

State Supplementary Assistance



Purpose

State Supplementary Assistance (SSA) helps low-income elderly or disabled Iowans meet basic needs and reduces state spending for Medicaid.

Who Is Helped

SSA eligibility criteria include:

- Requirements about disability or age as defined by Social Security standards.
- Receipt or eligibility to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Citizenship and residency.
- Limitations on income and assets.

There are seven SSA groups.

Over 82 percent of SSA recipients are in the Supplement for Medicare and Medicaid Eligible (SMME) group. While providing a \$1 monthly payment to the person, it saves the state money that would otherwise be paid by the state for the recipients' Medicare Part B premiums.

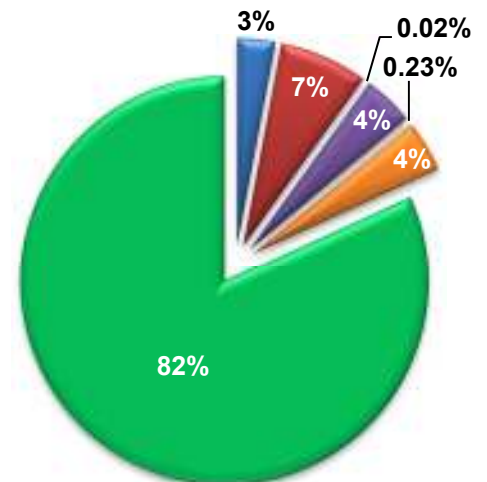
In SFY16 an average of 17,276 cases received an SSA benefit. A case may be a single person or a couple if living together.

Examples of the monthly income requirements:

- Residential facility, monthly income of \$1,034 or less.
- In-Home Health-Related Care, monthly income of \$1,213 or less.
- Blind, monthly income of \$755 or less.

Recipients by Coverage Group SFY16

- Blind Allowance (3%)
- Dependent Person Allowance (7%)
- Family Life Home (.02%)
- In-Home Health-Related Care (4%)
- Mandatory State Supplement (.23%)
- RCF Assistance (4%)
- SMME Assistance (82%)



May not equal 100% due to rounding.

✓ *In addition to receiving SSA, most recipients also receive Medicaid.*

<p>Services</p>	<p>State Supplementary payments provide cash payments to help meet basic needs.</p> <p>Individuals receiving In-Home Health-Related Care, Residential Care Facility, and Family Life Home services help pay for the cost of their care through an assessed client participation amount. SSA pays the difference between the actual cost of care and the client payment amount.</p> <p>Monthly benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent Person Allowance, up to \$377. • In-Home Health-Related Care (IHHRC), up to \$480. • Blind Allowance, up to \$22. • Mandatory Supplement, an average of \$168. • Supplement for Medicare and Medicaid Eligible (SMME), \$1 per month. • Residential Care Facility (RCF) Assistance, up to \$1,034. • Family Life Home Payment, up to \$142. 	<p>Expenditures by Coverage Groups in SFY16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Family Life Home (.07%) ■ SMME (1%) ■ Mandatory Supplement (0.8%) ■ RCF (21%) ■ Blind Allowance (1%) ■ IHHRC (31%) ■ Dependent Person (44%) <p>May not equal 100% due to rounding.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Most SSA payment types must meet a minimum payment amount set by the federal government. States can pay more but not less. Iowa is at the federal minimum for all but IHHRC.</i> ✓ <i>RCF and Dependent Person payment levels are affected by Social Security cost of living allowance increases. The payments must increase each January to equal the increased federal minimum payments.</i> 	
<p>Goals & Strategies</p>	<p>Goal: Provide Access to Health Care Services</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access federal dollars for payment of Medicare Part B premiums for more Medicaid members through the SMME coverage group. • Continue to provide assistance in the least restrictive setting for elderly and disabled recipients. 	<p>Results in SFY16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of SMME participants changed very little during SFY16, maintaining the amount the state pays for the Medicare Part B premiums for those individuals.
<p>Cost of Services</p>	<p>The average cost of providing SSA varies greatly between coverage groups, ranging from \$12 annually for SMME Assistance to \$5,369 for persons receiving In-Home Health-Related Care Assistance.</p>	
<p>Funding</p>	<p>The total budget for SFY17 is \$11,611,442.</p> <p>Funding is entirely from the state general fund.</p>	

Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>State Supplementary Assistance is used to meet the Medicaid federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement.</i> ✓ <i>Failure to fully fund the SSA program puts the state at risk of losing federal funding for the state's Medicaid program as the result of not meeting Medicaid MOE requirements.</i> ✓ <i>There was no Social Security COLA in CY2016. In July 2016, the Annual Social Security Trustee Report projected a COLA of 0.2 percent for CY2017, 2.9 percent for CY2018, and 2.6 percent for CY2019. Actual COLAs are typically announced in the late fall and may be different from the Trustee's report.</i>
Legal Basis	<p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSA benefits are an MOE requirement for the Medicaid program • Code of Federal Regulations: 20 CFR 416.2095 and 416.2096 <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Code Chapter 249 • Iowa Administrative Code 441 IAC Chapters, 50-54 and 177