

Disability *Rights*

South Dakota

COVID-19 and Employment Considerations for Persons with Disabilities

South Dakotans with disabilities may encounter changed circumstances with respect to working as a result of the COVID-19. For example, a person may:

- Receive reduced hours at work
- Be laid off, or lose their job entirely
- Be working from home or a different location instead of their usual work location

Stimulus Payments

To make up for a loss of income, such individuals may be eligible to receive Coronavirus stimulus payments (called “Economic Impact Payments”) from the United States Government.

Stimulus Payments for Supplemental Security Income Recipients Who Do Not Have Qualifying Children

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who do not have qualifying children will automatically receive a \$1,200 stimulus payment from the Treasury Department.

It is anticipated that these payments will go out no later than early May.

Stimulus Payments for SSI Recipients with Qualifying Children

SSI recipients with qualifying children under age 17 should not wait for their automatic payments. They should go to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to the “Non-Filers: Enter Your Payment Info” section and provide their required information.

According to the [Social Security Administration](https://www.ssa.gov) (SSA), “By taking proactive steps to enter information on the IRS website about them and their qualifying children, they will also receive the \$500 per dependent child payment in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment. If SSI recipients in this group do not provide this information to the IRS soon, they will have to wait until later to receive their \$500 per qualifying child.” – [SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov) at their [blog](#).

DISCLAIMER: This is not intended as legal advice, but rather for informational purposes only. Always consult a lawyer if you have questions about your legal rights.

How may this have an impact for those who receive SSI?

- The stimulus payment is not counted as income.
- The stimulus payment is excluded as a resource for 12 months.
- So, the recipient has 12 months to spend down the stimulus payment before it is counted toward one's resource limit.

Stimulus Payments for Social Security Disability Insurance Beneficiaries

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries will also automatically qualify for a \$1,200 payment from the Treasury Department. According to SSA, "These payments are anticipated to start arriving around the end of April." – [SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov) at their [blog](#).

What about Unemployment Benefits?

South Dakota citizens can apply for unemployment benefits with the [South Dakota Department of Labor](#). For SSI recipients who receive unemployment benefits:

- Unemployment benefits are considered unearned income.
- Unemployment benefits will reduce the amount of SSI payment a person can receive dollar-for-dollar after the general exclusion amount.

Other Considerations about Working

If you are working and are worried about missing work:

- If you are sick, you need to stay home.
- Health comes before money.
- Tell your supervisor you do not feel well.
- If you are worried about money, talk to your friends, family, or team.

The [World Health Organization](#) recommends that people with a disability "work from home if possible, especially if you typically work in a busy or crowded environment," to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19. – [WHO.int](https://www.who.int) in their [COVID-19 report](#).

Disability Rights
South Dakota

Contact us:

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