

SSI Adult Redetermination Process

Navigating and coordinating Social Security benefits for youth in custody can sometimes be confusing and difficult. We are here to be a resource and offer guidance when preparing for youth to transition out of custody.

If a youth in DCS custody is already a recipient of SSI, the department will be the representative payee throughout the duration of the custody episode.

Once a youth turns 18 (and already receiving SSI benefits) then the youth, along with his/her caregiver, will need to go to the Social Security Administration (SSA) office and apply for the **adult disability redetermination** in order to become their own payee and update their address.

Helpful tips:

- Child SSI will not stop just because the youth is turning 18. What will happen is the "disability redetermination" will be set up by SSA after the youth turns 18 and at that point SSA will decide whether to continue benefits or terminate the SSI benefits.
- Paperwork for the "adult redetermination" cannot be completed before the youth's 18th birthday as the SSA office will not allow them to sign their own paperwork until they are 18 years of age or over. **Oftentimes this causes a "gap" with our ECF CHOICES transitions as there will be a period of time where Extension of Foster Care services is needed at 18 to bridge the gap between when the youth turns 18 and can complete the SSI redetermination paperwork and gets approved for their Adult SSI, which has to be in place prior to an official ECF transition to occur.*

For youth in DCS custody that are not currently receiving SSI, once the youth turns 17, the FSW makes an application and collaborates with the assigned Child Welfare Benefits Coordinator (CWBC). The CWBC will then contact the (SSA) office by telephone to schedule a new referral appointment.

During the initial interview with the Social Security representative, the FSW and CWBC are informed of the records needed to support the SSI application. The FSW will gather and submit these records with the formal written application to the Social Security Administration.

Note: Once the initial SSI application is started, we have 60 days to complete the application process and approvals generally take anywhere from four (4) to six (6) months.