

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY
SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS PLANNING &
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

SSI FOR STUDENTS

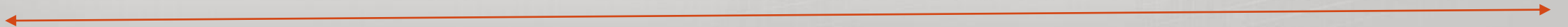
**Transition Network Meeting
December 1, 2021
Melinda Bocci – Benefits Planner**

AGENDA, TOPICS TO COVER, THINGS TO DISCUSS



- The Bigger Picture
- Why apply?
- Overview of Possible Benefits
- When to Apply
- How to Apply
- Things to Know
- Student Earned Income Exclusion
- Tools and Resources

THE BIGGER PICTURE



WHY APPLY?



- Financial assistance with basic living allowance (food and shelter)
- Can help a student move toward independence
- Medical – Medicare and/or Medicaid
- Having Medicaid can make a student eligible for Medicaid Personal Care with the State, providing in home care to help with personal care tasks, providing in home care in most living situations
- Medicaid can reimburse premiums/co-pays paid through private insurance
- Medicaid can pay for Medicare premiums
- Medicare can help with hospital bills, doctor's visits, and prescription drug costs
- SSA work incentives can be available to support employment goals and expenses

OVERVIEW OF POSSIBLE BENEFITS



- **SSI (Supplemental Security Income)**
 - Based on student having low income and low resources
- **SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)**
 - Based on student's work history and "paying into the system"
- **SSDAC (Social Security Disabled Adult Child)**
 - Based on a parent being retired, disabled or deceased

WHEN TO APPLY



- Before age 18
 - SSI will look at parent's income and resources, but may qualify if low income
- Age 18 and over
 - SSI will look at the student with their own income and resources
 - Can apply anytime within the month the student turns 18
- For SSDI and SSDAC
 - Apply anytime if parents are collecting SSA retirement or disability benefits, or are deceased
 - Or if the student has a work history

HOW TO APPLY FOR SSA DISABILITY BENEFITS

Go to www.ssa.gov

- **Collect information before you apply**

- Search for the “Child Disability Starter Kit” (Adult Starter Kit also available)
- These are forms and checklists to gather information before you begin

- **Open a “My Social Security” Account**

- Create an Account

- **Apply**

1. Click on the “Disability” Picture
2. Click on the blue bar, “Apply for Disability”

OR

1. Scroll to the bottom of www.ssa.gov to the far left, titled “Benefits” and click on SSI
2. Click on the blue bar, “Apply Online for SSI and Disability Benefits”

HOW TO APPLY FOR SSA DISABILITY BENEFITS

Or call 1-800-772-1213

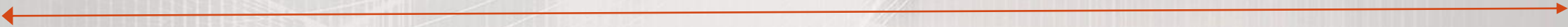
If a student does not have access to the Internet, they may call 1-800-772-1213 to set an appointment at the local Social Security office near them or to request a paper application.

(during the pandemic, call your local office to see if meeting in person is an option for you)

Or call their local office:

<https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

THINGS TO KNOW

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- **Benefits May Be a Gateway to Services**
 - **Individuals and Families Work Hard to Get Benefits in Place**
 - **Appeal within 60 days if denied!**
 - **Heavy Reliance on Benefits**
 - **Benefits May Change with Income**
 - **Benefits May Be an Excuse or Barrier**
 - **Look for Work Incentive Opportunities**
 - **Good to Know Where Students are at with Benefits**

MORE THINGS TO KNOW



- IEPs are important to Social Security
- School documents can be useful
 - Letters from the school on school letterhead
 - IEPs, current and past
 - Transcripts
 - Reports and assessments from School Psychologists
- Information about being in the community
 - Job information
 - Community Based Assessments (CBAs)

AND MORE THINGS TO KNOW...

- Encourage Parents to Charge Room and Board or Rent
- Representative Payee
- Don't Mingle Funds
- Food Assistance/Food Stamps

- Appealing Decisions
- Where is Correspondence Coming From?
- Establish SSA Contact
- Get Organized!
- New SSA Amounts for the New Year

STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

- Great way to keep students in school!
- For SSI beneficiaries only
- Must be in school
- Must be working
- Must be under the age of 22
- May exclude up to \$2,040 a month in earned income (for 2022)
- May exclude up to \$8,230 a year in earned income (for 2022)
- Providing school documents to SSA



- ❑ Many tools and resources!
- ❑ Make referrals to Benefits Planners
- ❑ Check Out Washington Connection
 - www.washingtonconnection.org
- ❑ Handouts
 - Health Insurance Premium Reimbursement Program
 - ABLE Program Fact Sheet
 - WASHCAP vs. Basic Food
 - Steps to Apply for SSI
 - SSI – Things to Know When You are Working
 - Social Security Myth Busters
 - Reporting a Job and Wages to Social Security
 - 2022 SSA Fact Sheet
- ❑ SSA Publications at www.ssa.gov

Tools and Resources



CONTACT INFORMATION

Melinda Bocci

- melinda.bocci@snoco.org
- 425-388-7259

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or
S2W@snoco.org

ANY QUESTIONS?

