

# Questions and Answers for SSI Recipients

**What is an SSP Payment?** Part or all of the payment you currently get from the Social Security Administration (SSA) comes from money that Massachusetts sends to SSA for you. This is called the SSI State Supplement Program (SSP) payment. If SSA also makes a federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment to you, they add your SSP payment amount to your SSI payment amount, and they send you one payment on the first of each month.

**What will change on April 1st?** If you receive both SSI and SSP you will receive two checks or two direct deposits, one from SSA and one from the state.

If you receive only SSP you will receive one check or one direct deposit from the state. The state sending you your SSP payment will not change the total amount you receive.

**Will I still get a payment from SSA on April 1st?** Starting April 1, 2012, you will continue to get a payment from SSA if you are also eligible for SSI. Nothing will change in your eligibility or payment. If you do not know if you are eligible for SSI, you can call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to check. You may also visit their website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) for more information about SSI.

**Do I need to do anything?** No, there is no need for you to do anything.

**Will I get information from SSA before April 1st?** Yes. You should have gotten a notice from SSA at the beginning of March (please see examples of the SSA notice). This notice tells you that your SSI payment is changing. This just means that the Social Security Administration will not be sending the SSP portion of your monthly payments starting on April 1, but the state will be.

**How will I know if I got my payment from the state on April 1st?** If SSA sends your current payments by direct deposit, then the state will send your payments by direct deposit to the same bank account. You will get a letter from the state in late March to let you know your payment has been sent to your account. If SSA sends your current payments by check, then the state will send your payments by check. Your April check will have a message on it to remind you that the payment has come from the state instead of SSA.

**How will I be able to identify my SSP direct deposit payment on my bank statement?** The notation that will appear with an SSP direct deposit credit on bank statements is "SSI SUPP". This change is effective with April 1, 2012 payments, which will be credited on March 30, 2012.


**Why is this change happening?** Massachusetts is making this change because it will cost the state less money to send your SSP payments directly to you instead of paying SSA to send them.

**What if I have a Representative Payee?** If you have a Representative Payee for your SSI benefits, that person will automatically receive your state SSP benefits and notices on your behalf.

**What is a Designated Payee?** The Social Security Administration assigns a Representative Payee when a recipient needs help managing their benefits. Massachusetts uses the name “Designated Payee.” A Designated Payee does not have to report on the use of the state SSP benefits. Your Designated Payee will receive your state SSP benefits and notices for you.

**What should I do if I move?** If you are moving, it is important to notify Social Security. Moving may change your SSI benefits, or make you eligible to receive SSI benefits. The Social Security Administration will notify SSP of your new address after you notify them.

**What should I do if I need a benefit verification statement for my SSP benefit?**

Massachusetts will take over responsibility for issuing SSP benefit verification statements after April 1, 2012. Please see this statement from the Commonwealth regarding benefit verification statements: [SSP Verification Statement](#) 

**How do I apply for SSP?** To receive SSI State Supplement Program (SSP) payments, you must first apply for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments through the Social Security Administration (SSA). To find out more about applying for SSI, go to [www.ssa.gov/ssi](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi), or call 1-800-772-1213 (or TTY 1-800-325-0778 if you are deaf or hard of hearing).

**What if I have questions?** If you have any questions, please call the Massachusetts SSP Customer Service Center at 877-863-1128.

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## **Additional Resources: Where to Find More Information**

[Department of Transitional Assistance: www.mass.gov/dta](http://www.mass.gov/dta)

[Massachusetts Commission for the Blind: www.mass.gov/mcb](http://www.mass.gov/mcb)

[Social Security Administration: www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

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## **Contact Information: How to Contact the SSP Program**

For SSP Customer Service, call 877-863-1128

Information and Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: [www.mass.gov/massrelay](http://www.mass.gov/massrelay)

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Social Security Administration: 1-800-772-1213