

Medicaid & Disability:

How to apply for Medicaid coverage if you have a disability

If you have a disability, Medicaid may be able to help cover the costs of your health care if you meet certain requirements, such as income and residency. You may also have to apply for either **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** or **Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)**. You will need to apply for one of these two programs if you tell Medicaid you have a disability on your Medicaid application, but don't have a current disability determination from Social Security. Both SSI and SSDI are run by the Social Security Administration. This page explains how to apply, and why you may need to apply for both Medicaid and a Social Security program.

Why do I have to apply for both?

To be eligible for Medicaid under the "Aged, Blind & Disabled" criteria, you must have a current disability determination from Social Security. Medicaid is required to follow Social Security's criteria for disabilities. Medicaid can only make this determination itself in limited situations. Laws also require those with Medicaid benefits to apply for any disability benefits they may be eligible for.

Applying for both will ensure you get the care you need. Depending on your case, you may be eligible for Medicaid while Social Security reviews your application for SSI or SSDI.

Steps to apply

You may need to apply for both Medicaid and SSI or SSDI if you have a disability. Here is how to apply for both:

To apply for Medicaid

- Fill out an application online at ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov
- Call one of the numbers below to apply over the phone or to request a paper application. Phone lines are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
 - (855) 632-7633
 - In Lincoln: (402) 473-7000
 - In Omaha: (402) 595-1178
- Visit a local DHHS office

To apply for SSI or SSDI

- Learn more about applying for SSI by visiting www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-apply-ussi.htm
- Learn more about applying for SSDI by visiting www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/
- Learn more about Social Security's disability criteria:
<https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/general-info.htm>