



What government benefits does she receive?
SSI, SSDI, Medicaid? What about a waiver?
Will this change when our parents pass away?

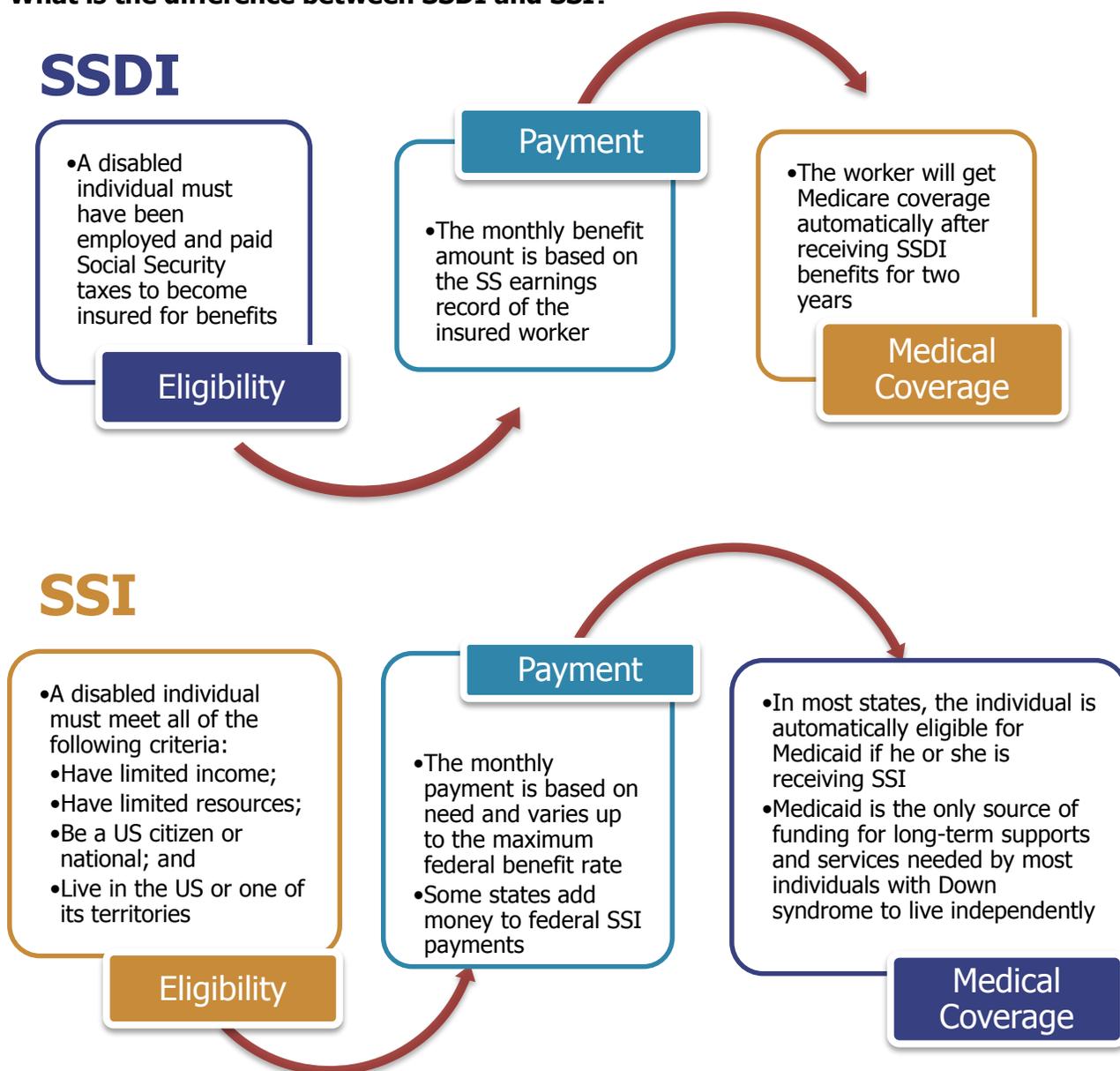
If he wants to live with me or another sibling,
will he have to move to another state?
How will this affect his benefits?

Government Benefits

Contrary to what some may believe, adults with Down syndrome are often capable of maintaining employment and living independently. On the other hand, some adults who have Down syndrome may never be able to work or live without supportive care. In circumstances like these—and even in circumstances where individuals are able to work and live alone—adults with Down syndrome most likely require financial assistance. Fortunately, the Social Security Administration (SSA) recognizes this need and offers Social Security disability benefits to qualified adults who have Down syndrome.

The following information will offer a general overview of Social Security disability benefits and will prepare you to begin the application process. The SSA governs and distributes two different types of benefits. These include *Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)* and *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*.

What is the difference between SSDI and SSI?



Applying for disability benefits for an adult with Down syndrome

The same limitations that may prevent an individual from maintaining gainful employment may also prevent him or her from applying for benefits on their own. Because of this, the SSA allows a third party to apply on behalf of a disabled individual. This can be a parent, family member, or caretaker.

