

## **Supplementary Security Income (SSI) Disability Benefits**

- SSI benefits are monetary benefits for disabled individuals who never worked/worked very little/long time ago.
- DCF is required to screen children in its care and apply for SSI benefits if a child might be eligible.
- A child who receives SSI disability benefits can be terminated from SSI at age 18 unless they meet the adult disability standard.

### **Definition of Disability**

For adults, the Social Security Administration (SSA) defines disability as the inability “to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.”

In other words:

- the individual must be unable to work and
- the medical condition(s) must meet the 12 month duration requirement

### **Meeting the Disability Standard**

A young adult (people between 18-49 years old) is considered eligible if:

- He/she has condition(s) and the medical signs, findings, and symptoms that meet the SSA Listing of Impairments
- or can show he/she can not engage in any substantial gainful activity including simple, routine, repetitive, unskilled work.

### **Listing of Impairment:**

- Multiple body systems such as musculoskeletal, respiratory, cardiovascular, mental disorders, neurological, and others.
- Mental disorders include:
  - organic mental disorders, schizophrenia, depression/mania/bipolar, intellectual disorder, anxiety including PTSD, somatoform disorders, personality disorders, and autistic and other pervasive development disorders.

### **Cannot Perform Any Work:**

- A young adult must show that he/she *cannot* on a “regular and continuing basis” (8 hours a day, 5 days a week):
  - understand, remember, & carry out simple instructions; make simple work-related judgments for unskilled work;
  - respond appropriately to supervision, coworkers, and work situations; or deal with changes in a routine work setting.

### **Obtaining Evidence Relevant to a Disability Determination**

Provide SSA with all potential sources of evidence that might support a disability claim, including:

- Treating sources such as physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, therapists (psychiatric, physical, occupational), licensed clinical social workers, etc.
- Non-medical sources such as social workers, case managers, educational personnel (teachers, counselors, etc.), and family members.
- School records including IEPs, school test results, grades, disciplinary history, and all other special education related records.
- Vocational records and any work-related efforts including summer jobs.

### **Benefit Rate and Resource Limits:** Resource limit: \$2,000.00

2014 monthly benefit rate: \$721.00 (If the recipient is living with others, the rate may be  
2015 monthly benefit rate: \$733.00 reduced by one third)