

Assistance for a Disability

What is it?

- ▶ Cash assistance for low income individuals who are blind or disabled. The assistance is called Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A single person can receive up to \$603 per month

Who is eligible?

- ▶ You must be blind or have a disability that is expected to last for at least 12 months,
- ▶ You must have low income
 - ▶ Your parents income is NOT counted

How do you apply?

- ▶ Contact the Social Security Administration to get an application.
- ▶ If you are between 16 and 18 years old, you can sign your own application if you do not have a court appointed representative or other custodian.
- ▶ If you are under 16, you may be able to have your case manager sign for you.

Note: If you qualify for SSI you are automatically eligible for Medicaid



Ohio State Legal Services

555 Buttlers Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215
614-221-7201
800-589-5888
www.oslsa.org



Equal Justice Foundation

88 E. Broad St., Suite 1590
Columbus, OH 43215
614-221-9800
800-898-0545



Youth Empowerment Program

Coalition on Housing &
Homelessness in Ohio
175 S. 3rd Street, Suite 250
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-280-1984

**There is
financial help
available to
you!**



**A Public Benefits Guide
for Independent Youth
Experiencing
Homelessness in Ohio**

Food Stamps



What are they?

- ▶ Food Stamps are a Government issued debit card that can be used to purchase groceries. A single person can get up to \$152 per month.

Who is eligible?

- ▶ Anyone whose net income is less than 100% of the poverty line.
- ▶ Your parent's income does NOT count if you live independently. A caseworker may ask you unnecessary questions, so if possible bring a letter from the shelter you are staying at.
- ▶ There is no age limit to receive food stamps.

What are the requirements?

- ▶ You WILL have to complete work or school requirements to maintain your eligibility.

How do you apply?

- ▶ Contact your local Department of Job and Family Services to fill out an application.
- ▶ You do NOT need to have an address or a photo ID to get food stamps
- ▶ You do NOT need a guardian's signature.

Cash Assistance

What is it?

- ▶ In Ohio, cash assistance is called Ohio Works First (OWF). If eligible, a family of two people can receive a check for up to \$336 each month.
- ▶ Once you turn 19, there is a lifetime limit of 36 months of assistance.

Who is eligible?

- ▶ You must have a child or be 6 months pregnant, &
- ▶ Have a yearly income of less than 60% of the poverty line. Your parent's income is NOT counted.



What are the requirements?

- ▶ Attending school, getting GED, working, OR in job training while pregnant and after your child is 12 weeks old.
 - ▶ If eligible for OWF you are also automatically eligible for childcare assistance, Food Stamps, and Medicaid.
- ▶ Live in an approved living situation:
 - ▶ parent or guardian,
 - ▶ another adult relative, or
 - ▶ in another approved situation (with adult supervision)

How do you apply?

- ▶ Contact your local Department of Job and Family Services to set up an appointment with a caseworker.
- ▶ You have a right to submit an OWF request without a parent's signature.

Medical Assistance

What is it?

- ▶ Medicaid is free health insurance and prescription coverage for eligible Ohioans

Who is eligible?

- ▶ You must be 18 years old or younger
- ▶ Your income must be below 200% of the poverty line



How do you apply?

- ▶ Contact your local Department of Job and Family Services to fill out an application
- ▶ You DO need a signature of an adult, but it does not need to be your parent

The Federal Poverty level changes every year. In 2006, the amounts were:

Family Size	60%	100%	200%
1	\$423	\$817	\$1,634
2	\$550	\$1,100	\$2,200
3	\$692	\$1,384	\$2,767

To find the ODJFS nearest you, visit: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/county/cntydir.stm> or call 1-877-852-0010.