The SSA considers Down syndrome to be one of the "Impairments that Affect Multiple Body Systems" under Section 110.00. The SSA differentiates between *Non-Mosaic Down Syndrome* and *Mosaic Down Syndrome* and considers people with non-mosaic Down syndrome as being disabled from birth and automatically eligible for Social Security disability benefits. For confirmation of a non-mosaic Down syndrome diagnosis, SSA requires a definitive chromosomal analysis (meaning a karyotype analysis) from an acceptable medical source that indicates existence of the impairment. The actual karyotype analysis showing the impairment should absolutely be included with a Social Security Disability application. If you do not have the actual karyotype analysis, SSA will ask for a report from an acceptable medical source that includes the clinical description of the physical features of Down syndrome. The symptoms of mosaic Down syndrome must significantly impair the ability to achieve gainful employment in order to qualify for Social Security disability benefits.

Applying for Benefits

To begin the application process, you can either:

- make an appointment to apply in person or by phone by calling **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday; OR
- Complete the application online with the SSA's website <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/dib?URL=/apps6z/radr/radr-fe>

Regardless of how you choose to apply, you should collect as much of the required medical documentation prior to submitting your claim. If documents are missing, the SSA can help you to collect these. However, this can cause delays in the processing of the application. A checklist is included later in this section.

State Medicaid waivers

Many people with disabilities qualify for Medicaid waivers that provide for community-based services and supports, but often are not even aware that they exist. Most are managed by each state's department on developmental disabilities. While there are often waiting lists for these waiver programs, it is important to apply so that when funding becomes available you are already in the system. Nearly all states offer waiver programs, but, unfortunately, waiver eligibility does not transfer from state to state. This can be a problem for individuals who wish to move to another state. You can find information about various state waiver programs at www.medicaidwaiver.org.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Your sibling might be able to get help through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Visit www.fns.usda.gov/snap to find out how to apply.

Government Benefit Links & Resources

Social Security Administration - www.ssa.gov

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services – www.cms.gov

Benefits.gov – www.benefits.gov is the official benefits website of the U.S. government to provide citizens with easy, online access to government benefit and assistance programs. You can easily search by state, category or federal agency.

State Medicaid waivers – www.medicaidwaiver.org

HCBSadvocacy.org – <http://hcsadvocacy.org/> is a platform for the aging and disability communities to post information and resources regarding the new HCBS settings rule and steps each state is making to comply with the new rule. Click on a state to see resources, dates and deadlines, state documents, news, and other information from that state. This site is a work in progress that relies on state and national partners to find information and share resources.

2-1-1 is a free and confidential way to connect with health and human services in your community. Visit www.211us.org, or call 2-1-1 for information about programs and services such as health care, housing, help paying utilities, transportation, mental health counseling and more.

Nutrition assistance - www.fns.usda.gov/snap



Social Security Administration

Checklist For Online Adult Disability Application

This checklist will help you gather the information you may need to complete the online adult Disability application process. We recommend you print this page to use while you gather your information. We hope you find our online application easy and convenient.

Birth and Citizenship Information If you were born outside the United States or its territories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of your birth country at the time of your birth (it may have a different name now) Permanent Resident Card number (if you are not a U.S. Citizen) 	
Marriage and Divorce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of current spouse and prior spouse (if the marriage lasted more than 10 years or ended in death) Spouse(s) date of birth and SSN (optional) Beginning and ending dates of marriage(s) Place of marriage(s) (city, state or country, if married outside the U.S.) 	
Names and Birth Dates of Children Who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Became disabled prior to age 22, or Are under age 18 and are unmarried, or Are aged 18 to 19 and still attending secondary school full time 	
U.S. Military Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of duty and branch Service period dates 	
Employer Details for Current Year and Prior 2 Years (not self-employment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View your Social Security Statement online at: www.ssa.gov/myaccount Employer name Employment start and end dates Total earnings (wages, tips, etc.) 	
Self-Employment Details for Current Year and Prior 2 Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View your Social Security Statement online at: www.ssa.gov/myaccount Business type and total net income 	
Direct Deposit Domestic bank (USA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account type and number Bank routing number 	International Bank (Non-USA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Direct Deposit (IDD) bank country Bank name, bank code, and currency Account type and number Branch/transit number
Name, address and phone number of someone we can contact who knows about your medical condition(s) and can help you with your claim	
List of your medical conditions	
Information about Doctors, Healthcare Professionals, Hospitals and Clinics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names, addresses, phone numbers, patient ID numbers, and dates of examinations and treatments Names and dates of medical tests you have had and who sent you for them Names of medications (prescriptions and non-prescriptions), reason for medication and who prescribed them 	
Information about other medical records that may be available from vocational rehabilitation services, workers compensation, public welfare, prison or jail, an attorney or lawyer, or another place	
Job History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date your medical condition began to affect your ability to work Type of jobs (up to 5) that you had in the 15 years before you became unable to work because of your medical condition Dates you worked at those jobs, if available Type of duties you did on the longest job you had 	
Education and Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest grade in school completed and date you completed it Name of special job training, trade school or vocational school and date completed Special education school name, city and state, and date completed 	

We may contact you for additional information after you submit your online application.