased number of individuals able to work and care for themselves as adults.

Research Support and More Information:

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