

## The Arc of Adams County - Assisting Individuals with I/DD

- Arc staff will discuss what steps you can do on your own and what steps you need help with.
- We encourage you to use current supports to help with benefits.
- If current supports are not available, Arc staff will discuss what assistance is needed (in conjunction with DBS).
- The Arc of Adams County cannot take the lead on the application process.

## Once You Have SSI/SSDI Benefits - Disability Review

- When you start receiving SSI/SSDI benefits, the law requires periodic review of the disabling condition.
- Wages earned and other income must be reported. This includes the family of the child receiving SSI and an adult working who is receiving SSI payments. Earnings can be reported by calling **1-800-772-1213** or mailing or bringing pay stubs to the local Social Security office by the 10th of the next month.

## Right to Appeal

- To appeal a denial of SSI/SSDI benefits, you will need to follow the instruction included in the notice of denial from SSA.
- In most cases, you are asking for a reconsideration or case review of the decision.
- You may need to provide additional documentation with your appeal.
- The appeal process is time sensitive. You generally have 60 days from the date of the denial letter.

The Arc of Adams County works for the benefit of individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities (I/DD), by providing independent advocacy services.

Through direct advocacy efforts, The Arc assists individuals & families with necessary tools & resources to resolve challenges and obstacles.

The Arc also provides a variety of trainings & opportunities to increase knowledge and awareness.

For more information, please visit us at **[www.arcadams.org](http://www.arcadams.org)**

To contact us, you can reach us by email at **[info@arcadams.org](mailto:info@arcadams.org)** or by phone

**(303) 428-0310**



## **Applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) & Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Benefits through Social Security Administration (SSA) For Children & Adults with Disabilities**



The Arc of Adams County works for the benefit of individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities (I/DD) by providing independent advocacy services.

  
**The Arc**<sup>™</sup> Adams County  
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## Recommendations when Applying for

### Benefits:

- Gather all information and documentation related to your disability. Ask for medical, mental health and educational records.
- Review your records to determine your diagnosis and recommendations doctors have made related to the disability and ability to work.
- Provide records that show income and resources.
- Provide birth certificate and Social Security card.
- Monitor and respond to all correspondence from SSA. Additional testing and information for the application may be required.

## Applying for SSI & SSDI Benefits through

### SSA:

- Follow steps under Recommendations when Applying for Benefits., above
- There are two ways to apply for disability benefits:
  - Apply online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or
  - Call **1-800-772-1213** to make an appointment to file a disability claim at the local Social Security office.
- If assistance with completing the application is needed, schedule an appointment with Colorado Disability Benefits Support Program (DBS). DBS can be reached at [www.coloradodbs.org](http://www.coloradodbs.org) or 1-888-396-9838.
- Monitor and respond to all correspondence from Social Security. They may require additional information.

## Applying SSI Benefits for Children

- Children younger than 18 years of age who are a U.S. citizen can qualify if he or she meets the SSA definition of disability for children and if the household income/resources fall within the eligibility limits.
- The child must have a physical or mental condition or combination of conditions that results in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) severely limits the child's activities.
- You must provide detailed documentation regarding the child's disabilities.
- Provide copies of doctors, teachers, therapists and other professionals' records to substantiate the condition of the disability. This will speed up the process.
- If a disability decision cannot be made with the records provided, you may be asked to take the child for an examination or test at no cost to the family.

## Applying for SSI Benefits for Adults

- When a child becomes an adult at age 18, SSA uses different medical and nonmedical rules when deciding eligibility.
- SSA counts only the income and resources of the adult who is applying for SSI.
- Individuals are eligible to apply if between the ages of 18-65, are a U.S. citizen and have never been married.
- Applicants can have assistance completing the application by a relative, friend or other professional.
- If the applicant wants to have another person to assist them with official Social Security business, the form SSA-1696-UA must be submitted.

## SSDI Benefits for Adult Children with Disabilities

- The SSDI program pays benefits to adults who have a disability that began before they reached the age of 22.
- This is considered a "child's" benefit because it is paid on a parent's Social Security earnings record.
- For an adult with a disability to become entitled to this "child" benefit, one of the parents must:
- Be receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits, or
- Be deceased and have worked long enough under Social Security.

## SSDI Benefits for Adults with Disabilities:

- SSDI can pay benefits to people who can no longer work because of a significant medical condition and are under retirement age.
- To get disability benefits, you must meet two earning requirements.
- A work test based on your age at the time you became disabled, and
- A duration of work test to show that you worked long enough under Social Security.