

What documents do I need when applying for SSI and/or SSDI?

- Social Security Number
- Proof of Birth
- Proof of Income
- The name, address, and phone number of healthcare providers that can verify medical information
- Medical Records

Can I apply for other services while awaiting SSI approval?

Yes, you may still qualify for DC Medicaid, or other services. You may contact DC Health Link online at [dchealthlink.com](http://dchealthlink.com) or call 1-855-532-5465.

Is there someone I can contact for help if I do not speak English?

Yes, Social Security provides free interpreter services to help you. Call 1-800-722-1213. If you need help in Spanish, press 7 and wait for a Spanish-speaking representative. For all other languages, stay on the line and remain silent during the English-speaking voice prompts until a representative answers.

You may also access written documents in other languages online at <http://ssa.gov/multilanguage/langlist1.htm>.

Si necesita ayuda para completar la solicitud de seguro social en español, llame al 1-800-722-1213. Documentos escritos en otros idiomas en línea en <http://ssa.gov/multilanguage/langlist1.htm>.

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**What is the Office of Health Care Ombudsman and Bill of Rights?**

The Office of Health Care Ombudsman and Bill of Rights guides, advocates and helps people navigate through the health care system. We help people understand their health care coverage and assist in appealing health insurance decisions, including public health care programs. We assist District residents who have claims, medical procedures, and prescriptions that have been denied by insurance companies that are regulated by the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking.

**Office of Health Care Ombudsman & Bill of Rights**  
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Suite 250N  
Washington, DC 20001

Phone: [202-724-7491](tel:202-724-7491) or [877-685-6391](tel:877-685-6391)  
Fax: [202-478-1397](tel:202-478-1397)  
E-mail: [healthcareombudsman@dc.gov](mailto:healthcareombudsman@dc.gov)  
Website:

# Office of Health Care Ombudsman and Bill of Rights



## Applying for Social Security Benefits for Infants Born with Low Birth Weight



## What is Low Birth Weight?

If your child's weight falls within the scale below, they may qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or might be entitled to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. The infant's birth weight is determined by an original or certified copy of the infant's birth certificate or by a medical record signed by a physician.

Gestational Age (in weeks)	Birth Weight
37-40	2000 grams (4.4 pounds) or less
36	1875 grams (4.1 pounds) or less
35	1700 grams (3.7 pounds) or less
34	1500 grams (3.3 pounds) or less
33	1325 grams (2.9 pounds) or less
32	1250 grams (2.7 pounds) or less

## What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Your child may qualify for SSI benefits if they have a medical condition or combination of conditions that meets Social Security's definition of disability for children. SSI makes monthly payments to people with limited income and resources and qualifies them for Medicaid.

## What is Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)?

The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program pays benefits to children and adults who have a disability that began before the age of 22. Children are eligible for SSDI if the parent is currently receiving Social Security benefits or was eligible for Social Security benefits and is now deceased.

## Does my child with low birth weight qualify for SSI or SSDI ?

Yes, if your child was born with a low birth weight for his/her gestational age, your child may qualify for SSI and SSDI.

The following are other qualifying conditions:

- Birth defects
- Cerebral palsy
- Developmental delay
- Down syndrome
- Failure to thrive
- Hearing problems
- Metabolic disorders
- Muscular dystrophy
- Vision problems

## Will SSI Benefit last a lifetime if my child is born with low birth weight?

After the initial evaluation, a re-evaluation is done by age 1. Re-evaluations on infants with failure to thrive are done from birth to the age of three (3) years. If the Social Security Administration determines their medical condition is not expected to improve by their first birthday, the re-evaluation may be scheduled for a later date.

## How Do I Apply?

To apply speak with a Social Worker as soon as possible. It is best if you **apply** for benefits **immediately** after birth or **BEFORE leaving** the hospital. You can also apply for SSI or SSDI benefits for your child by calling **Social Security toll-free at 1-800-772-1213** or by visiting your local Social Security office.

## Steps to take:

**Step 1** — If you are applying:

- (a) Online, go to [www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability) and select "Apply for Disability."
- (b) In person, call 1 (800) 772-1213 for an appointment or you can walk into your local Social Security Office.

**Step 2** — Fill out the Disability Benefit Application.

**Step 3** — Answer the disability questions.

**Step 4** — Mail or take the required documents to your Social Security office.

## Local District of Columbia Social Security Administration Offices:

2041 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

Phone: 1-866-495-0048

1300 D Street SW

Phone: 1-866-708-3255

1905 9th Street NE

Phone: 1-866-737-4470