

How A Child With Leukodystrophy Can Qualify For Disability Benefits

If your child has leukodystrophy, he or she may qualify for disability benefits from the Social Security Administration ([SSA](#)). The SSA provides disability benefits that can help ease the financial burdens that may come along with leukodystrophies. These benefits, known as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), can be used to help pay for your child's medical care, medicines, and other daily living needs. In order for your child to qualify, he or she must meet specific criteria.

Meeting The Medical Criteria

The SSA has several serious medical conditions that are approved for the [Compassionate Allowances](#) (CAL) program. A condition on this list is given fast benefits approval just so long as they provide proof of the diagnosis and other details surrounding the condition. For example, a child with Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) may qualify for disability benefits under the CAL. You will need to provide detailed medical records and test results to confirm the diagnosis and to show that the child has MLD and how he or she is affected by the condition.

Consult the SSA's [Blue Book](#) with your child's pediatrician to find out if your child meets one the Blue Book listings. You will need to provide a detailed list of all the medical providers that the child sees, the contact details for those providers, and the dates of service. Be sure that the tests confirming the diagnosis are made available, and any physician notes and exam records confirming the condition and its severity are included for review by the disability examiner.

Meeting The Financial Criteria

SSI is a needs-based disability program. Specific [financial criteria](#) must be met in addition to the medical criteria. A process called deeming will be used to determine financial need. A child is considered to have access to a portion of the parents' income, so that will be reviewed with deductions made for each member of the household. Resources will be reviewed, so provide copies of bank statements, investment records, property deeds, proof of the value of any personal property, and other financial details.

Applying For Disability Benefits

To apply for disability benefits, visit the SSA's site to review their [checklist](#) or call 1-8000-772-1213 and speak with a representative or schedule an appointment at the local [SSA field office](#). Remember documentation is essential to the success of any disability claim, so make sure that you have all the child's medical records in order and all supporting documentation is available for review by the SSA.

Sources:

<https://www.ssa.gov/>

<https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/compassionate-allowances>

<https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm>

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-child-ussi.htm>

https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_child_checklist.htm

<https://www.disabilitybenefitscenter.org/state-social-security-disability>