remain in school under an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or an appropriate Vocational Rehabilitation program that began before their 18th birthday. The benefits may continue until the participation in the program ends.

**Impairment-Related Work Expense (IRWE)**
IRWEs are out-of-pocket expenses incurred by SSI recipients for items and services related to their impairment that they need to be able to work. These expenses may be deducted from earnings when the SSA calculates SSI payments. Examples of IRWEs include: modifications to a vehicle needed to travel to work; attendant care services performed in a work setting; medical devices; home modifications needed to permit access to leave the home to go to work; routine drugs and medical services needed to control a disabling condition; and the cost of a service animal including food, licenses, and veterinary supplies.

**Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)**
A PASS plan allows beneficiaries to set aside other income besides their SSI payment and/or resources for a certain period of time so they can pursue a work goal. A PASS plan must be approved by the SSA. It can allow money to be set aside for educational expenses; vocational training; starting a business; supported employment services including a job coach, attendant care, equipment and tools needed to work; and transportation. The income and resources set aside under this plan do not count when deciding SSI eligibility and payment amounts.

SSI For Youth Who Want To Work

Employment Supports for Youth Who Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

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What is ADAP?
The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) provides legally-based advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote, and expand their rights. Through a program called “Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security” (PABSS), ADAP advocates and attorneys provide Social Security beneficiaries free assistance to help them overcome barriers that are preventing them from working or from pursuing higher educational opportunities.

What is SSI?
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is provided through the Social Security Administration (SSA) to children and adults who meet the SSA’s definition of disability and income eligibility guidelines.

SSA has different rules for eligibility for children under age 18 and for adults over age 18

• Under age 18: (Children’s SSI) A child under age 18 may qualify for SSI if the child has a medically determined physical or mental impairment that causes marked and severe functional limitations expected to last for not less than 12 months. The SSA considers a child’s parents’ income and resources when determining whether the child meets financial eligibility for monthly benefits.

• Over age 18: (Adult SSI) A youth over age 18 is considered an adult by the SSA’s rules. Adults qualify for SSI if they have a medically determined physical or mental impairment that prevents them from engaging in substantial gainful activity. In 2019, substantial gainful activity means working and earning more than $1220 per month. At age 18, some young adults will qualify for SSI benefits for the first time because their parents’ income will no longer be counted or “deemed” to them.

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This publication was made possible by a grant from the Social Security Administration. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the Social Security Administration.